

Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

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Hall Assumes Command of Whiting Field

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs



Capt. Pete Hall and Capt. Enrique Sadsad, the current and former commanding officers for NAS Whiting Field, cut the cake with a ceremonial sword to celebrate the change of command for the base. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope

The world's busiest Naval Air Station observed a change at the helm Thursday, Nov. 5 when Capt. Pete Hall relieved Capt. Enrique Sadsad as commanding officer. More than 700 community leaders, military personnel, friends and family filled Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Atrium to watch the time-honored Navy tradition.

Rear Adm. Townsend Alexander, Commander Navy Region Southeast, served as the guest speaker for the event and referred to the importance of the ceremony.

"The formal change of command is a cornerstone in our Navy. It

gives us a chance to celebrate the past accomplishments of one while welcoming the changes that come from another," Alexander said. "This is always done in this manner so there is never any question about who is in charge. And for the last 25 months at NAS Whiting Field, there has been no doubt that Rick Sadsad has been in charge."

During Sadsad's tour of duty, Whiting Field worked with Training Air Wing FIVE to surpass more than 420,000 aircraft flight hours and greater than 4 million flight evolutions. But his greatest contributions were the partnerships he formed with the communities, making the Whiting Field – Santa

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Naval Safety Center Launches Holiday Safety Campaign

By April Phillips, Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- With the holidays fast approaching, the Naval Safety Center has launched a comprehensive web-based campaign designed to give Sailors and their families all the resources they need to manage risk through the end of 2009 and into the early months of 2010.

"Many of us are excited about spending time with family and friends during the holidays, but it's important to take a few minutes to plan your activities. The Naval Safety Center's Web site is one-stop shopping for fall and winter risk management," said Rear Adm. Arthur J. Johnson, commander, Naval Safety Center. "I encourage everyone to use all available resources to ensure a safe and happy holiday season."

The fall and winter safety campaign includes presentations that can be downloaded and personalized for command safety standdowns. There are also plenty videos and articles for newsletters in addition to links to other resources.

For the first time, the fall and winter safety campaign includes information on suicide prevention and awareness. Although suicide has traditionally been viewed as a medical issue, Johnson said safety professionals have a role to play in ending these tragedies.

"While many of us are excited about the upcoming holidays, it's important to look out for others who might be stressed or feel hopeless," said Johnson. "The Naval Safety Center is committed to the DON (Department of the Navy) suicide prevention efforts, and our holiday campaign includes links to resources that provide information for anyone who thinks a shipmate might be contemplating hurting him or herself."

The campaign can be found at <http://safetycenter.navy.mil/seasonal/Fall-Winter09/index.asp>.



A Sailor introduces his daughter to Santa Claus. U.S. Navy file photo.

Navy Retains 97% in First Continuation Board

- More than 5,500 Senior Enlisted Kept After First Look

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Maria Yager, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs
MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- More than 97 percent of candidates reviewed by the Navy's Senior Enlisted Continuation Board were selected to continue naval service according to a Navy message released Oct. 30.

"The overwhelming continuance of our senior enlisted demonstrates the extraordinary quality of the chief petty officer mess. The records of eligible master chiefs, senior chiefs and chiefs were reviewed and given full consideration," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval personnel.

After complete review of 5,686 eligible active duty and full-time-support candidates, the board selected 5,528 members for continuation.

According to the precept, which outlines what information board members may or may not consider from a record, documented misconduct and substandard performance were the primary reasons a Sailor would not be selected for continued service.

Some examples include "significant problems" or "progressing" promotion recommendations, declining performance from the same reporting senior, failure to maintain physical fitness assessment standards, military or civilian convictions, and non-

judicial punishment.

Members not selected for continuation will retire no later than June 30.

"There were chiefs with adverse information in their records, and many of them are staying. That, in itself, should tell any doubters that there was no quota, and that we are not a zero defect Navy. People make mistakes. Often times, it's how we respond after those mistakes that defines us as chiefs, as Sailors and as leaders in our Navy," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/SW) Rick West.

The board concluded deliberations at Navy Personnel Command Oct. 1 and the results were forwarded to CNP for approval. Sailors not selected for continuation were personally notified prior to the results posting in BUPERS Online. Candidates can check their status at <https://www.bol.navy.mil>.

"The purpose of this board was to continue to improve the effectiveness of the force by identifying and continuing our most fully qualified enlisted leaders. I appreciate the leadership of the CPO mess in this process," Ferguson commented.

The Senior Enlisted Continuation Board is a performance-driven review of master chiefs, senior chiefs and chiefs with more than 20 years of service and three years time-in-grade.

Clinic Looking for a Few Fans

Communication tools are changing rapidly, and old standbys like telephones, letters, and newspapers are fast becoming obsolete as Social Media sites "franchise" the internet. Twitter, texting, IM and other social networking media provide the near-immediate contact that people today desire.

To encourage readily accessible and fast information flow, the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Branch Health Clinic launched a Facebook page in late October. The page will provide important news on programs at the clinic such as health alerts, facility closings, special services, new doctors, and more.

The Whiting Field Facebook presence is the first one started for patients by any medical facility in the Navy.

"We truly feel that Social Media like Facebook are how people today stay connected and communicate; we want to be right there with them," Capt. Jeff Plummer, Branch Medical Clinic Officer in Charge said.

Plummer added that the clinic will use the site to post messages of interest to active duty service members, military retirees, and their families. Clinic beneficiaries are encouraged to visit www.facebook.com, search for the Branch Health Clinic Whiting Field and "Become a Fan."

"We strive every day to deliver the best health care service possible to our nation's most deserving patriots and their families. Facebook is just one more way to get connected to and better serve America's best."

TRICARE Notes

TRICARE PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION PROGRAM PROVIDES SUPPORT

When a patient needs additional behavioral health care support and assistance, a partial hospitalization program (PHP) is one of the available options. A PHP is recommended when your physician believes it is necessary to stabilize a critical behavioral health disorder or to transform from an inpatient program to an outpatient program.

Because there are no "emergency" admissions to a PHP, prior authorization is required for all PHP admissions.

Please be aware that the number of TRICARE-authorized PHPs is limited. For a current listing of TRICARE network PHP's, refer to the TRICARE provider directory at www.humana-military.com or call 1-800-444-5445.

News and Notes

Free Recycling - Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Environmental Division is sponsoring a free recycling event for electronics. The event is open to all NAS Whiting Field personnel and will take TVs, computers, computer hardware, VCRs, DVD players, stereos and other household electronics. No business or government electronics may be accepted. The collection will take place in the Whiting Field NEX parking lot Thursday, Nov. 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. Call 623-7268 ext. 3014 for details.

Job Fair - Workforce EscaRosa Employ Florida, Hire Vets First, and Jobs Plus are sponsoring the 3rd Annual Northwest Florida Veterans & Military Hiring Fair. The event specifically targets Veterans, Active Duty Military and their family members and more than 40 employers will attend. The fair will take place Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Days Inn conference center at 8700 Navarre Parkway in Navarre, Fla. Check out www.employflorida.com for more information.

Applebees Veterans Day Event - In recognition of service to our country, all veterans and active duty military personnel are invited to eat free at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar Restaurants this Veterans Day. All U.S. veterans and active duty military with proof of current or former military service will eat free at all Applebee's nationwide on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Proof of service includes: U.S. Uniform Services Identification Card, U.S. Uniform Services Retired Identification Card, Current Leave and Earnings Statement, Veterans Organization Card, or photograph in uniform or wearing uniform. For additional details, visit: www.applebees.com/vetsday

Fall Festival at Historic P-Cola - Historic Pensacola Village will host a Fall Festival Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The village will be open free to the public. The Fall Festival will focus on Pensacola's Spanish history with living history interpretation and continuous tours of the 1805 Lavallo House, a Spanish colonial period home. Scavenger Hunts will be available for children and local archaeologists will conduct tours at the T. T. Wentworth,



Hold the Line

A line of T-34 Turbo Mentor aircraft wait for their turn to be parked in Naval Air Station Whiting Field's North Field hangar. The Training Air Wing FIVE planes are being parked in the hangar in advance of the arrival of Hurricane Ida. U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Joanna Clark.

Jr. Florida State Museum. Also, the Museum of Commerce, Museum of Industry, Julee Cottage, Manuel Barrios Cottage, T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum and the Pensacola Historical Museum will be open for self-guided tours and visitation. Historic Pensacola Village is a house museum and museum complex in the heart of Downtown Pensacola.

Military Discount - Arby's, the fast food giant famous for classic roast beef sandwiches, is offering a discount on all menu items for military personnel. Presenting a military ID, active, retired, spouse, reserve, or otherwise, gains a 10 percent discount every day except Wednesday, when the discount increases to 20 percent.

Santa Rosa County Honors Veterans - Santa Rosa County residents are encouraged to attend the 2009 Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony sponsored by the Community/Veterans Coordinating Committee on Wednesday, Nov. 11. The annual parade will kick off the festivities honoring those who have served our country at 9:30 a.m., beginning at Milton High School and ending at the Santa Rosa County Veterans Plaza at 5178 Willing Street, Milton. The Veterans Day Ceremony will follow the parade at 11 a.m. in front of the Santa Rosa County Veterans Plaza. The day's events will conclude with a Veterans Day Picnic hosted by Santa Rosa County 4-H, also at the Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Plaza. Call (850) 626-7292 or (850)313-6637 for details.

Military Prayer Breakfast - Olive Baptist Church is inviting military personnel to a Prayer Breakfast Friday, Nov. 13 from 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the Wings Club Ballroom. All retired and active duty military on the base will receive a free complimentary breakfast. For additional information, please contact the Base Chaplain's Office at 623-6110.

Golf Lessons - A.C. Read golf Club is offering free golf lessons to authorized military dependents between the ages of 8 and 13. Registration is being held at the youth center, Bldg. 3690. Lessons will be provided between Nov. 3 and Dec. 19 on the following schedule. Ages 10 & 11 - Tuesdays 3 to 4:30 p.m.; Ages 8 & 9 - Thursdays 3 to 4:30 p.m.; and Ages 12 & 13 - Saturdays 10 to 11:30 a.m.. Call 452-2417 for more information.



Recognizing the Best

The Santa Rosa County Council of the Navy League recognized the top Sailors of the Quarter from commands located at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. ABH3 Jerry Owens from Whiting Fields Crash Division, HM2 Melissa Baez from the Branch Medical Clinic, and AWR2 Kristopher Sellmeyer from Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN were recognized as the Bluejacket, Sailor and Junior Sailors of the Quarter. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 11, All Day - Veterans Day

Nov. 11, 1100 - Veteran's Day Observance - Milton Riverwalk

Nov. 13, 0730 - Military Prayer Breakfast - Wings Club

Nov. 13, 0900 - Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show - P-Cola

Nov. 20, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Base Auditorium

Nov. 26, All Day - Thanksgiving Day Holiday

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

Anger Management - Thursday, November 12, 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.

Ten Steps to a Federal Job - Monday, November 16, 1000 - 1200

"Is it worth your while to invest your time and effort in searching and applying for a Federal Job?" If your answer is "yes", then you need to attend this class in order to learn how to prepare the best application possible. You will learn how to read an announcement, analyze core competencies for language, analyze vacancy listings for keywords, and how to apply for jobs. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Car Buying Strategies - Tuesday, November 17, 0900 - 1100

Many people begin the car buying process by visiting a dealership, which should be one of the last things you do. Come find out how to research and compare for the best prices. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, call 623-7177.

Time Management - Wednesday, November 18, 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.

Military One Source Comes to NASWF



Fleet and Family Education and Training Specialist Laura McLaughlin is a primary point of contact for the Military One Source event Nov. 16.

Even after several years of service to military personnel and their families, Military One Source is not a program that is familiar to the people it is here to help. There is an opportunity to rectify that Nov. 16 when SOSA and Fleet and Family Support Center bring Military One Source representatives to the base for an informational briefing.

Topics will cover a variety of areas, but will focus on the types of services available through the One Source program. Also covered will be some educational benefits, career advancement accounts, and more.

"The purpose of this event is to inform all enlisted and officer spouses about the wonderful resources that Military One Source has to offer

for free," Laura McLaughlin, FFSC Education and Training Specialist, said. "This is a part of the benefits of being a military spouse."

Military OneSource supplements existing base services through online or 24/7 telephone assistance. The program can help with the issues that are important to you. Whether that is education, counseling services, employment, transition assistance, relocation or more, Military One Source is always available to provide informational or referral assistance. They can help with a wide range of issues that affect you and your family wherever and whenever you are.

The briefing will be held in the Atrium, building 1417, at 7:15 p.m. Call Fleet and Family Support Center at 623-7177 for more information.

Honor Flight to Sponsor Golf Tourney on Base

The Emerald Coast Honor Flight Santa Rosa County Initiative Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, Nov. 13, at the NAS Whiting Field Golf Course.

Registration begins at 10 a.m., with a shotgun start at 11 a.m.. Cost is \$400 per team or \$100 per player. The price includes dinner, three beverage tickets, a goodie bag, two door prize tickets, two mulligans per player and one tee-buster per person.

Cash prizes are \$100 per play for first place \$50 per player for second place, and \$25 per player for third. Prizes will also be given for Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive and a Putting Contest.

There will also be a golf ball drop with the top prize being as much as \$2,500. Tickets for the drop are \$10 per ball. If more than one ball drops in the hole, the prize will be divided equally. If no ball drops in the hole, the closest ball to the hole wins. Prize will be adjusted proportionally to the total number of balls sold. Winner need not be present to win.

To sign up or for additional information, please contact Wendell Hall (850) 232-0891, Margaret Porter (850) 255-9795, or Cinnamon Holderman (850) 232-8191.

Change of Command

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Capt. Pete Hall receives his command pin from his daughters Catherine and Julia during the change of command ceremony, Nov. 5. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

Rosa County team a model of cooperation across the southeast region. He worked diligently to help make the Aviation Commerce Park a reality. And he renewed many lagging community relationship programs encouraging military and civilian base personnel to get involved with the area's outreach efforts. For his contributions, he was named the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year for 2008 and the Alliance of Defense Communities' Military Leader of the Year for 2009.

That level of community participation was equally displayed by the presence of local political leaders, area businessmen, school representatives, civic organizations and the participation of the local high schools' band and color guard.

In addition to the civilian accolades, the military recognized his accomplishments during the ceremony by presenting him with the Legion of Merit medal. It was an honor that Sadsad was quick to attribute to others.

"Our team has done an exceptionally impressive job. The base appearance, its efficiency, and teamwork speak for itself. This is absolutely the best staff and commanding officer could ask for," he said. "They are consummate professionals. Every job is doable and they do it with pride and a lot of class. I am extremely fortunate to be a part of this winning team."

During his 32 year Navy career, Sadsad served as an enlisted Aviation Machinist's Mate for various helicopter squadrons. After six years, he was transferred to Aviation Officer Candidate School and designated a Naval Flight Officer in 1984. Since then he completed aviation related tours through many parts of the world, earned his Master's Degree, been forward deployed on a carrier, and commanded a training squadron before taking command at Whiting Field.

It is a distinguished career that began due to the good impressions left by Sailors visiting the Philippines when he was a youth.

"What motivates me to do these things? I remember seeing Sailors and Marines come to my elementary school in the Philippines to repair and paint our classrooms and deliver textbooks," Sadsad said. "Those are my memories of the U.S. Navy and the American people. Those same qualities came to life when we came to NAS Whiting Field and this great community... we have found our new home."

Although his next tour of duty will be as the Commanding Officer Naval Support Activity Bahrain, Sadsad stresses that he will return to the local area when his Navy career is complete.

Hall assumed duties as the 39th commanding officer for NAS Whiting Field, with a short reading of his orders, an exchange of salutes, and the permission to "take charge" from Alexander. The admiral called Hall's record "impressive."

He comes to Whiting Field from the Air Warfare division of the Director of the Operational Test and Evaluation for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. While there, he served as the Action Officer overseeing the testing of airborne electronic warfare systems. Previously, Hall completed tours of duty aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74) as the "Air Boss;" as well as various other operational and staff commands. Hall has accumulated more than 3,000 flight hours and 500 carrier arrest landings during his 22-year career.

He promised to continue Sadsad's efforts and thanked the community for their warm welcome. He also praised the base personnel and expressed his excitement in working with them in the future.

"The wealth of talent and experience I have seen is amazing. You are a national treasure. I ask that you continue your outstanding work and in return pledge my loyalty and commitment to each and every one of you. Thank you again for being here and sharing this special day. I look forward to what we will do together," Hall said.



Rear Adm. Townsend Alexander, Commander Navy Region Southeast, presents Capt. Enrique Sadsad with the Legion of Merit medal for his tour commanding NAS Whiting Field. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.