

Whiting Tower

Seventy-three Years of Aviation Training News

Learn to Conquer the Sky

Discamus vincere in caelum

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.
Vol. 73 No. 22

Forging Wings for the Fleet
November 2, 2017



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Gulf Coast Fleet Fly-In Week Onboard NAS Whiting Field

By Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs



Helicopters from across the Fleet staged on the South Field flight line as a part of the 2017 Gulf Coast Fleet Fly-In. Cover Photo: Students tour a static display of a AH-1 Cobra during the Fleet Fly-In. Photos by Jamie Link.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Training Air Wing FIVE hosted Marine, Coast Guard and Navy helicopters Oct. 23-27 to participate in the annual Gulf Coast Fleet Fly-In, in conjunction with the Naval Helicopter Association (NHA). This is the 27th year for the event that gathers helicopters from across the fleet.

The helicopters began arriving on the installation earlier this week for the event. The aircraft for this year's Fleet Fly-In include various military and civilian aircraft.

The schedule of events during the week included: industry discussion panels, open fly dates, a senior

officer panel with Q&As, aviation related community career briefs, and a variety of social engagements.

The Fleet Fly-In plays a key role for the flight students as they prepare to make career decisions on the aircraft they would like to fly. Students are given opportunities to fly in the fleet aircraft during the week and are encouraged to attend the informational briefs and social events throughout the week to engage more with rotary personnel and fleet pilots.

Fleet Fly-In week involves cooperation from NAS Whiting Field, Training Air Wing FIVE, corporate sponsors, military contract personnel and the Naval Helicopter Association.

The Naval Helicopter Association is a member-based organization dedicated to enhancing the professionalism of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard rotary wing aviation. The membership is comprised of active duty and retired U.S. Navy, US Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard helicopter pilots, aircrew and helicopter maintenance professionals. The association was founded in 1976 as a nonprofit professional organization to promote the development and use of naval vertical lift aircraft in the United State Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard according to the NHA website. 🚁



Students and instructors tour new helicopter designs as part of the 2017 Gulf Coast Fleet Fly-in. Photo by Jamie Link

The Whiting Tower

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USS Ashland Assists Mariners in Pacific Ocean

From Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet Public Affairs

PACIFIC OCEAN (NNS) -- The Sasebo-based amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48) rendered assistance to two distressed mariners, Oct. 25, whose sailboat had strayed well off its original course.

The mariners, Jennifer Appel and Tasha Fuiava, both from Honolulu, and their two dogs had set sail from Hawaii to Tahiti this spring. They had an engine casualty May 30 during bad weather but continued on, believing they could make it to land by sail.

Two months into their journey and long past when they originally estimated they would reach Tahiti, they began to issue distress calls. The two continued the calls daily, but they were not close enough to other vessels or shore stations to receive them.

On Oct. 24, they were discovered 900 miles south-east of Japan by a Taiwanese fishing vessel. The fishing vessel contacted Coast Guard Sector Guam who then coordinated with Taipei Rescue Coordination Center, the Japan Coordination Center, and the Joint Coordination Center in Honolulu to render assistance.

Operating near the area on a routine deployment, Ashland made best speed to the location of the vessel in the early morning on Oct. 25 and arrived on scene at 10:30 a.m that morning. After assessing the sailboat unseaworthy, Ashland crew members brought the distressed mariners and their two dogs aboard the ship at 1:18 p.m.

“I’m grateful for their service to our country. They saved our lives. The pride and smiles we had when we saw [U.S. Navy] on the horizon was pure relief,” said Appel.

Appel said they survived the situation by bringing water purifiers and over a year’s worth of food on board, primarily in the form of dry goods such as oatmeal, pasta and rice.

Once on Ashland, the mariners were provided with medical assessments, food and berthing arrangements. The mariners will remain on board until Ashland’s next port of call.

“The U.S. Navy is postured to assist any distressed mariner of any nationality during any type of situation,” said Cmdr. Steven Wasson, Ashland commanding officer.

Part of U.S. 7th Fleet’s forward deployed naval forces out of Sasebo, Japan, Ashland has been on a routine

deployment for the past five months as a ready-response asset for any of contingency. 📷



PACIFIC OCEAN (Oct. 25, 2017) USS Ashland (LSD 48) Command Master Chief Gary Wise welcomes aboard Jennifer Appel, an American mariner who had received assistance from Ashland crew members. Ashland, operating in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region on a routine deployment, rescued two American mariners who had been in distress for several months after their sailboat had a motor failure and had strayed well off its original course while traversing the Pacific Ocean. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jonathan Clay/Released)

Ec-nomics

Washing clothes in cold water can save up to \$63 a year.

Clean or change filters regularly. A dirty furnace or A/C filter will slow down air flow and make the system work harder to keep you warm or cool.

Reduce water heater temperature to 130° F to save energy and money on heating water.

For more home energy tips go to www.ase.org

Navy Releases Collision Report for USS Fitzgerald and USS John S McCain Collisions

Produced by Navy Office of Information

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy released Nov. 1, a report detailing the events and actions that led to the collision of USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) and ACX Crystal off the coast of Japan June 17, and the collision of USS John S. McCain (DDG 56) and merchant vessel Alnic MC Aug. 21.

"Both of these accidents were preventable and the respective investigations found multiple failures by watch standers that contributed to the incidents," said Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. John Richardson. "We must do better."

"We are a Navy that learns from mistakes and the Navy is firmly committed to doing everything possible to prevent an accident like this from happening again. We must never allow an accident like this to take the lives of such magnificent young Sailors and inflict such painful grief on their families and the

nation.

"The vast majority of our Sailors are conducting their missions effectively and professionally - protecting America from attack, promoting our interests and prosperity, and advocating for the rules that govern the vast commons from the sea floor to space and in cyberspace. This is what America expects and deserves from its Navy.

"Our culture, from the most junior sailor to the most senior Commander, must value achieving and maintaining high operational and warfighting standards of performance and these standards must be embedded in our equipment, individuals, teams and fleets.

"We will spend every effort needed to correct these problems and be stronger than before," said Richardson.

- Cont. on Page 6

Commissary Fast Facts November 2017

Kevin L. Robinson- PAO Specialist Defense Commissary Agency

MILITARY FAMILY MONTH: 'THANKS' FROM YOUR COMMISSARY

During November's celebration of Military Family Month, the Defense Commissary Agency acknowledges the sacrifices and services of its service members and their families. There are many ways to show appreciation, whether on the job or at home. For instance, anyone may purchase either a \$25 or \$50 commissary gift card at every store worldwide and online at www.commissaries.com. Also, consider these thoughtful ideas to thank a military family:

- * A genuine "thank you" is always welcome and lets them know their sacrifices are important.
- * Simply ask how you can help, whether it is a chore they need help with, an evening babysitter or a listening ear.
- * Be patient with the military spouse who is on the phone with her deployed spouse in the commissary checkout line, understanding how important those precious minutes are for their family.



Capt. Bahlau joined the NASWF Commissary in a cake cutting for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. U.S. Navy Photo By Jamie Link.

For more ideas and information on Military Family Month, visit <http://militarybenefits.info/military-family-month/>.

COMMISSARIES CELEBRATE MILITARY WITH SPECIAL NOVEMBER EVENTS

For November, commissaries worldwide are saluting the military community with special events and promotions including high-value coupon booklets for

- Cont. on Page 7



NAS Whiting Field children participate in Trunk or Treat. The event included decorated trunks, a costume contest, bounce houses and pumpkin decorating. U.S. Navy Photo By Jamie Link.

Congratulations to TRAWING - 5 Scholars

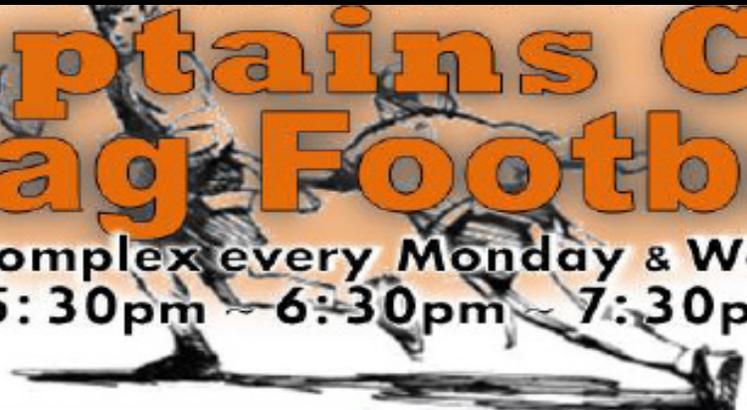


Congratulations to the TRAWING-5's Student Aviators who earned the Academic Achievement Award. Awards are presented at the TRAWING-5 Headquarters building. Photo courtesy of Training Air Wing FIVE.

Captains Cup Flag Football

~ Sports Complex every Monday & Wednesday ~

5:30pm ~ 6:30pm ~ 7:30pm

This Day in Naval History

October 30

1863 - The wooden side-wheel steam ship Vanderbilt captures the bark Saxon, which was suspected of having rendezvoused with and taken cargo from CSS Tuscaloosa at Angra Pequena, Africa.

October 31

1941 - German submarine U-562 sinks USS Reuben James (DD 245) as she escorted Convoy HX 156, killing 115 of her crew. Reuben James is the first U.S. ship lost to enemy action in World War II.

November 1

1952 - During the Korean War, USS Vammen (DE 644) is taken under fire by an estimated 105 mm gun in the vicinity of Sinu-ong. One man is wounded by a shell fragment, but there is no material damage.



An air-to-air left side view of a Fighter Squadron 1 (VF-1) F-14A Tomcat aircraft escorting a Soviet Bear-D maritime patrol aircraft. March 1987. U.S. Navy Official Photo.

MWR November 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
GIANT Holiday Card CONTEST Sign up at Community Recreation: 850-665-6250	Receive a FREE 4'x8' plywood sheet before 15 November! sign up	~ 1st 10 ~ Receive a FREE 4'x8' plywood sheet before 15 November! sign up	MULLIGAN'S GRILL Fried Chicken Every Wednesday	ICE FIVERS Get your tickets here! 850-665-6250	FAMILY MOVIES 7pm Lassen Auditorium	Family Fishing Event "Catch & Release" Ponds 9am 850-665-6250
Daylight Saving Time Ends	Games at: 5:30, 6:30 & 7:30 Captain's Cup "Flag Football" every Mon & Wed Sports Complex	Turkey Trot "TIN RUN" 2 Miles Fitness at 11:30am	Games at: 5:30, 6:30 & 7:30 Captain's Cup "Flag Football" every Mon & Wed Sports Complex	Create-a-Wreath Thursday, 16 Nov 6pm in the Atrium \$25 sign up ~ Call 850-665-6250	Veterans Day (observed) "Active Duty" FREE RIDE to Air Show NAS Pensacola Van leaves Liberty at 7am 850-623-7274	HAPPY VETERANS DAY BLUE ANGELS
Whiting Park 850-623-2383 Fall Hours Friday, Saturday, 9am to Sunday, 4pm Tuesday, CLOSED Wednesday, Thursday Hours effective 1 October 2017 to 30 April 2018	Games at: 5:30, 6:30 & 7:30 Captain's Cup "Flag Football" every Mon & Wed Sports Complex	Family Crafts & Ice Cream Social Atrium ~ \$5 11am-1pm 850-665-6250 Family Fun!	Corn Hole 5pm Sports Complex	Thanksgiving Dinner at Mulligan's 11am	ACES PUB (LOCATED IN THE GATEWAY INN) Open every Friday... 2pm - 9pm	BACKFEST Atrium: 9am FREE
	Games at: 5:30, 6:30 & 7:30 Captain's Cup "Flag Football" every Mon & Wed Sports Complex		Captain's Cup 3 on 3 BASKETBALL Fitness Center 4pm	HAPPY THANKSGIVING "Active Duty" Liberty Center Thanksgiving Dinner ~ 11am	ACES PUB (LOCATED IN THE GATEWAY INN) www.navywmrwhitingfield.com <input type="checkbox"/> Events Calendar <input type="checkbox"/> Program Information <input type="checkbox"/> Sports & Fitness <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Beverage <input type="checkbox"/> Support Services <input type="checkbox"/> Community Recreation Download our app... "NavyMWR Whiting Field"	

Collisions - Cont. from Page 4

USS FITZGERALD:

The collision between Fitzgerald and Crystal was avoidable and resulted from an accumulation of smaller errors over time, ultimately resulting in a lack of adherence to sound navigational practices. Specifically, Fitzgerald's watch teams disregarded established norms of basic contact management and, more importantly, leadership failed to adhere to well-established protocols put in place to prevent collisions. In addition, the ship's triad was absent during an evolution where their experience, guidance and example would have greatly benefited the ship.

USS JOHN S. MCCAIN:

The collision between John S. McCain and Alnic MC was also avoidable and resulted primarily from complacency, over-confidence and lack of procedural compliance. A major contributing factor to the collision was sub-standard level of knowledge regarding the operation of the ship control console. In particular, McCain's commanding officer disregarded recommendations from his executive officer, navi-

gator and senior watch officer to set sea and anchor watch teams in a timely fashion to ensure the safe and effective operation of the ship. With regard to procedures, no one on the Bridge watch team, to include the commanding officer and executive officer, were properly trained on how to correctly operate the ship control console during a steering casualty.



CHANGI, Singapore (Oct. 11, 2017) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain (DDG 56) departs Singapore on the heavy lift transport MV Treasure, Oct. 11, 2017. Treasure will transport John S. McCain to Fleet Activities Yokosuka for repairs. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of the Singapore Ministry of Defense/Released)

Commissary Fast Facts - Cont. from Page 4

free frozen turkeys. “We’re recognizing our military and their families, and all veterans who have served and sacrificed for our nation,” said Tracie Russ, the Defense Commissary Agency’s sales director. “We’re showing our great appreciation through military veterans’ commemoration ceremonies, Veterans Day holiday weekend sales and our seasonal promotions throughout the month of November.” One of the month’s biggest promotions is the worldwide annual free turkey event worldwide included in high-value coupon booklets. The free turkey promotion coincides with special discounted fresh turkeys available in all stores. Patrons are reminded to check out the online Sales Flyer at www.commissaries.com or get a copy at the store entrance. Check your local commissaries for dates and times on these promotions: <https://commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/thank-you-your-service>.

missaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/thank-you-your-service.

COMMISSARY BRANDS AVAILABLE AT DeCA STORES WORLDWIDE

The era of the commissary store brand is in full swing with private label products now on commissary shelves. Commissary store brands are Freedom’s Choice for food items and HomeBase for nonfood items such as paper products and other household items. Commissaries are also stocking a line of products such as first aid supplies, vitamins, over-the-counter medications and beauty care items under the TopCare brand name. TopCare products are also sold by other retailers and are a high-quality, low-cost store brand option for commissary patrons. 📷

Pensacola Native Earns Wings of Gold

By Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office

Hailing from just 33 miles from where his Wings of Gold were earned, a Pensacola local is now a Marine whose wings were pinned upon his uniform, marking him one of the service’s newest helicopter aviators.

First Lt. Taylor Vanstraten earned his Wings of Gold in a winging ceremony onboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field on Oct. 27 in front of family and friends as the 34,053rd aviator to be winged on the installation.

Vanstraten is a graduate of Escambia High School, Pensacola, where he attended NJROTC. Upon graduation, he went on to pursue ROTC in college.

“My instructors were a direct influence to apply for the ROTC scholarship and go to college, Sergeant Major Andre Francis USMC Ret was the reason I knew I wanted to be a Marine. I like how disciplined the Marines I met were and I knew it was the branch I belonged in” Vanstraten said.

He is the first Marine in his family, but not the first to serve in the military. Both Vanstraten’s grandfathers served the country, one as a pilot for a U.S.

Government agency and the other a retired master chief in the Navy.

Vanstraten took the stage at Friday’s winging ceremony accompanied by his girlfriend Sara Sprout, his parents Jill and Halsey Rhodes, sisters Ashley and Shelby Vanstraten, grandparents Linda and Dale Gates along with friends. Sprout winged Vanstraten at the center of the stage during the ceremony as a projector displayed the new aviator’s name with future helicopter choice, the CH-53E.

The Sikorsky CH-53E Super Stallion is a heavy-lift cargo helicopter that has been in service since 1981. “She is the largest helicopter the Navy and Marine Corps fly and I am very excited to fly her!” Vanstraten explained.

It’s hard not to feel Vanstraten’s enthusiasm about serving as a Marine, flying and being a helicopter pilot. - Cont. on Page 8



1stLt. Vanstraten had his wings of gold pinned on by his girlfriend Sara Sprout at the October 27th Winging Ceremony. Photo by Jamie Link

Whiting Field News

November 2017



November is
Military Family Appreciation
Month

[Http://twitter.com/#!/NASWFFSC](http://twitter.com/#!/NASWFFSC)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	0930-1030 Primary Prep 0900-1100 Resume Writing 1300-1400 Stress Mgmt.	1300-1400 Planning for your Retirement	1300-1500 Smooth Move Rm 2998 Family Fun Day 1200-1600 	1300-1400 Thrift Savings Plan 1400-1500 Challenges of Flight School and Marriage	1430-1530 Couples Communication	
 Daylight Savings Time Ends	0930-1030 Primary Prep 1000-1200 Applying for Federal Jobs	1000-1100 Time Mgmt. 1300-1400 Saving and Investing		1300-1400 Blended Retirement System	Veterans Day FFSC Closed	

Pre-Deployment Briefing/Deployment Services are Available. Please Call 623-7177 or email NASWF_FFSC@navy.mil to Speak to an Individual Deployment Support Specialist

All classes (except information sessions) are also available on a one on one basis upon request, please call 850.623.7177z

7511 USS Enterprise Street, Milton, FL Building 3025
 850.623.7177 (comm.) 868.7177(DSN) 850.623.7735(Fax)
<http://www.cnic.navy.mil/whitingfield/basesupport/index.htm>

Please email us NASWF_FFSC@navy.mil for information Join us @ www.facebook.com/NASWF.FleetandFamily



Wings of Gold - Cont. from Page 7

“I am most excited about mentoring Marines and flying a powerful fleet aircraft, I am looking forward to seeing new places and traveling with Sara”.

“I have wanted to join the Marines since high school and being from Pensacola, I knew I wanted to fly. I will miss Pensacola, but it will always be home.” Vanstraten said. 🇺🇸



1stLt. Vanstraten poses outside of CDR Clyde E. Lassen Auditorium at NAS Whiting Field with family and friends after the 27 October Wingin Ceremony. Photo by Jamie Link



Northview High School NJROTC Unit visited NASWF on November 1st. The students had the opportunity to see a T-6B static display as well as fly both T-6B and TH-57 OFT simulators. Photo by Jamie Link

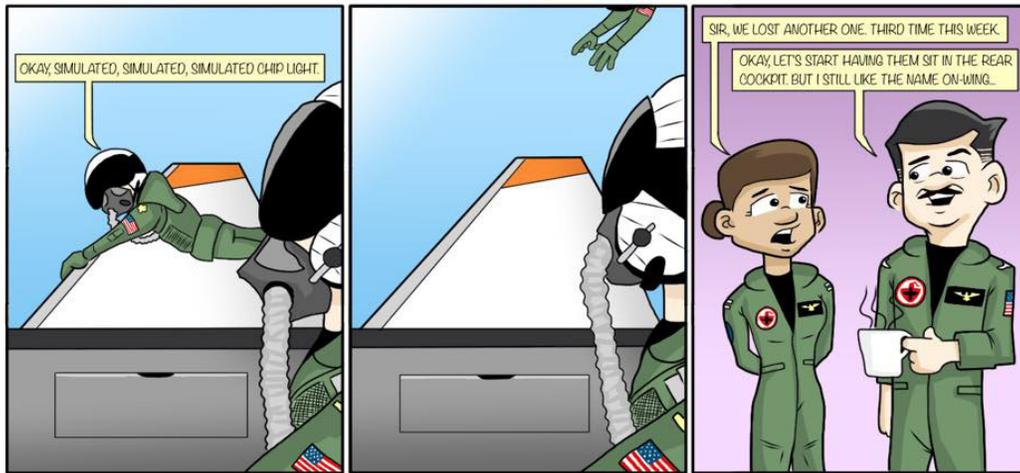
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Follow us on Instagram: @naswhitingfield

THE LANDING STRIP *MOTHS*

#45 - Sir? ICS check?



NWU Type III- The TYPE III uniform are available at the NEX starting Monday 06 November. Name tapes can be ordered in advance.

Driving Class Nov. 16- There will be a AAA Driver Improvement Class held on Thursday, November 16 in the Atrium Classroom. This will be an all-day class starting at 0800 and ending at 1600. Safety Department personnel will be teaching the class. The max amount of people is 20. If you or any one of your personnel or a military dependent would like to attend call Ken Cube in Safety and get enrolled. This is an AAA sponsored class.

Kayak Classes at Whiting Park - Trail Life USA of Milton is looking for Volunteers for the 2017-2018 school year. This Christian centric outdoor adventure program is looking to partner with gentlemen that desire to mentor and develop godly young men in various Troop Level Positions. For those interested, the point of contact is Mr. Aaron Brunk at Aaron.brunk@navy.mil.

Paint Ball is Here - The course is located on what used to be the golf driving range and will provide the opportunity for weekend entertainment on the base for families and service members. The course is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come on out and have some fun!

Renter's Insurance No Longer Provided - As detailed in para 3.a of NAVADMIN 198/17, "Current and future residents of PPV housing are advised that, as

a result of this amendment to the business agreements, they will no longer automatically receive renters' insurance in PPV housing. Military residents are encouraged, but not required, to obtain renters' insurance once current insurance coverage expires."

MWR Tickets & Travel - Our office offers a variety of leisure travel services including discount ticket sales to various attractions throughout the country and local attractions. We also offer lodging, cruises, bus tours, airfare packages all over the world, and other special services. Active Duty Military, Retired, Dependents, DoD civilians and all MWR authorized patrons can

purchase tickets. All prices are inclusive of our surcharge. VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover are accepted.

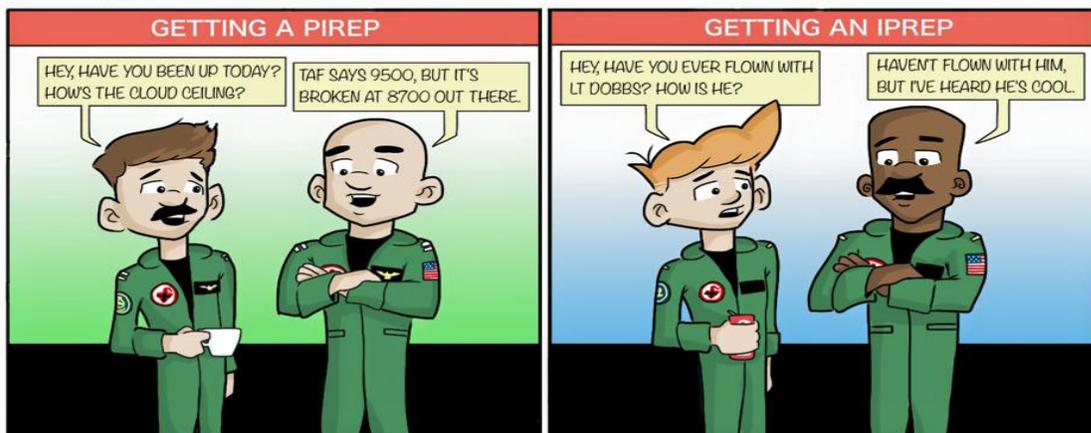
Captain's Cup Events - This month we'll have both individual and group competitions. Call the Fitness Center at 850-623-7412 to get involved. Flag Football: Games continue to be held every Monday and Wednesday at 5:30pm, 6:30pm and 7:30pm under the lights at the Sports Complex. Bring some snacks and watch the action as the teams battle it out over the season!

3on3 Basketball Tournament: Teams will play 3 on 3 half-court games. The tournament will be played at the Fitness Center on Wednesday, 29 Nov at 4:00pm.

PAO Things to Know Submissions- Things to Know is a weekly publication from the PAO. Please submit your entries to whtg_naswf_pao.fct@navy.mil by Tuesday at 1200 to make that week's issue.

THE LANDING STRIP *MOTHS*

#48 - Always do your homework



Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers

