

# Whiting Tower

**Seventy-four Years of Aviation Training News**  
**Learn to Conquer the Sky**                      **Discamus vincere in caelum**

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.  
Vol. 74 No. 03

Forging Wings for the Fleet  
February 08, 2018



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## Local Pensacola Resident Earns His Wings

By Ens. Caroline Ready, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Staff

Hailing from just 33 miles where his Wings of Gold were earned, a Pensacola local is now a naval aviator and one of the service's newest helicopter pilots.

Ens. Robert Burns Jr. earned his Wings of Gold during the winging ceremony onboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field on Jan. 26 in front of family and friends as the 34,134th aviator to be winged on the installation.

Burns Jr. is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he earned his commission and the opportunity to train to become a naval aviator. He graduated from Pensacola High School in 2012.

His father, retired Lt. Col. Robert Burns Sr., was a Marine Cobra pilot who, like his son, earned his wings of gold out of Helicopter Training Squadron (HT) 18. Burns Sr. later returned to NAS Whiting Field as an instructor at HT-8 for 10 years.

Burns Sr. expressed how proud he is and how memorable it was to be able to wing his son.

"The main thing I was thinking was, those are my



Ensign Robert Burns Jr. is pinned by his father, Lt. Col. Robert Burns Sr. at the January 26 Winging at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Photo by Ens. Nick Spaleny, NAS Whiting Field PAO Staff.

old wings that I had when I got winged," said Burns Sr. "They are tarnished and bent from when my dad hit them and bent them, so that's meant a lot to me, being able to pass that on to my son."

Spending most of his time in Pensacola while his father was an instructor, Burns Jr. realized that being an aviator would be interesting and exciting.

"Around the time I started applying to college is when I really started looking in to becoming a pilot," said Burns Jr. "When I saw my first winging, I noticed that they weren't that much different than me, and I thought that could be me in a couple of years."

His mother, Tess Burns, was still in shock that her son is following in her husband's footsteps as a helicopter pilot.

"It's beyond cool," said Tess Burns. "I told RJ [Burns Jr.] you're going to have to pinch me later because I still can't believe you're an aviator and doing what your dad did. When he [Burns Sr.] was an instructor, I remember, he would come home and say 'if I could do this for the rest of my life, this would be the coolest job,' and when RJ wanted to become a pilot I thought, he's going to love it."

Burns Jr. took the stage at Friday's winging ceremony accompanied by parents Robert and Tess Burns, along with his two sisters. Burns' father winged him at the center of the stage during the cer- - *Cont. on Page 7*

Cover Photo: Naval Air Station Whiting Field Executive Officer Cmdr. Don Gaines served as the Reviewing Officer at the NJROTC Pass and Review Parade at Pace High School on January 31. Cmdr. Gaines also took part in the Formal Inspection of the Pace NJROTC Unit earlier that day. Photo by Ens. Caroline Ready, NAS Whiting Field PAO Staff.

## The Whiting Tower

### Commanding Officer

Capt. Paul Bowdich

### Executive Officer

Cmdr. Don Gaines

### Command Master Chief

Master Chief (AW/SW) Lee Stephens

### Public Affairs Officer

Jamie Link

### Public Affairs Staff

ENS Kyle Muka

ENS Caroline Ready

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The Whiting Tower is an authorized publication for members of the Naval Air Station Whiting Field team, tenant commands, their family members and retirees in the surrounding area. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Navy, and do not imply endorsement thereof. The editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

# Future USS Michael Monsoor Successfully Completes Acceptance Trials

By Team Ships Public Affairs

BATH, Maine (NNS) -- The Navy's next generation destroyer, the future USS Michael Monsoor (DDG 1001), successfully completed acceptance trials Feb. 1.

The U.S. Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey reviewed the ship and its crew during a series of demonstrations both pier side and underway, evaluating the ship's construction and compliance with Navy specifications.

Many of the ship's onboard systems including navigation, damage control, mechanical, electrical, combat, communications and propulsion systems were tested to validate performance met or exceeded Navy specifications.

"DDG 1001 performed exceedingly well during acceptance trials," said Capt. Kevin Smith, DDG 1000 class program manager, Program - *Cont. on page 7*



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## Whiting Field Names Sailors of the Quarter

By Ens. Caroline Ready, NAS Whiting Field PAO Staff

Naval Air Station Whiting Field recently selected their top Sailors for the first quarter of 2018. The Sailors were nominated by their departments and are rated on achievement, volunteer service, education and work performance by a panel of senior enlisted personnel.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate first class petty officer Stacey Eaton, Aviation Boatswain's Mate second class Sarah Sanchez, and Air Traffic Controller third class Anita Finnerty were named as the Sailor of the Quarter, Junior Sailor of the Quarter and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, respectively.

The Sailor of the Quarter and Blue Jacket of the Quarter programs were created to "recognize superior performance of enlisted personnel with emphasis on outstanding achievements, exemplary personal conduct and military bearing, and demonstrated initiative in the performance of duty" according to the OPNAVINST 1700.15B.

Eaton, a departmental leading petty officer (LPO) of fire and emergency services, supervises, trains, and mentors 85 Sailors, from ten different outlying fields, in aircraft fire fighting and aircrew rescue procedures in

support of Training Air Wing (TW) FIVE and SIX flight operations. His team oversaw 360,000 mishap free flight operations and responded to 55 precautionary landings. Due to his leadership and professionalism, Eaton's training contributed to the qualification of two fire inspectors, eight fire officers, five fire captains, seven emergency vehicle operations, one pumper operator and seven fire lieutenants, that ensured 100 percent mission readiness.

Eaton actively seeks out and volunteers for collateral duty. As a Muster Team Organizer, he streamlined the recall process, led five departmental leaders, and conducted six command recalls. He is an active role model for the youth in the community by becoming a facilitator in the AWANA program at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Eaton personally devoted 20 hours to the organization, helping with the development of team building, family values and religious lessons for children ages four to seven.

Eaton expressed the importance of incorporating oneself in the command and community as a way to become a better leader.

"Mentoring and helping progress the careers and lives of junior Sailors is one of the - *Cont. on page 4*

## Sailors of the Quarter -Cont. from page 3

best parts of my job,” said Eaton. “As a LPO, I am able to increase my knowledge in the administrative aspect of my rating and I get to work with the chain of command directly so I can assist in the success of junior Sailors and create a smooth, day-to-day operations tempo.”

Sanchez, a fire captain at Navy Outlying Field Pace, manages six firefighters and one emergency vehicle in support of firefighting efforts during TW-5 and TW-6 combined 360,000 flight operations with zero mishaps. She is directly responsible for initiating and documenting 58 National Fire Incident Reporting System reports with 100 percent accuracy.

Sanchez has been an avid part of her community as a non-skating official for Emerald City Roller Derby League and as a constant volunteer with the Shepard House. She has dedicated over 22 hours to help improve the community.

Finnerty works as a radar and flight planning supervisor in the air operations department. During this time, she led two teams of four Sailors which led to the

safe execution of 1,781 ground controlled approaches and the accurate processing of 46,750 flight plans. As a south ground controller she ensure the quick and safe handling of over 9,200 aircraft and vehicle ground movement operations.

Finnerty helped TW-5 complete 21,251 mishap-free flight operations, resulting in 45 aviator qualifications. Finnerty also provided detailed training from a difficult syllabus resulting in 15 professional qualifications and five supervisor designations. She even devoted five volunteer hours to the set-up and break-down of the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation’s Children’s Christmas Breakfast.

“It’s always a pleasure to recognize our Sailors for their hard work and dedication to their jobs and to the mission. Congratulations are in order for our newest selectees for Sailor of the Quarter, Junior Sailor of the quarter and Blue Jacket of the quarter,” NAS Whiting Field Command Master Chief Lee Stephens said. 🇺🇸

### Friday Pub Fun

**JOIN US!**  
...for fun and frivolity.

**ACES PUB**  
(LOCATED IN THE GATEWAY INN)



**Every Friday**  
~ at 4:30pm ~

- 'Trivia' ... 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of month
- 'Gorn Hole Tournament' ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month
- 'Throwback Movie Night' ... 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month
- 'Pool Tournament' ... 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month

**Specials from 4:30pm to 6:30pm**

**MWR COMMUNITY RECREATION**

**Call for more information: Community Recreation 850-665-6250**

Join us for



**FREE**  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**4:30pm**

**MEET IN THE**



**"TOWER BOOKS & CAFÉ"**

**Thursday, 8 Feb**  
**& Tuesday, 20 Feb**

Two sessions in January, the 11th and 23rd, at 4:30pm, located in the Tower Café. We will use our creativity and innovation to build Star Wars themed creations. Parents must be present with their children for the duration of the program. All children ages 6 and up are welcome to attend. Registration required, space is limited. This event is open to all eligible MWR patrons.

**MWR LIBRARIES**

Please call the Library for more information: **850-623-7057**

[www.navymwrwhitingfield.com](http://www.navymwrwhitingfield.com)

# Whiting Field News



Naval Air Station Whiting Field Naval Operational Liaison Officer Randy Roy provided an overview of NAS Whiting Field operations to Forest and environmental services from Florida and Alabama. This annual Smoke Management Conference enhances collaborative efforts between these Military installations and the organizations who prescribe controlled burns for forestry management.

Representatives from NAS Whiting Field, NAS Pensacola, and Eglin AFB presented at the 32nd annual Marty Martin Smoke Management Conference. Multiple agencies also attended including NAS Whiting Field U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), NAS Whiting Field Natural Resources-Public Works Division, Florida Forest Service, Longleaf Alliance, Alabama Forestry Fire Program, and Florida Forest Service.

“Prescribed fire is used to reduce hazardous fuel buildups, thus providing increased protection to people, their homes and the forest. Other uses include disease control in young pines, wildlife habitat improvement, range management, preservation of endangered plant and animal species and the maintenance of fire-dependent ecosystems,” according to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The goal of the conference is for these agencies to work collaboratively in support of each other’s missions while mitigating risks to flight operations. Photo by Ens. Nick Spaleny, NAS Whiting Field PAO Staff.



Naval Air Station Whiting Field Diversity Committee reassembled on January 24 for the first time in 2018. The Diversity Committee will establish and support events on the installation. These will include official Navy observances and other base events throughout the year in order to support a more diverse Naval force. Photo by Ens. Nick Spaleny, NAS Whiting Field PAO Staff.

# Whiting Field News- Fitness Corner

## Fitness Fallout...

By Raelyn Latchaw, Fitness Center Team

So February has a reputation for being the month we “fall into” love...head over heels crazy love, celebrated with flowers, jewelry, candy and the like. Unfortunately, February is also known as the month we “fall out of” our fitness routine, abandoning those New Year’s resolutions we so adamantly made over the last bite of pumpkin pie during our Holiday Celebrating. Let me encourage you to stay the course...to keep “falling into” fitness...making healthy lifestyle choices, getting your body moving, and giving yourself the gift of a healthier and better you! You can persevere, you can reach your health goals, it takes a “stick to it” attitude to get you there, BUT YOU CAN DO IT! Let us cheer you along at the Fitness Center to realize those goals! We offer bookoo ways to get active and find a physical activity that you can “fall in love with” this February. Jump on board with our Fitness Bingo promotion and learn some new things as well as letting us “gift” you for your efforts! Grab a fitness Schedule and try a new class... you may just find your next passion. Get involved with our Saturday running club and get geared up for the Love on the Run 5K. Or jump in on our Valentines Spin Ride – where you can get your workout and have your chocolate too!

So “be sweet” to yourself this month of love and get moving! See you at the Fitness Center!

**It'll be a fun ride...you won't want to miss it!**

# # Ride

**Come out and join us for our  
February  Ride**

**... 45 minutes of Chaos Spin  
with Trivia, Candy and Fun!**

**Monday,  
12 February  
at 4:15pm**



**Fitness  
Center**



**Fitness Center: 850-623-7412**

**[www.navymwrwhitingfield.com](http://www.navymwrwhitingfield.com)**

## Future USS Michael Monsoor -Cont. from page 3

Executive Office (PEO) Ships. "The industry and Navy team worked together to incorporate lessons learned from DDG 1000. The trials once again demonstrated how truly powerful and exceptional these ships are."

Zumwalt class destroyers feature a state-of-the-art electric propulsion system, wave-piercing tumble-home hull, stealth design and are equipped with some of the most advanced warfighting technology. These ships will be capable of performing a range of deterrence, power projection, sea control and command and control missions while allowing the Navy to evolve with new systems and missions.

DDG 1001 was christened in June 2016 and is scheduled to deliver in the coming months. Bath Iron Works is currently in production on the future USS Lyndon B. Johnson (DDG 1002), as well as future Arleigh Burke class destroyers Thomas Hudner (DDG 116), Daniel Inouye (DDG 118), Carl M. Levin (DDG 120) and John Basilone (DDG 122).

As one of the Defense Department's largest acquisition organizations, PEO Ships is responsible for executing the development and procurement of all destroyers, amphibious ships, special mission and support ships and special warfare craft. 📷

## Winger -Cont. from page 2

emony as a projector displayed the new aviator's name with future helicopter platform, the CH-53E.

The Sikorsky CH-53E Super Stallion is a heavy-lift cargo helicopter that has been in service since 1981. Burns relayed his excitement for his future in aviation, "I am looking forward to more flying, more training, and serving as a pilot in the Navy," Burns Jr. said. 📷



NAS Whiting Field and TRAWING-5 leadership held a meeting on February 1 in the base command building to kick off the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for 2018. The Combined Federal Campaign offers the ability to donate both time and money to organizations enrolled with the CFC. Donations can be made at [www.setrystate.org](http://www.setrystate.org). Photo by Ens. Caroline Ready, NAS Whiting Field PAO Staff.

## Congratulations NAS Whiting Field!

2017 Navy Community Service Environmental  
Stewardship Flagship Award Winner  
Medium Shore Category

## *This Day in Naval History*

### February 8

1984 - Naval Aviator/Astronaut Bruce McCandless II makes the first untethered spacewalk as he flies some 300 feet from the Space Shuttle Challenger in the first test of the Manned Maneuvering Unit (MMU).

### February 9

1799 - During the Quasi-War with France, USS Constellation, commanded by Capt. Thomas Truxtun, captures French frigate Insurgente off Saint Kitts and Nevis Island.

### February 10

1991 - During Operation Desert Storm, A-6 Intruders attack two unidentified patrol boats in the northern Arabian Gulf, destroying both.

### February 11

1862- Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles directs the formation of an organization to evaluate new inventions and technical development that eventually leads to National Academy of Science.



Prisoner of War Camp Dispensary at NAS Whiting Field in 1945. German POWs were sent to Whiting Field from 1945 to 1946 to aid in the construction of the base. U.S. Navy Official Photo.

## THE LANDING STRIP *MOTZ*

#17 - Keep your eyes on the road.



**MWR FREE MOVIE IN FEBRUARY** Join us for our FREE movie this month on Friday, 23 Feb in the CDR Clyde E. Lassen Auditorium at 6:00pm. Enjoy “Thor: Ragnarok” on the big screen! Bring some snacks and enjoy! Seating is available ... and, bring your favorite blankets and pillows if you want too. **Fitness Fun Runs** Two fun runs this month on Tuesday, 13 February our ‘Love on the Run 5k’ begins at 12:30pm followed by the ‘1 mile Cupid Dash’ at 12:50pm. Call the Fitness Center at 850-623-7412 for more information. **Love Boat Rides** FREE Canoe use on Saturday, 10 February at Whiting Park. Take a canoe on the Blackwater River at no charge! We’ll let you use one for an hour for FREE. There are only so many boats available so reserve your boat! Call 850-623-2383 for more information.

**LEGO Club** There will be two sessions this month, Thursday, 8 February and Tuesday 20 February at 4:30pm in the Tower Books & Café. We will use our creativity and innovation to build DC Comics themed creations. Parents must be present with their children for the duration of the program. All children ages 6 and up are welcome to attend. Registration

required and space is limited. Call 850-623-7057 for more information. **SAPR** April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) and we are gearing up for some great events but our efforts to encourage a culture of dignity and respect continue to be strong throughout the year. “Raise Your Voice for Prevention” is our 2018 SAAPM call to action, let’s start now! If you need assistance please call: DOD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247, Civilian Victim Advocate at 850-324-4818, Uniformed Victim Advocate at 850-554-5383. All of these numbers are answered 24/7. **Friday Pub Fun at Ace’s Pub** Bring your game face to Ace’s Pub every Friday at 4:30pm for lots of fun and bragging rights! Trivia Night is this Friday with 7 rounds of knowledge including the following categories: people, music, history, current events, wild card, and random theme. Every Friday will feature something fun like ‘Friendly Competitions’ and movies too. Come join the fun! Ace’s Pub is located in the lobby of the Navy Gateway Inns and Suites. **Junior Enlisted Association Bake Sale** Tuesday February 13 from 0900-1300 in front of the commissary. Come out and support the Junior Enlisted Association. 🐶

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## THE LANDING STRIP *MOTZ*

#22 - A classic mixup



## Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers



**Top Row:** Cmdr. Robert Dulin, USN, CO HT-28; Lt. j.g. Luca Levorato, ITNAV, HT-28; Lt. j.g. Anthony Vidal, USN, HT-28; Ensign Robert Burns, Jr., USN, HT-18  
**Middle Row:** Lt. Col. Aaron Brunk, USMC, CO HT-18; Lt. j.g. Jess Lubbe, USN, HT-18; Lt. j.g. Dillan Rice, USN, HT-28; Guest Speaker: Capt. Mark Murray, USN; Col. David Morris, USMC, Commodore TW5  
**Bottom Row:** Cmdr. Stephen Audelo, USN, CO HT-8; 1st Lt. Jeffrey Sauer, Jr., USMC, HT-8; 1st Lt. Derrick Garner, USMC, HT-8; Lt. j.g. Matthew Hinkson, USN, HT-28

## Congratulations to TRAWING - 5 Academic Award and Commodore's List Recipients



TW-5 Academic Award and Commodore's List Recipients receive recognition at TRAWING-5 Headquarters on February 5.