

Whiting Tower

Forging Aviators for the Fleet



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WAVES at Whiting Field: A Historical Perspective of Women's History Month

By Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field PAO and Ens. Kyle Muka

Since the inception of Navy Auxiliary Air Station Whiting Field (NAAS), women have played a significant role in supporting the Navy and the aviation community. March is Women's History Month, commemorating the contributions and support women have made throughout the years.

Excerpts from the Whiting Tower provide a peak into the history of the United States Naval Reserve (Women's Reserve), also known as Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES).

One of the first references to the WAVES at Whiting Field comes from the February 11, 1944 edition of the Whiting Tower. The article is entitled, "Waves to Run Beauty Shop," and details the set-up of a base beauty parlor. "The Whiting Field beauty parlor to be opened as soon as equipment can be installed on the second deck of the Welfare building, will be run by WAVE beauty operators," the article states "Betty West, Y 3/c, a beauty operator in civilian life, will be in charge, and Ruth Gillis S 1/c,

Cover Photo: A student aviator and instructor pilot walk to their aircraft at NAS Whiting Field's North Field flight line on February 28, 2018. Photo by Lt. j.g. Luke Rague, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Staff.



Members of WAVES work in the Whiting Field Air Traffic Control Tower in 1944. The control tower was one of many base operations supported by WAVES personnel at NAS Whiting Field. U.S. Navy Official Historical Photo.

and Ruth Kleinschmidt Sk. 2/c, both experienced, will be her part time helpers." The beauty parlor was created in support of the WAVES operating on the base.

The Whiting Tower again references the impact of WAVES at Whiting Field in an April 7, 1944 article, "Work of Whiting Waves Gratifying- Capt. McAfee." The article comes after a visit by USNR Director of the Women's Reserve, Captain Mildred McAfee, to the installation. Captain McAfee was accompanied by Congresswoman Margaret Chase Smith, the only female member of the Naval Affairs committee, and members of the Advisory Educational Council of the Woman's Reserve.

"It is gratifying to see women arrive at a new station and make themselves thoroughly valuable in the opinion of all concerned," McAfee was quoted in the article. McAfee went on to call the work of Whiting Waves as remarkable.

Captain McAfee visited the WAVES at various areas throughout the installation. While observing a machinist mate servicing a plane on the flight line she was quoted, "This is an impressive sight and proves to me that these girls can take it with the men." - *Cont. on page 5*

The Whiting Tower

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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.

Navy Celebrates Women's History Month

By Navy Office of Information

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy joins the nation in celebrating Women's History Month throughout the month of March 2018.

ALNAV 007/18 encourages participation in all the heritage celebrations and special observances throughout the year. This year, Navy commands are encouraged to celebrate and reflect on the theme "Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination."

Women have served in the Navy as nurses dating back to the 1800s, most notably during the Civil War when the Sisters of the Holy Cross served aboard USS Red Rover, the Navy's first hospital ship. In 1948, women gained permanent status in the Navy with the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act.

"Women's History Month is a time to reflect on and express gratitude to the trailblazers who demonstrated unparalleled courage, tenacity and vision, sometimes in the face of systemic headwinds, to chart a course for today's women who proudly and - *Cont. on page 7*



A special "Rosie the Riveter" cake was created by culinary specialists aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in honor of Women's History Month 2017. The event honored iconic Navy women such as Rear Adm. Grace Hopper, Capt. Sarah Joyner, and Chief Yeoman Loretta Walsh. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Juan Cubano.

Historic First: F-35B Lands on USS Wasp

By Amphibious Force 7th Fleet Public Affairs

EAST CHINA SEA (NNS) -- A detachment of F-35B Lightning II's with Fighter Attack Squadron 121 (VMFA-121) arrived aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) March 5, marking the first time the aircraft has deployed aboard a U.S. Navy ship and with a Marine Expeditionary Unit in the Indo-Pacific.

The F-35B, assigned under the Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, will provide a robust set of sea-based capabilities that will enhance Navy-Marine Corps expeditionary operations. The aircraft is equally capable of conducting precision strikes inland, supporting Marines inserted ashore or providing air defense for the Expeditionary Strike Group.

"Pairing F-35B Lightning II's with the Wasp represents one of the most significant leaps in warfighting capability for the Navy-Marine Corps team in our lifetime," said Rear Adm. Brad Cooper, commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 7. "This 5th generation stealth jet is extremely versatile and will greatly enhance and expand our operational capabilities."

VMFA-121 Pilots are scheduled to conduct a se-



An F-35B Lightning II with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 121 touches down on the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1), marking the first time the aircraft has deployed aboard a U.S. Navy ship and with a Marine Expeditionary Unit in the Indo-Pacific region. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Bernadette Wildes.

ries of qualification flights on Wasp over a multi-day period. Following qualifications, the F-35B's and 2,300 Marines that make up the 31st MEU will deploy aboard ships of the Wasp Expeditionary Strike Group for follow-on operations in the Indo-Asian-Pacific region as part of a routine patrol to strengthen regional - *Cont. on page 6*

Whiting Field News

NAS Whiting Field Sailor Advances to Navy Wide Award Competition



AC1 Justin Kersch receives recognition from Capt. Paul Bowdich, NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer, on March 6 for his selection as the 2017 Commander Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Air Traffic Controller of the Year (ATCOY). Kersch is advancing to the Navy-wide Vice Admiral Robert B. Pirie Naval Air Traffic Controller of the Year award level, and the winner will be announced at the 2018 Navy and Marine Corps Air Traffic Control Symposium in San Diego in April. Kersch was nominated to represent NAS Whiting Field and has since advanced through the Navy Region Southeast and CNIC award levels. Kersch's superior leadership and professionalism have contributed to the safe and effective training environment at NAS Whiting Field. His actions have directly resulted in the completion of more than 167,000 flight operations, 6,000 ground controlled approaches and the execution of 7,250 training hours for air traffic controllers at NAS Whiting Field.

This Day in Naval History

March 8

1822 - Crew from the schooner Enterprise capture and burn seven small pirate vessels off Cape Antonio, Cuba.

March 9

1862 - In the first battle between ironclads, USS Monitor and CSS Virginia engage in close combat in Hampton Roads, Va. Neither side could claim victory, but it eventually ends the era of wooden ships.

March 10

1948 - The carrier suitability of the FJ-1 Fury jet fighter is tested aboard USS Boxer (CV 21) off San Diego, with a number of landings and takeoffs.

March 11

1942 - Lt. John Bulkeley, commander of Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 3, helps Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Rear Adm. Francis W. Rockwell, as well as their families and others, escape the Philippines.



Aircraft staged along the west flight lines at NAS Whiting Field's North Field in 1945. Official U.S. Navy Historical photo.

Whiting Field News

WAVES -Cont. from page 2

The tour also included aviation machinist mates, metal smiths and trainer operators.

The Tower article goes on to say Captain McAfee, "used three words in identifying the Navy: Stupendous, Organizing, Suffering, directing attention to the first letters of each S.O.S. 'You are learning something in a greater degree, and are enduring, which will make you the kind of peace-time citizens this nation needs for years to come.'"

These historical examples are just two of the many impacts that WAVES had on NAS Whiting Field, the Navy and Military as a whole. These women were trailblazers for the full incorporation of women into the military, and their selfless service will be felt for generations to come.

This year marks the 40th observance of Women's History Month. The 2018 theme for Women's history month is "Honoring Trailblazing Women Who Have Paved the Way for Future Generations."

Women's history month originated in 1978 when the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women imitated a women's history week to coincide with international women's day on 8 March. In 1981, in response to growing support for the week, Congress passed a joint



WAVES personnel were among the Parachute Loft Complement at NAS Whiting Field, photographed in 1945. WAVES helped support numerous base operations at NAS Whiting Field. U.S. Navy Official Historical Photo.

resolution proclaiming a Women's History Week. The National Women's History Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring and preserving women's history, petitioned Congress in 1987 to expand the celebration to the entire month of March. Since then, National Women's History Month commemorates the diverse contributions women have made, and continue to make, to our Nation. (From the ALNAV 007/18 observance announcement.)



Congratulations to TRAWING - 5 Civilians of the Quarter



TRAWING-5 Civilians of the Quarter were recently recognized at a Wing event. Pictured from left to right: Wanda Johnson, TW5 Academic Training Student Control; Lisa Bastien, TW5 Helicopter Instructor Training Unit; Gary Anctil, TW5 Supply Technician; and Keith Barney, TW5 Student Control.

Pub Fun Friday
ACES PUB
(LOCATED IN THE GATEWAY INN)

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...for fun and frivolity.

Every Friday
at 6:00pm...ish
~ March ~

2nd: 'Trivia Night' ... Food & Prizes
9th: 'Movie Night' ... Popcorn
16th: 'Leprechaun Dash' ... 4pm
23rd: 'Corn Hole' ... Bags o' Fun!

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Community Recreation
850-665-6250

F-35B -Cont. from page 3

alliances, provide rapid-response capability and advance the 'Up-Gunned ESG' concept.

The 'Up-gunned ESG' is a U.S. Pacific-fleet initiated concept that aims to provide lethality and survivability to a traditional three-ship amphibious ready group by integrating multi-mission surface combatants and F-35B into amphibious operations. By adding these enabling capabilities, the amphibious force can more effectively defend against adversarial threats in the undersea, surface and air domains, as well provide offensive firepower to strike from the sea.

The 31st MEU is the only forward-deployed MEU in the region. The F-35B serves as one airframe within a multitude of air capabilities of the MEU's Air Combat Element. Air, ground and logistics forces make up the MEU's Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF), a composite of capabilities that allow the MEU, in partnership with Navy amphibious ships, to conduct a wide-range of missions from crisis response to disaster relief.

"This is a historic deployment," said Col. Tye R. Wallace, 31st MEU Commanding Officer. "The F-35B is the most capable aircraft ever to support a Marine rifleman on the ground. It brings a range of new capabilities to the MEU that make us a more lethal and effective Marine Air-Ground Task Force."

Multi-mission guided-missile destroyers USS Dewey (DDG 105), with embarked Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 35 "Magicians," and USS Sterett (DDG 104), with embarked Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 49 "Scorpions," are scheduled to support a range of operations and training with the Wasp Expeditionary Strike Group for varying stretches during the patrol.

The arrival of the F-35B culminates testing and shipboard structural modifications on Wasp that began in 2013. Wasp completed an overhaul in 2017 and subsequently departed Norfolk to forward-deploy to Sasebo, Japan, as part of a Department of Defense effort to place the most advanced capabilities in the Indo-Pacific.

"Deployment of the versatile F-35B enhances the full range of Expeditionary Strike Group capabilities with one of the world's most technologically-advanced air warfare platforms," said Capt. Colby Howard, Wasp commanding officer. "With the specific upgrades Wasp

has received, the Navy Marine Corps team in the Pacific is better positioned than ever before to support our commitment to the security of Japan and the Region."

The Wasp ESG is on a routine patrol in the Indo-Asian-Pacific, providing U.S. 7th Fleet a rapid-response capability in the event of a contingency and working with partners and allies to increase combined capacity for regional security.

Seventh Fleet, which celebrates its 75th year in 2018, spans more than 124 million square kilometers—stretching from the International Date Line to the India/Pakistan border and from the Kuril Islands in the North to the Antarctic in the South. Seventh Fleet's area of operation encompasses 36 maritime countries and 50 percent of the world's population with between 50-70 U.S. ships and submarines, 140 aircraft and approximately 20,000 Sailors in the 7th fleet.

LUNCH LEISURE LESSON'
Hammock Skills
Monday ~ Friday **March 19 ~ 23**
11:00am to 12:00pm ...

'Lunch Leisure Lessons': One week every month, stop by Community Recreation to receive a lesson during your lunch break for our monthly featured rental item. March 19-23, during the lunch hour, we'll be featuring hammocks! If you have a hammock that you've never used and are terrified of setting up, or you dream of hanging out in one while you dose this spring, stop by for your lesson and a rental!

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Available on the App Store Available on Google play

Women's History Month -Cont. from page 3

honorably serve in the U.S. Navy," said Vice Adm. Jan Tighe, deputy chief of naval operations for information warfare/director of naval intelligence.

Over the last century, women have served aboard auxiliary ships beginning in 1978 and on combatant ships beginning in 1994. In 2016, the Department of Defense opened all military occupations and positions to women.

Female Sailors and civilians play an integral role in the success of the Navy as part of the One Navy Team. Women serve in every rank from seamen to admiral and hold nearly every job from naval aviator to deep-sea diver. Twenty percent of the Navy's enlisted force is women, including eight percent of all senior and master chiefs. Nineteen percent of the officer force and 10 percent of all admirals are comprised of women.

In the Navy's civilian workforce, 27 percent are women and 26 percent are Senior Executive Service members.

According to the September 2016 "One Navy Team" memo from Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John M. Richardson, actively being inclusive and open to diverse perspectives will produce leaders and teams who learn and adapt to achieve maximum possible performance, who achieve and maintain high standards, and are ready for decisive operations and combat.

Diversity also influences various thoughts, ideas, skill sets and experiences which ultimately helps increase the effectiveness of the Navy. Integrating Sailors and civilians from diverse backgrounds enables the Navy to recruit and retain the nation's top talent from a wide pool of skilled personnel.

A complete educational presentation, including a downloadable educational poster on Women's History month, can be requested from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) by email at demipa@us.af.mil.

'INDOOR'

Rock Climbing

Saturday, 10 March

9:00am to 3:30pm ...

Have you ever wanted to try ...
'Indoor Rock Climbing'? Join us on Saturday, 10 March from 9:00am to 3:30pm for a trip to the University of West Florida's indoor rock wall for 3 hours of climbing lessons. Gear included for just \$25. After the climb, we'll stop for lunch before we come back to base

\$25 per person

sign up

Space is limited ... Reserve your place!

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Rates - All Cabins Double Occupancy - Prices includes:
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C O M M U N I T Y
R E C R E A T I O N

Whiting Field Fitness Corner

Your Mother Was Right...

By Raelyn Latchaw, Fitness Center Team

Your mother was right. About eating your vegetables, that is. How many of us recall the daily dinner reminder to eat our vegetables? A vast majority would be my guess. Well, it turns out that was actually very good advice.

Research is confirming that vegetables and fruits are a vital component to achieving maximal health. These gifts of nature are packed with essential vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and fiber that our body needs to function at optimal levels. For example, did you know that muscle contraction requires minerals to operate properly or that free radicals found in our body require antioxidants to 'neutralize' them? And if we are going to get surface level on the topic, our complexion, hair, and nails are also healthier and more vibrant when our body is getting the essential nutrients it needs through a healthy diet. These are only a few good reasons why fruit and veggie intake

is so key to optimal health; the list is practically endless.

So if your mother didn't convince you with her persistent nagging, do your own research and let the evidence sway your conscience. Check out websites like the American Dietetic Association for some basic information to get you started on your healthy eating expedition. And to help you translate knowledge into action we are offering a March Fitness Center Challenge. It's called "Give Me Five." This challenge will kick start your new healthy habit of eating the recommended five fruits and veggies every day. We'll even 'gift' you at month's end for your kind efforts to yourself...what other motivation do you need?

Just drop by the Fitness Center and get signed up to commit to a healthier diet and healthier you, and then you can call your mother and tell her she was right. But we'll leave that one up to you. ☺

Whiting Warriors
Bench Press and Deadlift
Challenge

Men & Women



March 12 to 18

0600
1800

Bench Press
Deadlift

A 1 minute timed bench press and deadlift challenge. Bench Press and Deadlift repetitions will be totaled for final score.

Males will bench press and deadlift 80% of bodyweight.

Females will bench press 65lbs and deadlift 95lbs.

Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place male and female age groups! Overall 1st place male and female receive a trophy!
• 18-40 • 41-50 • 51 and up

MWR Fitness Center: 850-623-7412
www.navymwrrwhitingfield.com

Give me 5

Fuel your body for top performance!
Join our March Incentive and eat Five-A-Day ...
five fruits and vegetables, that is!



... I took the challenge

Simply eat a combination of five fruits and vegetables daily through the month of March and we'll reward you at month's end...it's a no brainer! We'll get you signed up at the front desk and you'll be on your way to a healthier you ☺

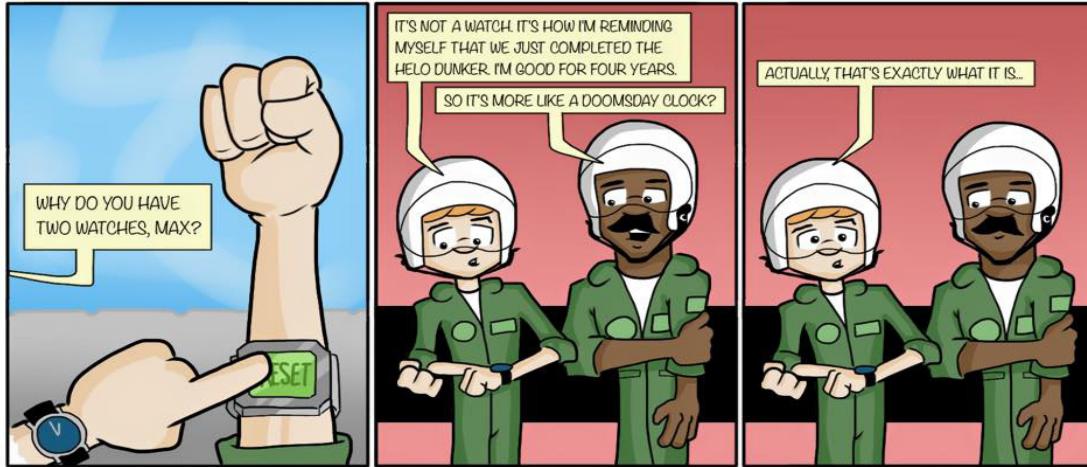
Sign-up at the Fitness Center

MWR Fitness Center: 850-623-7412
www.navymwrrwhitingfield.com

News & Notes

THE LANDING STRIP

#52 - Hello darkness, my old friend.



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.

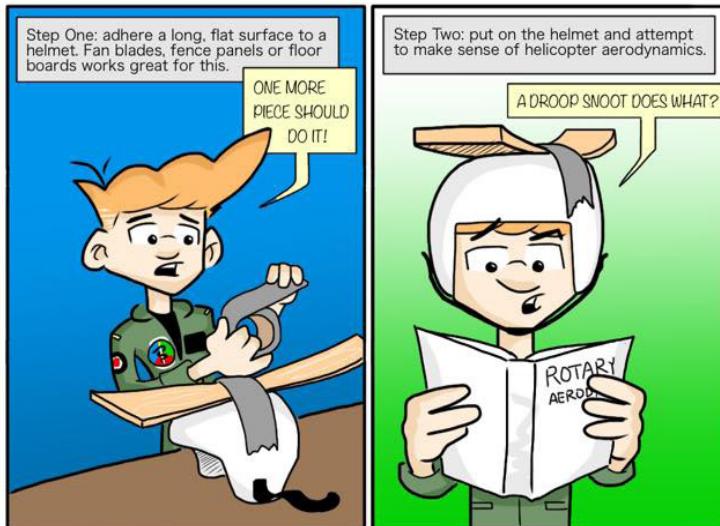
West (Main) Gate Improvement Notice Traffic exiting the base will shift north on Langley Street onto the newly paved section of the road. Traffic entering the base will shift north onto the current out-bound lane. This lane shift is only in the area between Magda Village (RV Park) and Westgate Dr. Gate entry and exit remains the same. Traffic patterns beyond this area remain the same. Please use caution when approaching this area. **Transition, Goals, Plans, Success (TGPS)** **Workshop** March 19 to 23 in the Fleet and Family Support Center's TGPS Building 2998. The Transition GPS curriculum is a critical component of the

redesigned Transition Assistance Program (TAP). Transition GPS is an outcome-based, curriculum with standardized learning objectives that transforms the way the military prepares Service members transitioning out of Active Duty to pursue their career goals. It is designed to help Service members meet their "mandatory" Career Readiness Standards (CRS), regardless of their occupational field or

military branch, and be "career ready" prior to transition. The TGPS Workshop is "Mandatory" for all separating or retiring service members. Pre-Separation Counseling is initiated through Chief Thurman Winkler, the Command Career Counselor (CCC) here at NAS Whiting Field and should be done 18-24 months prior to retirement and 12-18 months prior to separation. Pre-Separation Counseling must be completed before you can be signed up for this Workshop. The next counseling session is March 13 from 1000 to 1100. Call Eugene Jackson at 850-623-7335 to sign up. ♣

THE LANDING STRIP

#56 - How to build a helicopter



Congratulations to TRAWING-5 Wingers



Top Row: Lt. Col. Gregory Curtis, USMC, XO HT-28; Lt. j.g. Abdulaziz Albulaihed, RSNF, HT-8; 1st Lt. Colin Holtson, USMC, HT-28; Lt. Brett Stones, USN, HT-18; Lt. j.g. Thomas Goodwin IV, USN, HT-8; Col. David Morris, USMC, Commodore TW-5

Middle Row: Lt. Col. Aaron Brunk, USMC, CO HT-8; Lt. j.g. James White, Jr., USN, HT-8; Ens. Taylor Hermann, USN, HT-18; Ens. James Hutcheson, USN, HT-18; Ens. Matthew Correnty, USN, HT-18; 1st Lt. Jacob Sanborn, USMC, HT-18; Guest Speaker: Maj. Gen. Russell Sanborn, USMC, Commander U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa

Bottom Row: Cdr. Stephen Audelo, USN, CO HT-8; 1st Lt. Jeffrey Jaeckel, USMC, HT-18; Ens. Austin Grow, USN, HT-18; 1st Lt. Nicholas Asarese, USMC, HT-28; Ens. David Frick, Jr., USN, HT-18; 1st Lt. Fabian Gries, USMC, HT-8

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



TRAWING-5 Academic Award and Commodore's List Recipients receive recognition at TRAWING-5 Headquarters on February 26.