

CNATRA

HQ COMMUNICATOR

APRIL 2021



/MISSION BRIEF

To safely train the world's finest combat quality aviation professionals, delivering them at the right time, in the right numbers, and at the right cost to a naval force that is where it matters, when it matters.

/WE ARE TEAM CNATRA

- We are "all in" for the mission
- We are professionals dedicated to improving ourselves, our team, and the naval services
- We lead with integrity, moral courage, and discipline
- We are accountable to the nation, our service, each other, and our families
- Integrity is our foundation

/ADMIRAL'S SUGGESTION BOX

Got a suggestion? There are several ways to submit your suggestions to Rear Adm. Westendorff or COS:

1. Go to: <https://adss.navy.mil/applications/00sb.aspx>
2. Visit www.cnatra.navy.mil and click on "Contact" then "Contact Us" to find a link to the suggestion box.
3. Use the link on the SharePoint portal.
4. Use the suggestion box at the quarterdeck.

/ON THE COVER

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas Lt. Eve Schnell, an instructor pilot, and Marine 1st Lt. Chad Jacox, a student naval aviator, walk out for a training flight at Training Air Wing 4 flight line, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, March 11. Schnell and Jacox are both assigned to Training Squadron (VT) 27, one of two primary flight training squadrons under Training Air Wing 4. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Michelle Tucker.

/COMMAND INFO

CNATRA: RDML Robert Westendorff

COS: CAPT Scott Starkey

CDO: Various (361) 537-7243

CMEO: LT Michelle Tucker (361) 438-7846

DAPA: LT Rick Robley (361) 961-5217

HR: Vanessa Finney (361) 532-1058

Ombudsman: Anne Owens (361) 533-2200

SAPR POC: LT Rick Robley (361) 961-5217

SAFETY/ORM: Dave Watson (361) 961-1162

SARC: Pat Capitan (361) 523-3580

SECURITY MGR: James Pitts (361) 961-2186

DoD Safe Helpline: (877) 995-5247

/APRIL IN NAVAL AVIATION HISTORY

April 1, 2021: Inaugural class of Naval Aviation Training-Next Project Avenger students complete primary flight training under Training Air Wing 4 at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas.

April 1, 1948: Helicopter Utility Squadron 1 and 2 (HU-1 and HU-2), both known as the "Fleet Angels," were formed from the newly decommissioned Helicopter Development Squadron 3 (VX-3) at Lakehurst, New Jersey. These were the Navy's first two helicopter squadrons.

April 5, 1944: PB4Y aircraft (VB 109) sink Japanese auxiliary submarine chaser Cha 46 off Wake Island.

April 8, 1925: Lt. John D. Price, piloting a VF-1 plane, makes a night landing on USS Langley (CV 1), at sea off San Diego, the first on board a U.S. Navy carrier.

April 9, 1959: The first seven Mercury astronauts are selected, including three Navy aviators and one Marine: Lt. Cmdr. Walter M. Schirra, Lt. Malcom S. Carpenter, Marine Lt. Col. John Glenn Jr., and Lt. Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard.

April 13, 1981: AV-8A Harriers deploy as a Marine Air Group on board an amphibious assault ship for the first time.

April 16, 1959: Helicopters from USS Edisto (AGB-2) begin rescue operations in Montevideo, Uruguay. By April 26, they carry 277 flood victims to safety.

April 18, 1958: Lt. Cmdr. G.C. Watkins flying a Grumman F11F-1F Tiger at Edwards Air Force Base, California, for the second time in three days sets a world altitude record of 76,938 feet.

April 19, 1960: The Grumman A2F-1 Intruder makes its first flight. The Intruder receives the designation of A-6A in 1962, and upon entering service in 1963, becomes the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps principle all weather/night attack aircraft.

April 20, 1914: The first call-to-action of naval aviators is given, creating an aviation detachment of three pilots, 12 enlisted men, and three aircraft to join the Atlantic Fleet forces operating off Tampico during the Mexican crisis.

April 23, 1945: Navy Patrol Bomber PB4Y Liberators (VPB 109) employ Bat missiles against Japanese shipping off Balikpapan, Borneo in the first combat use of the only automatic homing missile to be used in World War II.

April 24, 1946: CNO Adm. Chester W. Nimitz ordered the formation of a flight exhibition team that would showcase Naval Aviation. Officially known as the U.S. Naval Flight Demonstration Squadron, they formally adopted the nickname "Blue Angels" in 1949 when the squadron commander designed the Blue Angels insignia which is nearly identical to the one in use today.

April 25, 2009: Boeings new P8-A Poseidon test jet, a 737-based submarine hunter for the Navy that will replace the P3-C Orion, flies for first flight from Renton, Virginia, to Boeing Field, Seattle.

April 30, 1945: Navy patrol bombers PB4Y (VPB 103) and a PBY-5A Catalina aircraft flown by Lt. Fredrick G. Lake from VP 63 sink two German submarines off the coast of Brest, France.

Five Squadrons Earn CNO's Cmdr Theodore G. Ellyson Aviator Production Excellence Awards

By Lt. Michelle Tucker

Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) recognized the accomplishments of five Naval Aviation squadrons March 24, honoring them with the fiscal year 2020 Cmdr. Theodore G. Ellyson Production Excellence Awards.

CNATRA Rear Adm. Robert Westendorff presented the awards during CNATRA's Production Alignment Conference in San Antonio.

Awardees are: Primary squadron – the “Boomers” of Training Squadron (VT) 27 based at Naval Air Station (NAS) Corpus Christi; advanced squadron – the “Sabrehawks” of VT-86 based at NAS Pensacola, Florida; Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic – the “Pro's Nest” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 based at NAS Jacksonville, Florida; Commander, Naval Air Force Pacific – the “Seahawks” of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 41 based at NAS North Island, San Diego; and U.S. Marine Corps – the KC-130J fleet replacement detachment based at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina.

The Ellyson awards program is one of three Chief of Naval Operations aviation-related award programs. It examines squadrons' efficiency, ability to meet fleet requirements for production, time to train, and mitigation strategies to combat external resource or execution barriers if present. All Navy and Marine Corps fleet replacement squadrons (FRS), Marine aviation training units, and all CNATRA training squadrons are eligible for the awards. Each winning squadron received a plaque to commemorate the achievement.

The awards are named for Cmdr. Theodore G. Ellyson, the first naval officer to undergo aviation training

and designated naval aviator #1 in 1914. Ellyson was instrumental in the development of all facets of Naval Aviation including the establishment of the first flight training sites, which were termed naval aviation camps, in Annapolis, Maryland, and San Diego.

“Training and developing our students to be the best aviation professionals in the world is critical to the security of our nation,” Westendorff said. “We rely on the dedicated men and women of our training squadrons and fleet replacement squadrons to meet fleet aviation manning requirements. Today we recognize these five squadrons for their production efficiency in FY-20.”

CNATRA trains the world's finest combat-quality aviation professionals, delivering them at the right time, in the right numbers, and at the right cost to a naval force that is where it matters, when it matters. Headquartered at NAS Corpus Christi, CNATRA comprises five training air wings in Florida, Mississippi, and Texas, which are home to 17 training squadrons. In addition, CNATRA oversees the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron the “Blue Angels” and the training curricula for all Navy and Marine Corps FRS units. 🛩️

(Top to bottom) SAN ANTONIO Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. Robert Westendorff presents the fiscal year 20 Cmdr. Theodore G. Ellyson Production Excellence Awards to Commanding Officer, VT-27 Cmdr. Joseph Adams; Commodore, TRAWING-6 Capt. Scott Janik on behalf of VT-86; Prospective Executive Officer, Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 Cmdr. Matt Newman; and KC-130J Fleet Replacement Detachment Officer In Charge Marine Lt. Col. Charles Casey during CNATRA's Production Alignment Conference, March 24. *U.S. Navy photos by Bob Gerberding.*



First Female Italian Navy Strike Fighter Pilot Earns Wings of Gold

By Anne Owens

The Italian navy's first female strike fighter pilot received her Wings of Gold after completing undergraduate flight training with the "Tigers" of Training Squadron (VT) 9 at Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian, Mississippi, March 11.

Italian navy Ensign Erika Raballo was designated a naval aviator during a small winging ceremony at the base chapel with five classmates marking a significant milestone in Italian and U.S. Naval Aviation history and further strengthening the partnership between the two nations.

"We are all incredibly proud of Ensign Raballo," VT-9 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Meghan Angermann said. "She has proven she is a capable, competent warfighter ready to take her strike aviation training to the next level. She and her classmates worked hard to get to this point and what they can and will accomplish in the future is limitless."

Raballo conducted her final graded curriculum event in a T-45C Goshawk jet trainer aircraft March 10. She returned to her squadron mates waiting on the Training Air Wing 1 flight line for a traditional "soft winging" ceremony during which Angermann presented Raballo with a fabric patch emblazoned with the Wings of Gold.

"Being the first female Italian navy jet pilot is an amazing feeling," Raballo said. "My desire is to be the first one of many and I hope I'll be an inspiration

for many other women in all lines of work, not because I'm special, but for the exact opposite; I came from a small town, with no military background whatsoever and with willingness and hard work I was able to make my dream come true."

Raballo is from Alba in the commune of Piedmont in northwest Italy. Aside from her father and uncles' compulsory one year of service, Raballo is the first in her family to dedicate her career to military service.

"I decided I wanted to be a pilot when I was 16 after visiting a joint naval and air force base," Raballo said. "I was stunned by the words of the pilots and so fascinated by the introductory flight that we did on a navy helicopter that the following day I watched 'Top Gun' for the first time and I was all in!"

Each year, the Italian navy sends approximately 10 officers to the United States to begin pilot training under Chief of Naval Air Training. Italian navy Lt. Cmdr. Simone Pitto is a country liaison officer and oversees all Italian students in undergraduate flight training.

"In 2000, the Italian parliament approved the opening of the

armed forces to women," Pitto said. "After 20 years they [women] are fully integrated in all operational domains of the navy where they operate on surface ships, submarines, amphibious platoons, special forces, and helicopter squadrons. It is with great pride that now we see a woman also complete jet



MERIDIAN, Miss. Italian navy Ensign Erika Raballo, a student naval aviator with the "Tigers" of Training Squadron (VT) 9, sits in a T-45C Goshawk jet trainer aircraft at Naval Air Station Meridian, June 2, 2020. *Courtesy photo.*

training and qualify as a STOVL (short take-off vertical landing) pilot. Ensign Raballo's achievement is a testament to her intellect, skill, and determination to succeed."

Before reporting to VT-9, Raballo completed primary flight training in T-6B Texan II turboprop trainer aircraft with the "Shooters" of VT-6 under Training Air Wing 5 at NAS Whiting Field in Milton, Florida.

Like her classmates, Raballo is part of a new generation of strike fighter pilots to qualify on state-of-the-art Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) used on aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) and all future Gerald R. Ford-class carriers: the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) and Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG). She completed T-45C carrier qualifications on Ford in the Atlantic Ocean off the Florida coast, Feb. 5, which she said was her favorite part of the strike pilot training pipeline.

"Landing on the aircraft carrier for the first time was mind blowing," Raballo said. "I was so nervous at first and I have to say thank you to my paddles (landing signals officers), Lt. Allen Vohden and Lt. Sean Lawrence, for all the patience and effort they put into preparing me skill wise and mentally for that big challenge."

Raballo will continue to postgraduate training at one of two U.S. Marine Corps fleet replacement squadrons to learn to operate either the F-35 Lightning II or the AV-8B Harrier.

Training alongside allies and partners increases our collective capacity and capabilities, and increases interoperability with U.S. forces. Raballo's achievement comes as Italian navy aircraft carrier ITS Cavour is conducting flight certification operations with U.S. Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II aircraft off the coast of Norfolk. 🇺🇸



MERIDIAN, Miss. Training Squadron (VT) 9 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Meghan Angermann, right, pins naval aviator Wings of Gold on Italian navy Ensign Erika Raballo during a ceremony at Naval Air Station Meridian base chapel March 11, 2021. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Krystina Coffey.

Navy T-45C Crashes in Texas, No Fatalities

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas On March 24 at approximately 2 p.m. CDT, a Navy T-45C Goshawk jet trainer aircraft crashed approximately 3 miles northeast of Naval Outlying Field Orange Grove, Texas.

The two occupants, an instructor and a student, safely ejected from the aircraft and reported minor injuries. They were transported to a local medical treatment facility for evaluation.

Navy and local emergency services responded to the scene and extinguished a small brush fire. Navy personnel are on scene and are cooperating with local authorities. The incident is under investigation. 🇺🇸

Cleanup near completion in Orange Grove neighborhood following Navy T-45C crash

The United States Navy (Navy) is near completion of an environmental cleanup after a Navy T-45C Goshawk jet trainer aircraft assigned to Training Air Wing 2 out of Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, crashed near Orange Grove, March 24.

Members of the Navy On-Scene Coordinator (NOSC) program for Navy Region Southeast (NRSE), out of Jacksonville, Florida, arrived on scene March 25 to assist safety and investigation teams, and to evaluate the site for environmental impacts.

The team spent the weekend removing the wreckage and soil at the site, which is approximately 3 miles off Naval Outlying Field Orange Grove. The team took soil samples and conducted lab tests as part of the environmental cleanup. They walked through two additional properties in the area picking

up any visible debris and conducted additional soil testing on site.

"Test results show we have a clean base to bring in backfill (soil) at the crash site," said John Baxter, NOSC at Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Southeast and NRSE. "No additional work was required at neighboring properties."

The NOSC provides emergency cleanup services for Navy incidents that may have an environmental impact to a base or the local community.

"This was a very difficult time for everyone in close vicinity of this rural area," Baxter said. "We are very thankful for the support we have received from the neighboring residents and the local community as we temporarily closed County Road 308 to assess damage to property and conduct the environmental cleanup. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone touched by this incident."

The crash investigation is ongoing. 🇺🇸

TRAWING-4 Aeromedical Safety Officer Earns DoD Recognition for Leadership, Excellence

By Anne Owens

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas -- The Department of Defense named Training Air Wing 4's aeromedical safety officer (AMSO) recipient of the 2020 Military Health Systems and Allied Health Excellence Leadership Award.

Lt. Christopher Greil, assigned to TW-4 at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, received the DoD-level award in addition to being named Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) AMSO of the Year for 2020.

Military Health Systems evaluated nominees based on multiple criteria including major clinical achievements, enhancement to the profession and support of the warfighter, leadership, community service, and self-improvement.

"Only one winner from all military services was selected at this level, so this is a significant achievement and a testament to Lt. Greil's leadership, community service and commitment to excellence in the MHS," Cmdr. Maria Barefield, U.S. Navy Office of Global Health Engagement said.

Greil made safety improvements to emergency oxygen and pressurization systems, lessened the effects of airsickness for student pilots resulting in historically low attrition rates across TW-4, all while accommodating COVID-19 spread mitigation procedures such as increased classroom spacing, reduced class size, mask use, and temperature checks. These new procedures allowed mission-critical training to continue without significant operational impact.

"I feel incredibly honored and humbled to have been recognized, especially in a year when military medicine has faced so many unprecedented challenges mitigating a global pandemic," Greil

said.

A native of Missoula, Montana, Greil is a 2003 graduate of Montana State University with a Bachelor of Science in biology and neuroscience. He earned his doctorate from the University of Montana in 2008. Most recently, he completed the Space System Operations/Engineering Certificate program through Naval Postgraduate School and is the only Navy Medical Service Corps officer with cross-discipline training in medical research and military satellite systems. He works with TW-4's four undergraduate pilot training squadrons, is responsible for training new aviators in aviation life support systems and egress survival, and manages a physiological events investigation team of 10 military officers and flight support contractors.

The CNATRA AMSO of the Year award recognizes the top AMSO across the entire Naval Air Training Command. The awardee is selected based on the level of one-on-one interaction with their respective squadrons and their proactive role in addressing aeromedical issues while improving the quality of training. Greil previously earned this award in 2019.

"We are thrilled to have an officer of Lt. Greil's caliber on the CNATRA team and we are so fortunate to benefit

from his contributions," CNATRA Rear Adm. Robert Westendorff said. "His steadfast dedication to the students and the protocols he implemented have helped us continue to safely meet production requirements and train the world's best aviators to meet the needs of the fleet."

His hands-on work with students as well as his training events in the aircraft those students will fly have been a highlights of his time with TW4.

"Professionally, I find it very rewarding when the work I do has a positive impact on the successful outcome of a student aviator," Greil said. "Personally, I will forever cherish having been given the opportunity to practice skills upfront in a T-44C Pegasus, experience carrier landings in the back of a T-45C Goshawk, and perform aerobatics in the T-6B Texan II. Those are memories I will never forget, and life experiences I have dreamt about since I was a child."

Greil maintains active status with the Aerospace Medical Association, the society of U.S. Naval Aerospace and Operational Physiologists and the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. He is also one of the first Medical Service Corps officer to complete the Naval Resident of Aerospace Medicine NASA-Johnson Space Center Space Medicine course.



CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas Aerospace Physiologist Lt. Chris Greil teaches student naval aviators survival procedures at Training Air Wing 4 aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Oct. 19. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Michelle Tucker.

Sometimes you just have to cut ties.



CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas Training Squadron 28 instructor pilot Lt. Mike Dominik, right, cuts ties with his student naval aviator Ensign Gunnar Klinker at Training Air Wing 4 aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, March 11. *U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Michelle Tucker.*

CNATRA Names Sailor of the Year

By Anne Owens

Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) named Yeoman 1st Class (EXW) Cedric Foster the command Sailor of the Year (SOY) for 2020.

SOY selection is a prestigious honor and recognizes Sailors who embody sustained superior performance, command impact, proven leadership and the Navy's core values.

CNATRA selected Foster as the top performer among 12 first class petty officers across the Naval Air Training Command, which spans five training air wings and 17 squadrons in Florida, Mississippi, and Texas.

Foster is a native of Oklahoma City and graduated from Westmoore High School in 2001. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 2007 and deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Foster earned his associate's degree in 2017 and is on track to graduate with honors from American Military University.

"I take a lot of pride in what I do, in serving my country and helping others out along the way," Foster said. "Being selected as CNATRA Sailor of the Year means a lot to me, but this is a group accomplishment. Great leaders and mentors have molded me into who I am and this honor is the culmination of that work."

Foster managed administrative duties at Training Air Wing (TRAWING) 4 for 483 active duty Sailors and 78 Navy Reserve officers. He handled more than 15,000 Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) transactions, processed more than 3,500 days of Reserve orders, and managed almost \$4 million in transactions for the Defense Travel System.



"I take a lot of pride in what I do, in serving my country and helping others out along the way."

- Yeoman 1st Class (EXW)
Cedric Foster

"TRAWING 4 gave me the opportunity to be productive and effective in my position," Foster said. "I've been exposed to the operational, aviation side of the Navy. Working with pilots has been a highlight of my time here and seeing young students accomplish their goals has been rewarding."

Foster attributes his success to his mentors, leadership and interactions with his fellow Sailors.

"Having a strong backing and the right people in your corner makes all the difference," Foster said. "This command

has supported me in anything I've wanted to accomplish. TRAWING 4 and its leadership will always stay with me. They've taken the SOY process seriously and taken care of me.

"I have mentors I lean on and if I have issues, I pick up the phone and call those master chiefs and senior chiefs. You always need that support to be successful; no one can make it by themselves. It's a team concept."

Senior Chief Naval Aircrewman Tactical Helicopter Matt Jirrels serves as CNATRA's senior enlisted advisor for Navy aircrew and commended Foster for his achievement.

"YNI Foster represents TRAWING 4 and CNATRA extremely well," Jirrels said. "His personal dedication, commitment and passion brought him this recognition. I'm extremely thankful for the efforts of our leadership to recognizing hard-charging junior Sailors such as YNI Foster."

Foster understands he serves as an example to younger Sailors and wants to pass along the support he has been given through his career.

"I have to help bring people up with me," Foster said. "I want to keep growing so my focus can turn to being a mentor to others and help bring them up. This recognition means I'm doing my job the right way, the command is succeeding and I'm contributing to that impact. I hope I'm setting the bar for future Sailors to know they can do this, too."

Foster detached from TRAWING 4 and reported to Navy Expeditionary Combat Command in Virginia Beach, Virginia, in March. 🇺🇸

N4 Det. Meridian

By Mark Aid, CNATRA Det. Meridian, QAS

As 2021 progresses amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the operational challenge for Team Meridian is to actively mitigate the spread of the virus while maintaining contract oversight and doing our part to contribute to the mission readiness of VT-7 and VT-9 through a forward-leaning approach of ensuring only the highest levels of quality assurance principles are being practiced.

Since January 1st, 2021 TW-1 has safely conducted 6,227 sorties accumulating 6823.5 flight hours with a daily average aircraft Ready for Training (RFT) of 45.6. A marked improvement over this same time period last year. During this time frame, in conjunction with TW-2, an El Centro, CA Weapons Detachment and two Carrier Qualification Detachments were conducted onboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) where a total of 875

arrested landings were made qualifying 53 Student Naval Aviators and 10 Instructors Under Training.

These accomplishments are only possible because of the on-going teamwork and coordination that exists between CNATRA Det. Meridian, VT-7, VT-9 and our Vertex, Rolls Royce and simulator contracting (CAE and Fidelity) partners. The performance of all contractors has been professional and effective in meeting all contract requirements during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and frequent severe weather events.

CNATRA Det. Meridian welcomed the arrival of our most recent team mate, Sherry Temple, who filled our Office Assistant vacancy putting us at 100% manning, providing relief with the multitude of day-to-day administrative tasks, allowing assigned Quality Assurance Specialists to focus on audits and observations.

To date CNATRA Det. Meridian has conducted 19 NAMP audits and over 700 observations since Jan. 1. The continuous effort to maintain oversight of contractor compliance with 31 NAMP programs, multiple additional contract specific requirements and adherence with current Naval Safety Center policies and instructions remains paramount. The joint cooperation enjoyed by N4, Vertex, Rolls Royce, CAE and Fidelity continues to pay off. Employing a culture of collective T-45 Program ownership and a proactive approach to resolve challenges as they arise assures continued success of overall mission accomplishment: "To safely train the world's finest combat quality aviation professionals, delivering them at the right time, in the right numbers, and at the right cost to a naval force that is where it matters, when it matters."



DoD Announces New Contracting Professional Certification Program

For those who have always wanted to pursue a career as a DoD Contracting Professional, but were put off by the 650 hours of education and training requirements for certification as a mountain too high to climb, the OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE Memorandum, "Restructuring of the Certification Program for the Contracting Functional Area" will be welcome music to your ears.

This memorandum initiates a phased implementation of a Back-to-Basics (BtB) talent management framework and new governance structure for the Defense Acquisition Workforce beginning 1 October 2020, with full deployment on 1 October 2021. The BtB initiative transforms how the workforce will be managed and trained to better align the acquisition and delivery of goods and services to support the Warfighter. The twenty A&S Acquisition Workforce career fields and paths have been restructured to six functional areas, which include Contracting. As the Department of Defense (DoD) Contracting Functional Leader, the DoD Under Secretary announced the new Contracting Professional Certification Program for the Contracting Functional Area, effective 1 October 2021.

Under the new structure, mandatory training for Contracting certification has been significantly reduced from approximately 650 hours to 200 hours. Beginning on 1 October 2021, the new training courses for certification will be: CON 1100 Contract Fundamentals; CON 1200 Contract Pre-Award; CON 1300 Contract Award; and CON 1400 Contract Post-Award. Additionally,

there will no longer be a requirement for a baccalaureate degree as part of the DoD Contracting Professional Certification; however, 10 U.S. Code § 1724 requires a baccalaureate degree for 1102 series positions and similar military positions.

The referenced documents, the Contracting Competency Model, and the transition plan

for this change may be viewed on the Workforce Development page of the DPC website at:

https://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/cpic/cp/workforce_development.html. The latest information will continue to posted to the DPC website as the Back to Basics (BtB) implementation evolves over the next year.

The HCI website includes BtB updates at <https://www.hci.mil/btb.html>. Additionally, DAU, in collaboration with the Fourth Estate DACM office, developed a short video that provides an overview of the changes to the Contracting certification structure. The video may be viewed at: <https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwid.>

N4 Congratulates Carlos Garcia as the Senior Civilian of the Quarter

Capt. Tom Gibbons, CNATRA N4, presented Carlos Garcia with Certificate of Appreciation for his selection as the Aircraft Maintenance and Contract Logistics Senior Civilian of the Quarter.

Carlos was cited in part for "demonstrating superb leadership in recognized the shortfall of support equipment procurement for the Blue Angels standup and introduction of their new F-18E & F Super Hornets



Capt. Tom Gibbons presents Carlos Garcia with a certificate for Senior Civilian of the Quarter.

and their new C-130J Super Hercules. He aggressively worked with Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron (NFDS), NAVAIR PMA 207 (C-130J), PMA-265 (F-18E & F), PMA 260 (Support Equipment) and the other Type Commanders to expedite the procurement and delivery of the remaining critical support equipment deficits. This coordinated effort resulted in the delivery and induction of 136 remaining critical asset deficits required to support the Blue Angels Initial Support Equipment Outfitting for both these airframes. He independently worked with other Type Commanders to obtain 48 line items of support equipment deficits that included 18 assets identified as "Safe For Flight" that had long procurement lead times by pursuing excess fleet assets and temporary support equipment loans. His aggressive management and oversight of this "highly visible" and "time sensitive" effort resulted in 100 percent fill rate of critical support equipment, and ensured the Blue Angels will meet all requirements for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 show season. Congratulations Carlos on a job well done.

Welcome Back Stephen Gardipee

CNATRA Aircraft Maintenance and Contracts Logistics (N4) welcomes back Mr. Steve Gardipee. Steve is a PMA-273 Senior Program Analyst assigned to assist the T-6 Class Desk with Depot level planning, scheduling and throughput and the T-44 and T-45 Class Desks with Hangar 42 and METS MilCon projects here on the CNATRA Staff.

Steve recently retired with almost 28 years total active Navy service as a lieutenant commander Aviation Maintenance Duty Officer (1520), serving 10 of those years as an Enlisted Aviation Maintenance Administration man (AZ). One of his enlisted tours was here at CNATRA N4 from 1997



to 2000. During Steve's follow-on tour in HSL-51, he was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP). Upon graduation from the University of Northern Florida, where he graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor

of Business Administration. Upon Commissioning, he reported to the "Rangers" of Training Squadron 28 (VT-28) and then volunteered for a 1-year deployment to Iraq in 2006. Upon his return, he had tours in Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 26 in Norfolk, two tours in AIMD Sigonella, Italy, his second tour as the Officer in Charge. He was also assigned to Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Headquartered in Fort Lee, Virginia, with his final tour at Chief of Naval Operations (N98), in the Office of Aviation Maintenance Training in the Pentagon.

Stephen is a native of Belton, Texas. He holds an MBA from Navy Post Graduate School. He and his wife, Amy are welcome additions to the N4 Team. Welcome aboard to both of you. 🇺🇸

Around CNATRA



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Rick Schuster

Above: Ensign Gavin O'Donnel prepares for a pre-solo flight at Training Squadron 2, NAS Whiting Field, Florida. **Right:** Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Joseph Noffsinger of the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, performs a routine inspection on an F/A-18 Super Hornet at Naval Air Facility El Centro, California, during winter training.



Photo courtesy Blue Angels Public Affairs



U.S. PACIFIC FLEET EEO Bulletin

Days of Remembrance: 4-11 April 2021



Holocaust Remembrance Day is Thursday, 8 April 2021.

This day is observed each year during the week of Remembrance that runs from the Sunday before “Yom Hashoah” (Holocaust Day) through the following Sunday.

The U.S. Congress established Days of Remembrance as the nation’s annual commemoration of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to the victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

LEARN ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

Before 1933

World War I (1914–1918) devastated Europe and created new countries. The years that followed saw the continent struggle to recover from the death or injury of tens of millions of soldiers and civilians, as well as catastrophic damage to property and industry. In 1933, over 9 million Jews lived in Europe (1.7% of the total population)—working and raising families in the harsh reality of the worldwide economic depression.

1933–1938

Following the appointment of Adolf Hitler as German chancellor on January 30, 1933, the Nazi state quickly became a regime in which citizens had no guaranteed basic rights. The Nazi rise to power brought an end to the Weimar Republic, the German parliamentary democracy established after World War I. In 1933, the regime established the first concentration camps, imprisoning its political opponents, homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and others classified as “dangerous.” Extensive propaganda was used to spread the Nazi Party’s racist goals and ideals. During the first six years of Hitler’s dictatorship, German Jews felt the effects of more than 400 decrees and regulations that restricted all aspects of their lives.

ACKNOWLEDGE PRESERVE HONOR

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE
APRIL 4 - APRIL 11



*"For the
dead and the living,
we must bear
witness."*

*- Elie Wiesel
(Holocaust Survivor)*





IRS Scam Emails Ask Tax Preparers for EFIN Information

Many people are familiar with U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) scam letters fishing for money around tax season. Now, a new form of IRS scam targets tax professionals in a virtual version of the fake IRS letter. The IRS warned tax professionals to be on the lookout for a scam that attempts to steal a victim's E-Filing Identification Number (EFIN). Attackers use a fake email to target tax preparers' identities and their clients' data. Then, if they do get the information, attackers can impersonate the tax preparer and file fraudulent tax returns to get refunds.

According to the IRS, the ruse began with a scam email. This email claimed to come from 'IRS Tax E-Filing.' The subject line reads 'Verifying your EFIN before e-filing.' The email informs the tax preparer that they need to send over some documents to verify authorized E-File personnel. It then asks for a copy of both their EFIN and driver's license number. To add some urgency to the threat, the email says the IRS will disable the tax preparer's E-Filing access if they don't comply. The IRS urged tax preparers to not follow any of the steps outlined in the email. The best thing to do is to delete the email and not respond in any way.

The IRS and other outlets have highlighted several other notable tax scams this season. In the beginning of February, for instance, the IRS warned taxpayers about the threat of 'ghost' tax return preparers who refuse to sign people's returns that they prepare. Tax preparers are required to sign each return that they prepare and include their Preparer Tax Identification Number. According to the IRS, the absence of a signature could

indicate that a tax preparer is engaged in dishonest activity. They could be promising large refunds and charging fees based on the size of those refunds, for instance.

Another tax-related scam used fake SMS-based text messages that appeared to come from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to trick U.K. recipients into thinking they could get a tax rebate. The scam messages arrived with a link that, when clicked, sent the user to a web page made to look like a real U.K. government website. The bogus website domain, along with multiple grammatical errors, gave away the web page as a fake. It linked to a page designed to steal visitors' personal information, including their credit card details. After scooping up their information it redirected victims to a real U.K. government page.

Organizations can defend themselves and their users against an IRS scam by investing in their email security defenses. One of the ways they can do this is by creating a security awareness training program and educating their workforce about some of the most common types of tax-based phishing emails and other scams that are in circulation. To keep their employees aware of this IRS scam and similar attacks, organizations should test their employees on an ongoing basis. They should also use threat intelligence to stay on top of the newest tax scams.

What Is the Dark Web?

You may have heard the term "dark web," but it can sometimes be difficult to understand what it really is and what it can mean to you. It may help to look at the internet as made up of different levels based on the access available and common purposes. There are three levels — the publicly available world wide web, the deep web and the dark web — and we will explain a bit more here about each:

Public Web: If you are like most people, this is where you spend the majority of your time—doing things like online shopping, searching for information and sharing photos and videos on social media. However, this represents only about 4% of the internet. While this is not where identity thieves spend most of their time, there are things you can do to protect yourself online and keep your personal information from getting into the wrong hands while you surf the web.

Deep Web: This is the next level of the Internet, representing approximately 90% of what is actually online. These sites are not indexed by search engines, meaning they will not show up in any search results. Just because information is here, it does not mean it is something bad or illegal, though. The deep web includes:

- Internal company sites
- School intranets
- Online databases
- Member-only websites or pages behind paywalls

These sites may live in this space because they are something that the owners do not want accessible to the public. Many deep web sites are legal, just purposely hidden. Sometimes you may hear the deep web referred to as a “bad” place to go, but that is usually because many people confuse the deep web with the dark web.

Dark Web: At the bottom part of the deep web lies the dark web. The dark web is not an actual place, but rather a hidden network of websites. While it requires special resources, it is just a matter of steps and getting certain systems set up that provide a way in for those looking to join the dark web and keep information such as their IP address hidden.

Visitors here utilize anonymity software to mask their true identities. When you visit a website on the world wide web, IP addresses trace online activity on your computer. But on the dark web, with the masking software activated, a computer takes a randomized path to its file destination, bouncing around a number of encrypted connections to ultimately mask both location and identity.

Why Is the Dark Web So Popular with Criminals?

Because of its hidden nature and the using special applications to maintain anonymity, it is not surprising that the dark web can be a haven for all kinds of illicit activity (including the trafficking of stolen personal information captured through means such as data breaches or hacks). This means if you have ever been a victim of a data breach, it is a place where your sensitive information might live. Once exposed, this information that can change hands again and again over time—especially if it is a valuable combination of information (like medical information, a Social Security number, or an identifying address with account information) that is attractive to those looking to acquire stolen data.

On the dark web, people looking for this information can get access to records that live online and are often available inexpensively—such as bundles going for less than \$10 per record. These bundles are often called ‘Fullz’ because they include the full package for fraudsters: name, SSN, birth date, account numbers and other data that make them desirable since they are rich enough to do immediate damage.

Savvy cyber-thieves also may wait some time before using the data they buy, because immediately following a breach, many people are more guarded and on the lookout for red flags on accounts, bills and their credit report. Unfortunately, there are entire communities in the dark web and even sites that provide reviews on identity thieves that indicate if someone is “good to do business with”—meaning their data is valuable (think of it as the Yelp reviews for criminals). These criminals can make a decent living by selling, buying and using personal information.

How Can You Protect Yourself from the Dark Web?

People often are not worried about the dark web until something like a data breach happens and they are notified their information was stolen. There is no fail-proof way to keep your information off the dark web because hackers are always trying the latest new thing to get your information and sell it to those looking to pay for it, but you can be vigilant about looking for red flags that your identity is in someone else’s hands, including:

- Monitor your accounts and statements for any information that looks off
- Check your credit report regularly to see if inquiries or new accounts appear that you do not recognize
- Use strong passwords, and change them often
- Consider an online product to help you protect your identity and monitor your credit.
- Know how to respond immediately to suspicious activity
- Use Experian’s Free Dark Web Scan to see if your Social Security number, phone number, or email address is on the dark web.

By staying on top of potential issues, you can help minimize the impact if your personal information does fall into the wrong hands. 🚒



CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas
Bill Kronk, left, and Mardi Ros, maintenance mechanics with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Public Works Department, install the building sign for Chief of Naval Air Training Headquarters on base, March 29. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Michelle Tucker.



N7/Training News

Mission: To plan, analyze, design, implement, evaluate, and maintain the training that safely delivers the world's finest combat-quality aviation professionals.



From the ACOS

We are seeing spring in the Coastal Bend at last. Many of the plants are starting to rebound from the Winter Storm of 2021 and I am taking the newly emerging wild flowers as indications of good things to come this year. Many of our staff members have started to receive their COVID vaccines, taking advantage of both DoD and local providers. The Training Department remains busy...our inspection teams are underway again, and as of this writing, the Force LSO and N7I are on an aircraft carrier qualifying student naval aviators.

We are well underway with the second iteration of the Avenger syllabi for Primary and in development on a T-6B Strike Intermediate Syllabus called Project Hellcat. Project Hellcat is scheduled to receive students that complete the 2nd Project Avenger test run, and will be followed by a T-45 Strike Syllabus integrating Avenger concepts called Project Corsair. The new TH-73 helicopter will start training students in February of 2021. Additionally, we are supporting N3 in the acquisition of the Multi-Engine Training System (METS), the replacement for the T44. Suffice it to say, we are fully employed and hard at work on things that we have a passion for and are critical to the defense of the nation. Not only that, we get to work with likeminded individuals with similar goals. That makes our work both rewarding and fun! Press On...FDR sends

Instructional Systems Design in the NATRACOM

Training Improvement Program (TIP)

The TIP provides a process for improving and standardizing training curricula and the associated training courseware to ensure CNATRA produces the finest combat capable aviators that meet fleet requirements.

Academic Training Instruction or Instructor Guide (IG)

Academic Training Instructions (ATI) consist of student guides, lesson guides, and workbooks. Student guides, lesson guides, and workbooks are a series of instruction sheets that collectively provide the student with the supplementary material needed for successful completion of a course of study. They are prepared in coordination with the course Instructor Guide (IG). Instruction sheets contain pages such as note-taking guides, reading assignments, homework study questions, problem analysis exercises, diagram sheets, and other special units of additional or amplifying information. The student guide, lesson guide, and workbook consist of all front matter and instruction sheets assembled into a binder. They should not duplicate existing documents and manuals. They are designed to be used in conjunction with existing manuals or software training materials for a course. At times, however, it is more efficient to duplicate a few pages from an existing manual if the manual is very large.

Instructor Guides (IGs) are publications the instructor uses to teach a given academic course. The IG consists of three parts: Front Matter, Lesson Plan, and Outline of Instruction. The IG provides specific definition and direction to the

instructor by providing information concerning learning objectives, equipment, media, and the conduct of the course. It should be sufficiently detailed to ensure consistency of instruction provided by different instructors yet allow each instructor to interject their own experience and knowledge into the course.

Fundamentals of Learning: Memory Encoding

Memory encoding allows information to be converted into a construct that is stored in the brain indefinitely. Once it is encoded, it can be recalled from either short- or long-term memory. At a very basic level, memory encoding is like hitting "Save" on a computer file. Once a file is saved, it can be retrieved as long as the hard drive is undamaged. "Recall" refers to retrieving previously encoded information.

The process of encoding begins with perception, which is the identification, organization, and interpretation of any sensory information in order to understand it within the context of a particular environment. Stimuli are perceived by the senses, and related signals travel to the thalamus of the human brain, where they are synthesized into one experience. The hippocampus then analyzes this experience and decides if it is worth committing to long-term memory.

Encoding is achieved using chemicals and electric impulses within the brain. Neural pathways, or connections between neurons (brain cells), are actually formed or strengthened through a process called long-term potentiation, which alters the flow of information within the brain. In other words, as

a person experiences novel events or sensations, the brain “rewires” itself in order to store those new experiences in memory. Types of Encoding: four primary types of encoding are visual, acoustic, elaborative, and semantic.

-Visual encoding is the process of encoding images and visual sensory information. The creation of mental pictures is one way people use visual encoding. This type of information is temporarily stored in iconic memory, and then is moved to long-term memory for storage. The amygdala plays a large role in the visual encoding of memories.

-Acoustic encoding is the use of auditory stimuli or hearing to implant memories. This is aided by what is known as the phonological loop. The phonological loop is a process by which sounds are sub-vocally rehearsed (or “said in your mind over and over”) in order to be remembered.

-Elaborative encoding uses information that is already known and relates it to the new information being experienced. The nature of a new memory becomes dependent as much on previous information as it does on the new information. Studies have shown that the long-term retention of information is greatly improved through the use of elaborative encoding.

-Semantic encoding involves the use of sensory input that has a specific meaning or can be applied to a context. Chunking and mnemonics aid in semantic encoding; sometimes, deep processing and optimal retrieval occurs. For example, you might remember a particular phone number based on a person’s name or a particular food by its color.

Naval Aviation Training Next

To produce a more capable and self-sufficient aviator, proficient in a dynamic and fluid environment; and to do so more efficiently than we do today.

- Creative use of technology to facilitate student-centric, immersive learning
 - o On demand, on command access to training resources
 - o Train in the most effective and efficient domain to achieve the desired learning objective
 - o Tailored remediation (medium appropriate remediation)
- Progression based on competence, not timeline
 - o Focus on airmanship as a whole
 - o Irradiate the never for MIF attainment model
 - o Restructure of traditional syllabus chokepoints
 - o Push advanced learning left

Additional desired outcomes:

- Reduce street-to-fleet TTT and cost
 - o A product of available/emerging technology, syllabus flexibility and tailored remediation in appropriate medium.

Avenger Pipeline Selection Criteria

As we progress with the development of Avenger Syllabi one of the questions was how we would conduct pipeline selections for Avenger Students. The process and criteria was published with CNATRA Notice 1542 dated 28 Jan 2021. It is similar in many respects but does provide for an additional factor, that of OIC Ranking. The OIC Ranking is intended to allow for a holistic assessment of student performance that is not always present in the rubrics of grade sheets.

The selections and assignment of Student Naval Aviators is per the Integrated Production Plan (IPP) requirements. Selections are based on service needs, Commanding Officer (CO) recommendations, student performance, and student preference.

- Needs of the Service. Fleet requirements, as modified by Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) and CNATRA training capacity.
- SNA Performance. Each Naval Flight Student’s Primary phase performance shall be calculated using the end-of-phase student grade point average (GPA) from all events completed.
- Avenger Detachment Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Ranking. Avenger Detachment OIC will provide to the CO a recommendation of overall detachment SNA rankings. These rankings are based off of overall professionalism and participation within the detachment.
 - o (DET) OIC ranking accounts for 10% of overall ranking.
- SNA Preference. SNAs shall indicate pipeline preferences by first, second, and third choice. SNAs may list only three choices and may not select a pipeline for which they are anthropometrically incompatible.

As with all things in training, upon implementation the process will be evaluated for refinement. We are excited that we are at the point where we will soon see how our Avenger students perform in the Advanced Syllabi.

Bravo Zulu!

We want to congratulate Louis Hogan and Leslie Apostol who were the N7 nominees for Civilian of the Year and Senior Civilian of the Year. CNATRA is full of talented and dedicated team members and Mr. Hogan and Ms. Apostol epitomize them and we are proud to have them represent the N7 team. Mr. Hogan works at TW-4 as a Training Technician and Ms. Apostol is the International Military Student Officer for CNATRA.



MILTON, Fla. Lt. j.g. Devin Morris stands next to a TH-57 Sea Ranger after completing his INAV/VNAV solo at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, March 20. *Courtesy photo.*



CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas

Lt. Cmdr. Chris Pamfil exits a T-6B Texan II aircraft after completing his final flight while assigned to Chief of Naval Air Training at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, March 11.
U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Michelle Tucker.