



**Naval Air Station Whiting Field  
2020 Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)  
Northwest District Environmental Stewardship Award**

POC: J. Brooke Boyd

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DEC 10 2020

Northwest Florida DEP

Naval Air Station Whiting Field

2020 Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)  
NWD Environmental Stewardship Award

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**Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

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**Nomination Form**

Nominations must  
be received by

**Dec. 11, 2020**

Please complete this nomination form and include with any supporting documents you wish to provide. Submissions can be mailed to:

Florida DEP  
Northwest District Office  
Attention: Ashley Livingston  
160 W. Government St. Suite 308  
Pensacola, FL 32502

Or by email to:  
[Ashley.Livingston@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Ashley.Livingston@FloridaDEP.gov)

**I. Nominated entity information:**

Name of entity being nominated:

Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field

Address:

7183 Langley Street, Bldg. 1430

Contact Person:

J. Brooke Boyd

Contact Phone:

(850) 554-6676

Contact Email:

[jacquelin.boyd@navy.mil](mailto:jacquelin.boyd@navy.mil)

**II. Nominator information: (if not the same as above)**

☒ Same as above (*skip to part III*)

Name of Nominator:

Address:

Contact Person:

Contact Phone:

Contact Email:

**III. Please use the space below to explain briefly how the nominated entity demonstrates significant and measurable achievements that provide a direct benefit to our environment by reducing environmental impacts, conserving resources, and/or enhancing ecosystem. Please be sure to explain how the activities stretch beyond Florida's environmental laws and DEP permit requirements. (You may use more space if needed, but please limit to no more than 2 pages.)**

See Additional Pages

**IV. If applicable, please explain how the entity being nominated demonstrates an organizational culture of environmental stewardship. (You may use more space if needed, but please limit to no more than 1 page.)**

See Additional Pages

**V. If applicable, please explain how the entity being nominated provides environmental education and outreach. (You may use more space if needed, but please limit to no more than 1 page.)**

See Additional Pages

**VI. If applicable, please explain how the entity being nominated demonstrates innovation and exceptional achievement in environmental stewardship. (You may use more space if needed, but please limit to no more than 1 page.)**

See Additional Pages



# Florida Department of Environmental Protection Northwest District Environmental Stewardship Achievement Awards

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2020

## **Introduction:**

Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NAS Whiting Field) is committed to environmental stewardship by campaigning for environmentally conscience actions and initiating new and resourceful achievements in natural resources, sustainability, training and outreach and water resources. Our goals are to remain active with volunteer opportunities in promoting environmental outreach and protecting environmental resources; thus, resulting in benefits to northwest Florida's communities, partners and ecosystems.

NAS Whiting Field's volunteer activities throughout the last year have affected a footprint that spans across two states and five counties, providing influence and education opportunities for an audience of over 6,700 citizens and effectively influencing 747,778 people who call northwest Florida and Alabama their home.

## **Background:**

Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF) is located eight miles north of Milton, Florida in Northwest Florida. The mission of NASWF is to provide and support initial fixed wing and rotary wing student pilot training to the United States Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and allies of the United States.

NAS Whiting Field employs 3,209 military, civilian and contract personnel. The direct economic impact of NASWF on the local economy is \$501 million dollars with an indirect impact of \$1.2 billion dollars. NAS Whiting Field personnel enjoy being part of the culture, history and natural resources within Santa Rosa County and along Florida's Coast. The total acreage of NASWF is 5,058 acres in size with an additional 8,358 acres divided among the twelve Navy Outlying Landing Fields (NOLFs) and other properties that support the Navy's mission. Whiting Field is the busiest aviation complex in the world. It accounts for nearly one million annual flight operations that includes primary flight training and advanced helicopter training for more than 1,200 Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard students.

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

## Northwest District Environmental Stewardship

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**III. Please explain briefly, how the nominated entity demonstrates significant and measurable achievements that provide a direct benefit to our environment in one or more of the following categories:**

- Reducing environmental impacts
- Conserving resources
- Enhancing ecosystems
- Restoring impacts

#### **Reducing Environmental Impacts:**

The FDEP designated Whiting Park Marina as the second Clean Marina in Santa Rosa County under the Clean Marina Program. The significance of the Clean Marina Program designation is notable because it illustrates NAS Whiting Field's willingness to employ best management practices (BMP) greater than the regulatory standards.

#### **Conserving Resources:**

Presidential Executive Order (EO) 13693 mandated that federal facilities reduce water consumption intensity by 36 percent by Fiscal Year 2025 relative to its 2007 baseline. Although EO 13693 was revoked on May 17, 2018 and replaced with a less stringent EO 13834, NAS Whiting Field reduced its water consumption by 22,083K GAL through Fiscal Year 2019 as a significant water conservation measure. This reduction amounts to nearly 25 percent for the period, which was well ahead of the pace initially mandated by the EO 13693, and above and beyond for the most recent implemented EO 13834.

We reached this reduction by highlighting water conservation and decreasing irrigation. Despite the fact that there were not any water efficiency projects funded for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, water use reduction was achieved through aggressive measures. One measure taken was the compilation of an irrigation timer inventory at the installation. The inventory showed each irrigation timer's operation in hours, in which the data was used in calculations that presented irrigation usage and reduction rates. The initiative led to an irrigation reduction of 90%. In addition, a study for water leak detection was performed on the potable water distribution system at NAS Whiting Field and as a result, numerous leaks in the system were repaired from information accumulated from the study.



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#### **Enhancing Ecosystems:**

NAS Whiting Field administers prescribed burning for habitat health and enhancement, wild fire prevention and control of invasive species. Nearly 1,500 acres have been burned in an effort to help with the revitalization of rare and endangered species, habitat recovery and training.

NAS Whiting Field conducts annual inventory investigations on NAS Whiting Field and the 12 outlying landing fields for the Gopher Tortoise and their burrow habitats. The field surveys indicate that Gopher Tortoise populations are constant and even expanding in many areas. Gopher Tortoises are a keystone species and their burrows provide refuge for up to 360 other species. The assessments provide crucial data for NAS Whiting Field and its outlying landing fields. The information is employed to develop land usage; to protect from burrow habitat loss; and to manage these critical resources.

The Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander is a Federally Endangered Species under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Navy has provided funding for routine field surveys and habitat assessments to determine if the Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander persists at NAS Whiting Field's NOLF Holley.

In January 2021, we celebrated our 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive year as a member of the national program, "Tree City USA." Team Whiting efforts in meeting and exceeding this program's guiding principles were instrumental in the care, administration and support of our community-wide forest projects. Our volunteers dedicated many hours in advocating the significance of forestry management through informational briefs and proactive training throughout the community, highlighting proper tree care, preservation education, soil erosion and habit protection. NAS Whiting Field volunteers served a lead role in the Longleaf Alliance and Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership programs. These sister programs emphasized the safeguard and restoration of the largest contiguous footprint of longleaf pine trees throughout the State of Florida.

#### **Restoring Impacts:**

The Navy spent approximately \$3.5 million dollars on Installation Restoration at NAS Whiting Field for FY 2020. Generally, the Navy allocates \$1.1 million dollars on Installation Restoration projects at NAS Whiting Field on an annual basis. The Navy has allocated \$52 million dollars to date on the Installation Restoration Program at NAS Whiting Field and plans to allocate an additional \$22 million to complete current cleanup activities. Current environmental cleanup activities consist of groundwater cleanup and contamination investigations in an effort to further delineate soil and groundwater impacts.

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

## Northwest District Environmental Stewardship

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**IV. If applicable, please explain how the entity being nominated demonstrates an organizational culture of environmental stewardship.**

NAS Whiting Field has been awarded the FDEP Plant Operations Excellence Awards for the past eight years from 2012 to 2019. NAS Whiting Field PWD and our BOSC team members take enormous pride in our work and strive to achieve the best potable water system and supply in the Navy.

In September 2020, NAS Whiting Field was nominated for the 2021 Commander Navy Installations Command (CNIC) level for the small shore Installation Excellence Award (IEA) distinction. NAS Whiting Field will go on to compete at the CNIC level against other installations from other regions worldwide. Bases are graded across nine areas including: mission, facilities management, quality of life, environment, energy, property stewardship, communication, safety, health, and other categories. The award nomination package highlighted partnerships with Santa Rosa County for their county encroachment initiatives, assisting Military Family Life Counselors in area schools, and the installation's support of local military and retirees.

In April 2020, NAS Whiting Field was awarded Secretary of the Navy Award for the Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation Award. The environmental awards program recognizes installations, teams and individuals for their accomplishments in innovative and cost-effective environmental management strategies supporting mission readiness and performance in promoting environmental stewardship. The award highlights efforts in natural resources conservation, cultural resources management, environmental quality, sustainability, restoration and planning.

NAS Whiting Field was awarded the 2020 SECNAV Energy Gold Award. NAS Whiting Field was ranked first place in the Region (small shore) and tied for second place out of 46 other bases in our category. The scoring system was based on program leadership and management, in addition to, efficiency, reliability and resiliency metrics.

In October 2019, NAS Whiting Field was awarded First Place in Environmental Stewardship Flagship Volunteer Award for Medium Shore Installations from the Region Southeast Community Service Award Program.



# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

## Northwest District Environmental Stewardship Achievement Awards

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**V. If applicable, please explain how the entity being nominated provides environmental education and outreach.**

Each week, NAS Whiting Field PWD Environmental Division staff provides Environmental Management System (EMS) training for all new Primary Flight Training students as part of flight school orientation. The COVID pandemic presented many challenges to providing updated EMS information to Incoming flight students, but the Environmental Division quickly adapted by highlighting Environmental information for INDOC to ensure they continued to receive relevant environmental information.

NAS Whiting Field Environmental Division created the Stormwater Environmental Action Team (SWEAT) to address stormwater and other environmental programs information, policies, training and education with all installation tenants. The SWEAT meets routinely to provide key installation personnel with presentations on environmental concerns that could affect base tenants.

NAS Whiting Field PWD participates in the Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern program. Twelve students benefitted in the SCA intern program in the past eight years which provided a unique learning experience in Forestry, Burn Operations, Flora and Fauna Surveys and Threatened and Endangered Species.

NAS Whiting Field PWD Environmental Division Program Media Managers eagerly participate in FDEP Military Partnering Team Meetings. The meetings allow for discussions between the FDEP, NAS Whiting Field and other military installation environmental program media managers. The conversations cultivate working relationships and promote continual improvement and environmental stewardship among the team attendees.

NAS Whiting Field PWD Environmental Division Installation Restoration Program Manager is involved in quarterly Installation Restoration Partnering Team Meetings. The meetings help foster connections between EPA, FDEP, NAS Whiting Field, Region Remedial Program Manager, contractors and other stakeholders. The meetings focus on constraints and compliance challenges, future goals, paths moving forward and lessons learned.

St. Paul Catholic School located in Pensacola, Florida invited the NAS Whiting Field Environmental Division staff to be judges for an annual Science Fair. As part of the event, the elementary school students employed their own scientific method to test a hypothesis. Staff were eager to work with the students and to be a part of the annual event.

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**VI. If applicable, please explain how the entity being nominated demonstrates innovative and exceptional achievement in environmental stewardship.**

NAS Whiting Field submitted a \$15 million project for FY 2021 to replace all 1943-era potable water distribution piping, valves and fire hydrants with components that are in compliance with current industry standards. A design contract was awarded in June 2019 by NAVFAC SE to replace all main and service potable water lines on NAS Whiting Field. Much of the original distribution system components are made out of asbestos and iron. The scope of the project is the replacement of all potable water distribution utility piping emanating from the Potable Water Production Plant and terminating at the facility connection at each building on NAS Whiting Field proper. Replacement piping, routes and valves will be strategically planned to minimize service disruptions and may include directionally drilled sections, as needed. Much of the existing piping will be abandoned in place, especially in areas of concern including Installation Restoration sites, areas with known use of asbestos piping and high impact locations. Final Design is in progress. Portions of the proposed waterline were relocated outside of the contracted topographical survey corridor. Due to design change and funds availability, the project is pending award for FY 2021.

In the last five years, NAS Whiting Field has replaced all three drinking water well pumps and motors associated with the potable drinking water distribution system. We have achieved these upgrades by strategizing funds towards increasing water efficiency measures to reduce overall operation and maintenance costs.

In September 2020, NAS Whiting Field sustained minor to major damage from Hurricane Sally. The installation lost power for several days. Despite of the loss of electricity, the Water Treatment Plant and associated three drinking water wells and associated distribution system were operational to provide potable water to its consumers. The backup power supply to each drinking water system entity functioned at optimal capacity thus providing a fully functioning public water supply to the installation tenants during a time of critical need and emergency.

In September 2020, NAS Whiting Field awarded a \$250,000 Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filter replacement project for South Well of the water distribution system. A specialty contractor who specializes in renewing carbon absorber and filter media will perform the GAC filter vessel and media replacement. Additionally, NAS Whiting Field plans to award a similar project for replacing the GAC filter at North Well in February 2021. These initiatives totaling over \$500,000 are key to ensuring safe drinking water is supplied to all NAS Whiting Field consumers.





View of NAS Whiting Field's Tree USA Ceremony dated December 2019.

Photo includes Installation Commanding Officer CAPTAIN Paul Bowdich, PWO Mark Justiss, Environmental Director Jeff Kissler and Natural Resources Manager Christina Malitz.





View of NAS Whiting Field's Tree USA Ceremony dated December 2019.



View of a controlled burn conducted by NAS Whiting Field PWD Environmental at NOLF Harold.

Controlled burns assist with forestry management, invasive species control and threatened and endangered species conservation.





View of a controlled burn conducted by NAS Whiting Field PWD Environmental at NOLF Harold.

Controlled burns assist with forestry management, invasive species control and threatened and endangered species conservation.





View of NAS Whiting Field's Stormwater Ponds. The ponds assist with stormwater treatment and allow base tenants to fish by catch and release. Photo was taken facing west.

# **Press Release**

## **Naval Air Station Whiting Field**

### **Public Affairs Office**

USS Essex Street, Suite 206, Milton FL 32570  
(850) 623-7341 / (850) 501-0433 Cell

Release #20-08

May 6, 2020

#### **NAS Whiting Field receives Secretary of the Navy award for Environmental Quality**

by: NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs Office

MILTON, Fla. – Naval Air Station Whiting Field recently received the Secretary of the Navy's Environmental Quality, Non-industrial Installation award. In an April message, Acting Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable James E. McPherson, announced the winners and congratulated the awardees for their efforts.

The environmental awards program recognizes installations, teams and individuals for their accomplishments in innovative and cost-effective environmental management strategies supporting mission readiness and performance in promoting environmental stewardship. The award highlights efforts in natural resources conservation, cultural resources management, environmental quality, sustainability, restoration and planning.

"The Department of the Navy environmental programs play an important role in the achievement of our national defense strategy. The Navy and Marine Corps take a proactive role in enhancing mission effectiveness through the thoughtful and deliberate implementation of environmental programs to meet our expanding mission requirements," McPherson said in the Navy message.

NAS Whiting Field Public Works Department has won several awards and recognitions over the span of many years for their continued dedication to water quality, environmental sustainability, compliance, and conservation to ensure mission readiness and total support of the Whiting Field mission.

"This award illustrates an outstanding partnership including the Navy civilians and contractors who serve our Nation here in Milton. Our Whiting environmental team works hard every day to protect the environment surrounding the base and sustain our mission capabilities. We feel very fortunate to be able to highlight the achievements of the men and women who operate the base and serve our nation while maintaining an outstanding level of environmental preparedness. It's gratifying to be recognized at the SECNAV level for these accomplishments," said Jeff Kissler, Environmental Director, NAS Whiting Field.

NAS Whiting Field is the busiest aviation complex in the world and is responsible for training the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard's future aviation warfighters. The installation mission spans across Northwest Florida and Southeast Alabama, including four counties.

"I want to congratulate everyone here at NAS Whiting Field on being selected as Secretary of the Navy Award winners for Environmental Quality Non-Industrial Installation. This award signifies an all hands effort. Special "Bravo Zulu" to all our NAVFAC (Naval Facilities Engineering Command) environmental folks for all they do to encourage and improve the environmental practices on a daily basis. Once again it shows that all the people at NASWF are the best," NAS Whiting Field's commanding officer, Capt. Paul Bowdich, commented.

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*Naval Air Station Whiting Field, home of Training Air Wing Five, is the backbone of Naval Aviation Training, supporting approximately 60 percent of all primary fixed-wing flight training and 100 percent of all initial helicopter training for the Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps. NAS Whiting Field is the busiest aviation complex in the world with more than one million flight operations flown at the installation annually. It is comprised of two main airfields and 12 Navy Outlying Landing Fields across four counties in Southeast Alabama and Northwest Florida. Training Air Wing Five flies an estimated 43 percent of the Chief of Naval Air Training Command's total flight time and 17 percent of Navy and Marine Corps' flight time worldwide. More than 1,200 personnel receive their essential flight training through TRAWING Five annually.*



(left to right) The NAS Whiting Field environmental team members, Billy Ryan, Aaron Mitchell, Brooke Boyd, Jon Stewart, Sean Foote, Christina Malitz, and Jeff Kissler, Naval Air Station Whiting Field installation environmental director, stand in front of the environmental building onboard the installation. The team received the Secretary of the Navy Environmental Quality, Non-industrial Installation award in April. (U.S. Navy photo)



MILTON — The Florida Department of Environmental Protection presented the 2018 Plant Operations Excellence Award in the small community category to the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Public Works department on Feb. 12 at Northwest Florida College. This is the seventh consecutive year NAS Whiting Field has received the recognition.

“The driving factor in the award was the partnership between the environmental division, which is responsible for monitoring water quality compliance to ensure it’s safe, and the operations plant,” said Jeff Kissler, NAS Whiting Field Installation Environmental Program Director.

The operations plant is run by the installation contracting company, Electronic Meteorology Laboratory, LLC (EML), which is responsible for the treatment maintenance of the plant. Aaron Mitchell, physical scientist with NAS Whiting Field Public Works department said, “The successful partnership was due to the quick notification and response on any issues. They were proactive and very responsive.” Additionally, Mitchell noted that in 2018, “the department had no issues with drinking water monthly operating reports that were sent to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) by the 10th of every month, and were well below or within reportable levels.”

DEP selects winners based on excellence in operation, maintenance, innovative treatment, waste reduction, pollution prevention, recycling, or special achievements. The specific district, Northwest District in which the competition was based, runs from Escambia County to Jefferson County, and is one of six Florida districts. DEP regulates any community that serves 25 or more people for at least 60 days of the year, and small community water systems consist of systems that serve less than 3,000 people. The department is awarding a total of 18 facilities, including 10 domestic wastewater facilities and eight drinking water facilities statewide.

The NAS Whiting Field Public Works Department provided many initiatives that led to the recognition, including awareness training to inbound students to educate them on the importance of reduction of water use. Based on the water reduction training, installation staff members have made efforts to reduce water consumption with no mission impact to include discontinuing wash racks, facility upgrades and increasing the use of reusable containers.

Related content

Whiting Field participates in Navy-wide hurricane exercise

April 22, 2019

Pensacola, Gulf Breeze aviators receive Wings of Gold

April 11, 2019

Whiting receives \$12 million support contract

March 14, 2019

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"On behalf of DEP and the state of Florida, I am proud to recognize Bay County Water Treatment Plant, Destin Water User Inc., and Naval Air Station Whiting Field for their commitment to operational excellence," said Shawn Hamilton, Director of DEP's Northwest District.

The Public Works team onboard NAS Whiting Field has earned several environmental awards recently to include: the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Award for Environmental Quality for a Non-Industrial Installation; Community Service Environmental Stewardship award medium shore honorable mention; and the Secretary of the Navy 2018 Energy Excellence Award Navy Small shore category.

"This most recent recognition from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2018 Plant Operations Excellence Award in the small community category, is a testament to the hard work and dedication our Public Works department and EML contractor show each and every day in support of our mission here at Whiting. Congratulations Public Works, this is well-deserved," said NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer, Capt. Paul Bowdich.



**FDEP Plant Excellence Award Northwest District  
Naval Air Station Whiting Field**