

Barbara Pate

From: Roy, Randy R CIV USN NAVFAC SE JAX FL (USA) <randy.r.roy.civ@us.navy.mil>
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2026 8:19 AM
To: Charles F. Gruber
Subject: FW: PRESS RELEASE: NAS Whiting Field earns installation excellence award and Battle E award
Attachments: 26-01 NAS Whiting Field CNIC Installation Excellence Award Winner.pdf; NAS Whiting Field.JPG; NASWF.png

Skip, NAS Whiting Field has done it again. Press release included ... Thanks for all that you do in supporting our mission and our ability to succeed across the board. Alabama plays an integral role in our mission training and has been at the center of our primary flight training efforts ... Truly, we could not meet mission without the tremendous support we have with the Baldwin County, AL. If plausible, I would love to have the Skipper and **I come out in the next month to provide an update to the County Commission.**

V/r

Randy Roy

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From: Coffey, Jamie L CIV USN NAS WFLD MILTON FL (USA) <jamie.l.coffey7.civ@us.navy.mil>

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Release # 26-01

Jan. 09, 2026

NAS Whiting Field Named Best Small Base in the Navy, Nominated for Commander in Chief's Award

NAVAL AIR STATION WHITING FIELD, Fla. - Commander, Navy Installations Command, Vice Adm. Scott Gray, announced in a message Jan.1 that Naval Air Station Whiting Field was the Navy's top pick in the small installation category for the CNIC 2026 Installation Excellence Award program.

Leaders from across the Navy Installations Command enterprise, tasked with overseeing over 70 U.S. Navy shore installations worldwide, recently reviewed the nominations and selected finalists for the competition, which recognizes the installations, large and small category, for outstanding performance during fiscal year 2025, consistent with enterprise strategic goals and Secretary of War criteria.

"The outstanding performance of this year's winners is a direct reflection of the dedication and professionalism of our Sailors and civilians," said Gray. "They are the backbone of our shore enterprise, and their relentless work ensures our installations are true force multipliers, enabling fleet readiness and power projection around the globe. I am incredibly proud to recognize their achievements and their unwavering commitment to the Fleet, the Fighter, and the Family."

The award lauds the top Navy commands at shore for their installation management, program excellence and community outreach. Installations are graded across a number of key areas including: facilities management, quality of life, environment, energy, property stewardship, communication, safety and health as well as many other categories. Each entrant is judged on a write-up of accomplishments plus supporting documentation and photographs.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field was celebrated for its central role in meeting the DoW's global mission by producing nearly 600 new aviators annually. The installation was lauded as a DoW standard in community outreach and a leader in mission resiliency, safeguarding over 20,000 acres of land to protect aviation missions while advancing smart-growth initiatives with local partners.

Additionally, the base was awarded the 2025 Shore Battle Efficiency Award in the medium category. The Shore Battle "E" award recognizes Navy Installations as vital battle forces that are essential for generating and supporting combat capabilities world-wide. These installations play a critical role in shaping the United States Navy, and this award honors their ongoing contributions.

Capt. Ted Elkins, Commanding Officer, NAS Whiting Field praised his team for the accomplishment.

"This year's win also resulted in new recognition, your diligent execution of our mission, training warfighters, resulted in us being awarded the 2025 shore Battle 'E'. Additionally, NAS Whiting Field will be the Navy's nominee for the 2026 Commander-In-Chief Excellence Award. I have always considered you the best, these prestigious awards are evidence that our leaders think you are the best too. Thank you for what you do every day to train the best aviators in the world."

Naval Air Station Whiting Field will now represent the U.S. Navy in the 2026 Commander in Chief Installation Excellence Award competition. The award recognizes the outstanding performance and innovative efforts of the people who operate and maintain U.S. military installations.

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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 roughly 1 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 more than 17 percent of Navy and Marine Corps' flight time worldwide. More than 1,200 personnel receive their essential flight training through TRAWING Five annually.

****Also See for Reference: Official CNIC release announcing CNIC Top Shore Installations with Battle Efficiency and Installation Excellence Award article: Released JAN 06 2026:**

https://www.dvidshub.net/news/555781/cnic-recognizes-top-shore-installations-with-battle-efficiency-and-installation-excellence-awards?fbclid=IwY2xjawPLgPhleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETF1N01KRmE2NXNNVVZMZ1Fac3J0YwZhcHBfaWQOMjlyM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHggO32pkTatfJu6PrmjJ5fBu06uJ28Nj96iSjdwVvS42QdASFNyZN3m7Mdg8_aem_algEkWSDL5Hfw2SDQKQi6Q

V/R

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