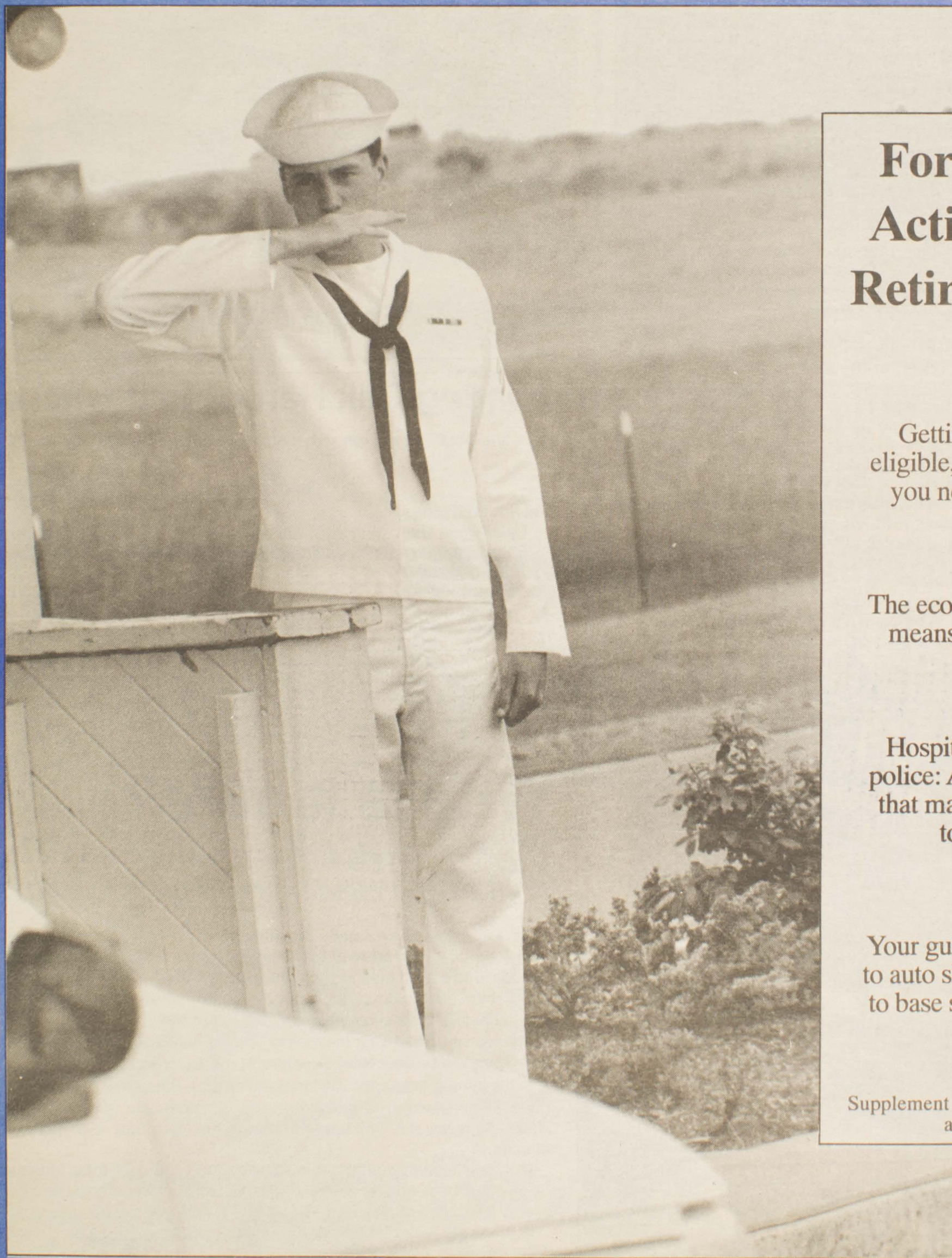


User's Guide to NAS Whidbey Island



For Civilians, Active Duty & Retired Military



Getting on base: Who's eligible, who's not, and what you need to pass the gate



The economy: What the base means to North Whidbey



Hospitals, helicopters and police: A look at the services that make NAS Whidbey a town of its own



Your guide: From restaurants to auto shops, an A to Z guide to base services and who can use them

Supplement to the Whidbey News-Times
and the Crosswind

Your guide

To NAS Whidbey

The Economy 4

It may shrink, but the base still accounts for most jobs

The Land 5

Times have changed with the way the Navy uses its land

Health Care 6

Hospital, dentists' clinic care for thousands each year

Law & Order 7

Besides a police force, base emergency crews rescue hundreds

Access 8

The base is full of services, but you may need a friend to use them

Almanac 10, 11

Keep this handy guide to base services

Base, town are twin cities

By Peter Coogan
Staff Reporter

It's a tale of two cities.

The City of Oak Harbor and — depending on how you think of it — the city of the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station.

Base Commander Capt. John F. Schork can make the case that his command is a city, a large, integrated, well-rounded community, with a range of municipal services not unlike his hometown, Oak Harbor.

And it's hard to dispute that.

Check out the evidence. NAS Whidbey has roads, cops, courts, sewers, shops, a movie theater, a bowling alley, a McDonald's and an airport.

It also has guard gates that keep you out unless you are part of the military system, or have connections. Yet, it has unbreakable ties to its civilian neighbor, Oak Harbor.

They share some population. The 4,200 people in Navy family housing at the Seaplane Base reside within the city limits of Oak Harbor.

And, in the most intimate link that neighbors can form on Whidbey Island, they share water.

A pipe pumps fresh, Skagit River water across the Deception Pass Bridge to Oak Harbor, which sells a portion to NAS Whidbey.

The intermingling makes comparisons difficult. It's hard to tell where one leaves off and the other begins. Thus, saying which has more roads, younger people, or more workers, can prove daunting.

The past has demonstrated, however, that their fates are linked.

Despite arguments over noise and problems with tight housing, school funding and civilian underemployment, the worst of times for one — say,



Comparing Oak Harbor to the base

Here are a few head-to-head comparisons between Oak Harbor and the base:

	Oak Harbor	NAS Whidbey
Value of buildings	\$631 million	\$1.1 billion
Daily water use	2.1 million gallons	1 million gallons
Land area	9 square miles	17 square miles
Miles of road	53	122
Police employees	40	150
Firefighters	40	48
Population	19,180 residents	10,310 employees

the base closure scare of 1991 — becomes the worst of times for the other. And the best of times for one — say,

the return of the Blue Angels to this summer's Sea and Sky airshow — makes for the best of times for both.



Petty officers second class Jay Quinn, left, and Mike Caskey check the national weather map at NAS Whidbey's weather station. The base is here for many reasons, but good flying weather is at the top of the list. Jim Davidson photo

Why is it here?

Whidbey Island boasts good weather and prime living conditions for an air station

So why is Naval Air Station Whidbey here?

There's no single answer, but the base claims a long list of superlatives, compared to other naval air stations. Here's a short "Best Of" list:

- It's the top-choice duty station in the Navy for aviation personnel.
- It has the highest reenlistment rate in the Navy.
- It won the 1994 Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award.
- It has the busiest Navy search-and-rescue crews.

● It's the top electronic warfare training site. Since few cities hem it in, it has the least electronically-cluttered airspace with only 142 radio sources within 250 miles of it. The next-best site in the Navy has 480 nearby sources.

● It has the best weather: the "rain shadow" of the Olympic Mountains yields open skies for flights plus slight winds, mild temperatures and a skimpy 21 inches of rain annually.

● It has the widest variety of terrain for low-level flight training —including open water, fjords, beaches, rolling hills, upland forests, mountains, and a desert plateau that runs east of the Cascade Mountains and south to the Boardman, Ore., bombing range.

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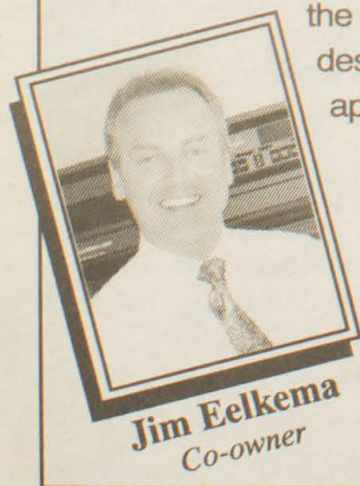


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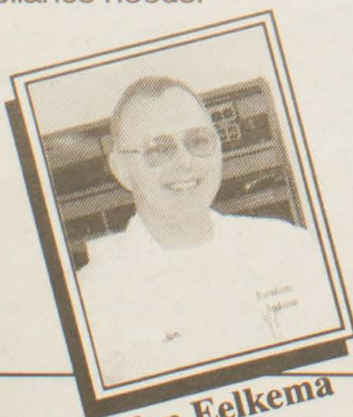


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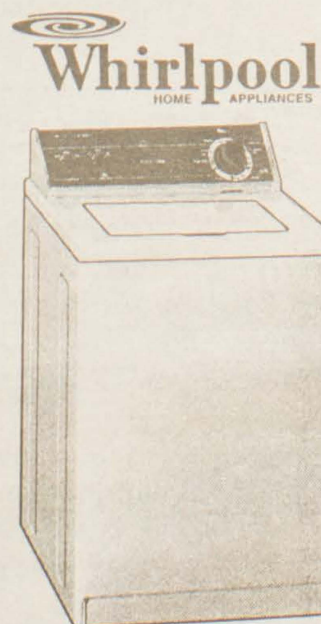


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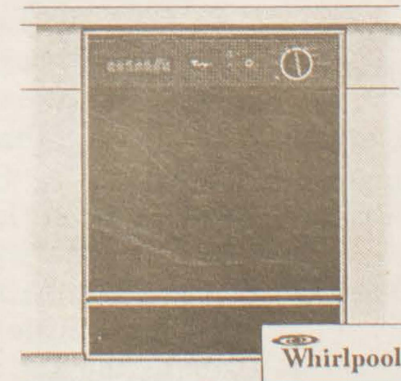
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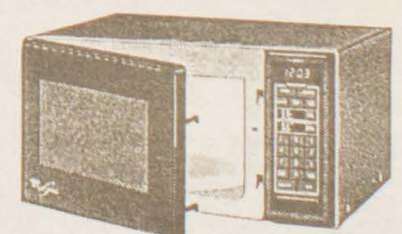
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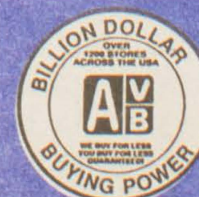


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An Economic Base



Sandralin Gaakema, a worker at the Navy Exchange at NAS Whidbey, walks through the clothing section, where both military and civilian attire are sold. Jim Davidson photo

Navy largest employer here

By Peter Coogan
Staff Reporter

The Navy does its share.

At least, as far as Whidbey Island's economy is concerned.

It contributed about 23,000 people and \$300 million to the population and economy of the island and surrounding spots last year.

That's one third of the 70,000 population of Island County and perhaps a larger share of the local economy.

The heftiest slice of that \$300 million is payroll, spent on rent, mortgages, cars, groceries, movies, diapers, whatever. Some \$20 million, or 7 percent, was scooped up by civilian contractors.

No wonder many Oak Harborites danced in the streets in 1991 when their save-the-base campaign succeeded in dropping Whidbey Island Naval Air Station from the federal base closure list.

Last year NAS Whidbey employed about 8,200 military and 2,000 civilian workers, which dwarfs, or rather enlivens, the contributions other local employ-

ers make to the local economy.

Island County's next largest employer, the Oak Harbor School District had 590 employees. And most of its students come from Navy families.

The largest private employer — Brown & Root with 190 employees — works directly on base as its public works contractor.

The next three largest private employers — Technical Services with 154, Nichols Brothers Boat Builders Inc. with 150 and Interwest Bank with 140 — together provide a little more than 4 percent of the jobs the Navy does.

Those figures fail to capture the independent share of the job market shored up by tourism, small businesses and agriculture.

Nevertheless, the impact of the Navy remains huge, despite the recent decline in its relative share in the local population.

According to a recent county health study, a rapid, Mexico-style growth rate of 3.5 percent a year in Island County has increased the number of non-Navy people, mainly King County transplants and retirees.

'Inflation proof' despite changes

By Peter Coogan
Staff reporter

While the Navy's population share might decline further, its steady payroll continues to underpin the local economy.

"It's inflation proof," Island County personnel director Dick Toft said. "Nothing alters that."

Not recessions, personnel going on cruise, individual moves or retirements. Not even the cashiering of whole aircraft, like the end of the A-6 Intruder, Toft said.

"It's a steady state; the paychecks stay," Toft said. "The only thing that could change that is a closure."

Since the base closure scare of 1991, NAS Whidbey prospects have become quite rosy. That's because base closures elsewhere have shored it up.

The closures prompted the arrival of the Maritime Patrol Squadrons that now make up about a third of base population. They also killed some competition by closing many of the alternative bases that might have robbed NAS Whidbey of its missions, funding and people, Ret. Navy Adm. Jim

Seely said.

But short-term prospects for the economy remain wedded to the size of base population.

By most estimates, that population is likely to dip. The question is, when and by how much.

The Navy population of North Whidbey may dip only slightly over the next few years rather than increase, base commander Capt. John F. Schork said.

That's if — and it's a big if — current Navy plans hold.

The Pentagon apparently intends to send more squadrons of Navy EA-6B Prowler electronic warfare aircraft here to shore up the Air Force.

If that happens, the June 1995 active-duty personnel population of 8,160 could drop to around 7,900 by Oct. 1, 1997.

Any estimates, of course, are just educated guesses at this point.

The base's population has fluctuated between 8,100 and 8,800 for a decade. Nearly 8,280 Navy personnel were counted at NAS Whidbey in January, compared to its low of 6,204 in 1975 and peak of 8,814 in 1993.



Jim Davidson photo.

Pictured above, Matt Klope, left, and Steve Pennix, right, attempt to identify some vegetation adjacent to a wetlands inside the boundaries of NAS Whidbey. Both work for the environmental office on base. Below, Kathy Lara stands near the air stripper this past spring. Its purpose is to remove contaminants from the groundwater beneath an old landfill on Ault Field.

Keeping it Clean

Environmental stewards are on the job

by June Vigor
Staff reporter

Kathryn Souders has the biggest housekeeping job on Whidbey Island.

She's in charge of keeping the air, water and earth of Whidbey Island Naval Air Station clean.

Souders is the director of the Environmental Affairs Office. She and her staff oversee a passle of programs aimed at making sure none of the airstation's operations leave dirty tracks.

If they succeed, there will be no need for future Superfund cleanup projects like the ones going on now at NAS Whidbey.

One of Souder's top priorities is seeing through restoration work at contaminated sites from less careful times, including old landfills, jet fuel cells, fuel residue in runway ditches and old fire-schools on Ault Field.

Work on the Seaplane base is already done. It should be one of the first Superfund sites in the Navy to be taken off the list.

But that's only part of the job. Other areas that feel the sweep of the Environmental Affairs broom include:

- **The air.** "We've just had a major inventory of air emissions on the base," Souders said. "We meet all federal air pollution standards." Environmental staffers routinely track emissions from boilers, the jet engine test cell, the fire school, gas stations, storage tanks and more.

- **The water.** Sewage treatment plant discharge, run-off from runways, and all forms of

stormwater drainage are monitored.

- **Spill prevention.** Some 32 million gallons of jet fuel are funneled through the base each year.

It all has to be handled right. Environmental affairs watchdogs check on storage facilities and procedures. "A big part of the job is also to get money to make improvements," Souders said.

- **Spill response.** Teams trained to clean up spills are on duty 24 hours a day.

- **Hazardous materials.** Hazardous waste disposal cost the base \$2.5 million in 1987. This year's price tag was under \$300,000. Mary Lou Gonzales was recognized by the Department of Defense as the top environmental worker in the country last year, for her part in reforming NAS Whidbey's hazardous waste procedures.

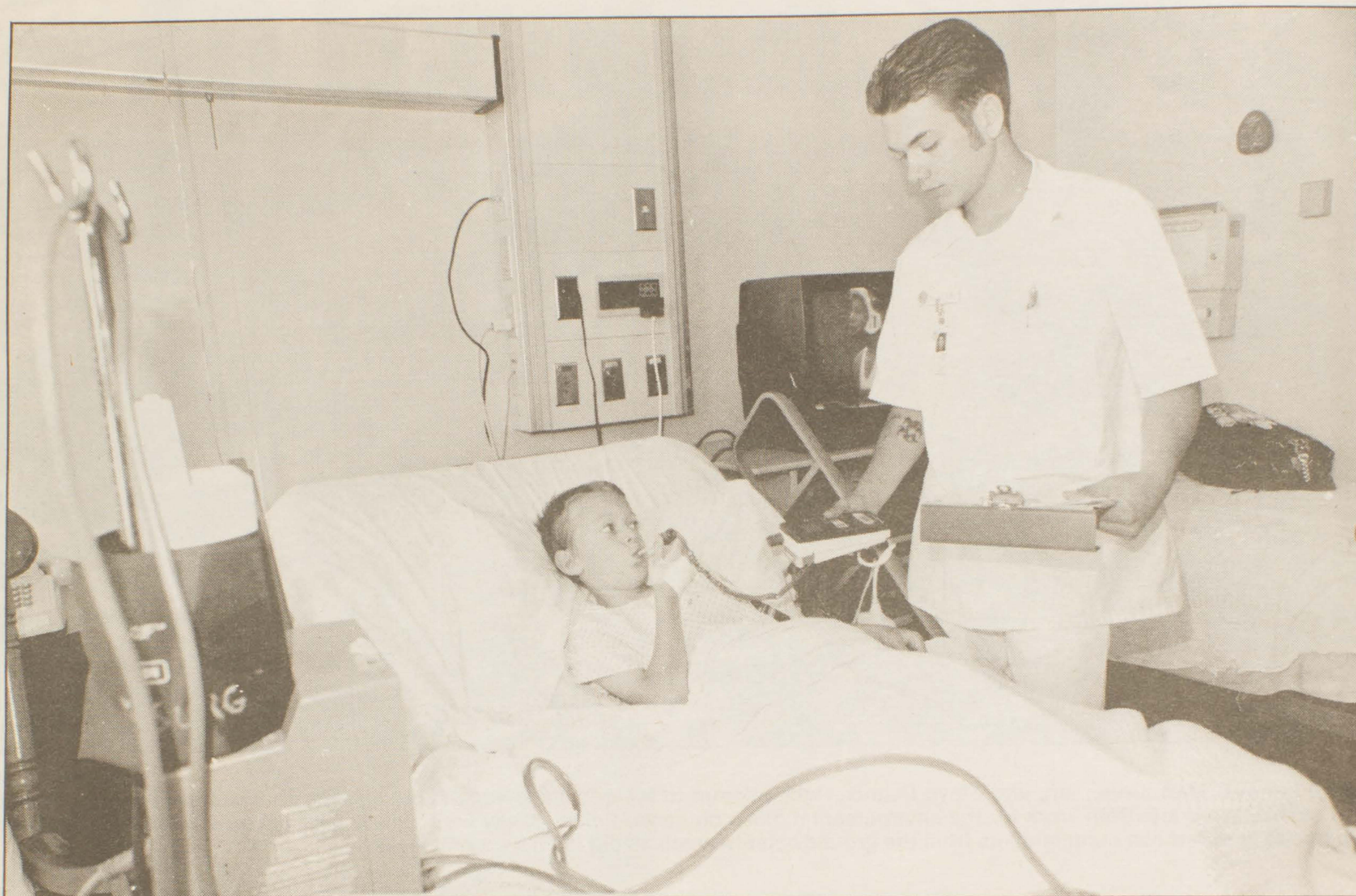
- **Wildlife and environmental preservation:** Two wildlife biologists look after the bird and mammal population of NAS Whidbey. Bald eagles are being tracked by radio transmitter, a Northern harrier study is in progress, wetlands are being restored, and natural prairie grasses are to be replanted at the old landfill site.

- **Cultural and historical resources:** Native American artifacts and burial grounds on the base are looked after by Environmental Affairs. Historical property, mostly related to World War II, is preserved.

"It's my job to make sure the Navy on Whidbey Island is a good environmental steward of the public's property," Souders said.



File photo



Corpsman Gabriel Herdener takes the vital signs of David Bednar, 7, at the Naval Hospital at Oak Harbor on NAS Whidbey. Inpatient occupancy ran at about 65 percent of capacity last year, but at the same time the hospital treated over 147,000 outpatients.

Jim Davidson photo

Naval hospital treats thousands

by June Vigor
Staff reporter

Naval Hospital, Oak Harbor, has 25 beds, but most of its patients don't use them.

Inpatient occupancy ran at about 65 percent of capacity last year, but at the same time the hospital treated over 147,000 outpatients.

Located at Ault Field, the Naval Hospital takes care of active duty military personnel, their dependents, retired members of the military and their families.

Civilians are treated in emergencies if the hospital is the nearest source of emergency care, public affairs officer Lt. J.G. Lynch said.

The hospital is also part of the island's disaster and emergency planning. "Military needs will be met first," Lynch said, but in an emergency the hospital would take overflow patients and offer assistance to civilian authorities.

Aviation medicine and aviation physiology training are important specialties. Those fields cover anything connected to the physical stress of flying and fliers' health.

And lots of babies are born there, from 40 to 50 a month. That's compared to around 17 babies a month born at the 51-bed Whidbey General Hospital.

Impatience could lead to teeth gnashing at dentists'

By Peter Coogan
Staff reporter

Eleven dentists take care of the teeth NAS Whidbey's sailors.

But they stay too busy to see family members, and even military retirees have to wait for treatment on a stand-by basis.

Military dependents are covered by dental insurance and use civilian facilities.

Due to staff shortages, the dental clinic is unable to meet all the needs of even military personnel as quickly as it would like, a spokeswoman said. But they do keep the crews flying, and the full range of treatment, from orthodontics to root canals, is available on base. There can be a wait, though. The waiting list for orthodontic treatment is 600 patients long.

Dental offices are located in the Naval Hospital, Building 993, but come under a separate command.

For information, call 257-2301.

All those outpatients use the hospital's emergency room and a variety of clinics, including family practice, obstetrics and gynecology, optometry, orthopedics, pediatrics, and psychiatry.

A staff of surgeons and primary care physicians treat admitted patients, but critical care facilities are not available. Cases of head trauma and severe heart problems, for instance, are referred to the Naval Hospital at Bremerton, or Madigan Army Medical Center, at Fort Lewis.

Hospital support services include laboratory, nursing, pharmacy, preventive and occupational medicine, radiology and social service.

Since the small hospital can't handle all the needs of military dependents, many are treated by civilian doctors under the military health insurance system, CHAMPUS.

The Naval Hospital has a staff of about 290 to take care of a military population of around 40,000. The emergency room is open around the clock. For information, call 257-9500.

To the Rescue

Whidbey search and rescue teams save hundreds

By Peter Coogan
Staff Reporter

Mountain climbers and fishers can be protective of their lonely peaks and quiet waters.

They might resent sharing them with Whidbey Island Naval Air Station's noisy training flights.

Yet, when mishaps make the peaks too lonely or when storms make the waters anything but quiet, climbers and boaters can count on one extremely noisy and welcome flight.

NAS Whidbey's Search and Rescue helicopter.

Navy emergency medical technicians are ready, day and night, to fly their powerful, turboshaft, four-bladed, amphibious Sikorsky SH-3H Sea King helicopter to pluck people out of Western Washington's backcountry.

The crew of five can fly to high thin air altitudes of 10,000 feet and hover over the most inaccessible spots in the Cascade and Olympic mountains.

Once they've spotted, say, lost hikers, they can rappel down 250 feet of rope and hoist them up.

Some of their missions have been spectacular high mountain rescues. Others have been more routine boat accidents. One was a recovery last

year of a World War II-era Navy torpedero bomber from its 1943 crash site at 7,700 feet on Mt. Baker.

In 1994, they rescued 78 people, a record year.

Already by May 1995, they rescued 20. That's before the busy summer season started, search and rescue officer Lt. John Meehan said.

Since January 1989, they have rescued 387 people.

In short they claim the title: "the Navy's best and busiest search and rescue."

Throughout the Northwest, their high altitude capability and eight-victim carrying capacity often makes them the only option, Meehan said.

The terrain surrounding NAS Whidbey — surf, fjords, open water, flat prairie, rolling hills, forest valleys, and high mountains — draw huge numbers of recreationists, who can stumble or float into trouble. More important for the Navy, it yields all the environments in which crews might need to train.

The Navy bought the design of the Sea King helicopters in 1971 as a weapon against submarines. And the Navy pays its crews to train for the wartime recovery of Navy pilots shot down in enemy territory.



The crew of a U.S. Navy Search and Rescue helicopter are, left to right, Petty Officer Second Class Shannon Murray, Petty Officer Third Class Chris Hewsor and Petty Officer First Class Matthew Pascone.

Jim Davidson photo



Base police mirror civilian counterparts

The names have been changed, but law enforcement on base mirrors law enforcement in civilian jurisdictions.

The main difference is that crimes on base occur on federal property. That makes a traffic violation a federal offense.

The 150 staff in the NAS Whidbey Security Police Department are like a city police department, with uniformed officers in patrol cars, and six plainclothes detective in its Criminal Investigative Division.

The six-agent Naval Criminal Investigative Service is like the FBI for the Navy. They cover major federal crimes and counter-intelligence, discouraging and ferreting out spies.

The Judge Advocates General office is the court system.

Petty Officer Third Class Thom Michalak with NAS Whidbey base police, patrols near base housing.

Jim Davidson photo

Getting On

Accessing NAS Whidbey can be as easy as one, two, three if you have the right credentials — or a friend

By Peter Coogan
Staff reporter

It's time to make friends with that Navy guy in your neighborhood.

As a civilian you can catch a movie, bowl, take classes and learn sailing, but you can't go on base to do that fun stuff alone.

Only as a guest can you win access. So you'll need a Navy trailblazer.

Once you're on, access is democratic to Morale, Welfare and Recreation gyms, classes and events. Reserves, retired military people and dependents are co-equal with active duty.

Some exceptions might occur when active-duty folks need gym time to meet Navy exercise requirements.

"But we are working to expand service so no back-ups occur," Cheryl Glover of the morale office. "So everyone can play nice."

At certain times of the year, everyone becomes a guest of the base. And anyone can visit.

These base's special "open gate" events include the Sprummer Fest, a mini carnival in mid-June, and the Sea and Sky airshow, which can attract 80,000 fans in September.

The Gallery Golf Course has a few such

events. Then again, the golf course is a strange, hybrid creature.

It operates under Navy rules, but it pays for its own operations with greens fees.

Technically, Navy rules dictate that the course remain closed to the civilian public. But organic rules have risen for it, and in effect the fairways are wide open.

The course is open to civilian "guests" for \$20 for 18 holes, whether or not their are accompanied by a specific person. Fees are cheaper for the military, but rise with rank.

Active-duty Navy players get first shot at reserving prime Saturday tee-times. They can phone on Tuesday, while civilians can't do so before Thursday.

Unlike Ault Field, the Seaplane Base in Oak Harbor is wide open.

One can drive around its hills, browse at the Navy Exchange and check out the cheap prices. But don't try to buy anything, or they'll ask for a Navy ID, a civilian Department of Defense ID, a Military Dependent ID or a retiree ID.

To apply for an ID, or to find out whether you are qualified for one, contact the Personnel Support Detachment. It has offices in the Navy Exchange and on base in Building 113, or call 257-1131.

Be ready to answer questions

By Peter Coogan
Staff reporter

Set aside extra time to get cleared for a first visit to Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. Lines can form and processing may take awhile.

Visitors seeking a pass — friends, family and business representatives — must present a collection of documents, including:

- A valid driver's license.
- Valid vehicle registration.
- And proof of insurance.

Even active-duty, retired, reserve and civilian employees must answer a battery of questions and jump through hoops before they can drive through the gate for the first time.

Besides the driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance, someone seeking a decal must show:

- A military ID card, a civilian employee ID card, a dependent ID card, or a certifying letter from a Naval contracting agent.
- Completion of a motor vehicle safety inspection.

Enlisted persons, pay grade E-6 and below, who are younger than 27 years old must complete a Personal Responsibility and Value Education and Training (PREVENT) class within six months of getting a decal.

Decals remain valid for three years, or to the end of a person's active service as listed on his or her identification card.

If you belong to someone who belongs to NAS Whidbey — friend, family or business representative — you can get a visitor's pass and be escorted on base.

The Navy staff issues both visitors' passes and decals.

They work at the Decal Office right next to the main gate of Ault Field, between 6:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. At other times, the duty falls to the guard at the gate itself.

Outside of Ault Field, naval facilities are open on Whidbey Island. That includes the Seaplane Base, with its marina pier and scenic drives.



You'll need a slough of ID or special permission to get through the guard gate at NAS Whidbey's Ault Field, even if you are active-duty or retired. Jim Davidson photo



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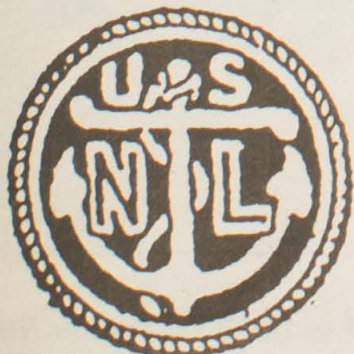
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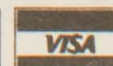
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The Guide

Use this handy guide to find your way to the services you want to use at NAS Whidbey

ANIMAL CARE

● **Pet Clinic, Building 13 Seaplane Base**, 257-2001 — open to active duty military, reservists, retired military, their families, and Department of Defense employees with recreation cards. Veterinarian care, shots. Call for appointments between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

● **Oak Harbor Animal Control Shelter**, Seaplane Base, 257-3135 — Run by the City of Oak Harbor, located next to the Navy Marina. Takes in animals from Ault Field, all military housing and from within the city. Cats and dogs available for adoption to all comers.

CHAPEL

● **Command Religious Program**, 257-2414 — Chaplains counsel military personnel and dependents. Catholic and Protestant services and special events are held.

CLUBS AND DINING

Base clubs and restaurants are open only to active-duty military, reservists, retired military, members of their families and their civilian guests. Department of Defense employees who buy recreation cards may use the clubs and restaurants at all times. DoD employees may eat lunch at the clubs without recreation cards.

Dining facilities can be used for meetings, parties, wedding receptions. Catering is available.

● **Officers' Club, Ault Field**, : 257-2521 — Dining room, game room, cocktail lounge and party rooms.

● **Chief Petty Officer's Club**, Ault Field, : 257-2891 or 257-2505 — Dining room, game room, big screen TV, ballroom, party rooms, barbecue picnic area.

● **Club Nor'Wester**, Ault Field, 257-3308 — Ballroom, banquet room, cocktail lounge, dining room and casual bar with video games and big screen TV. Can host up to 750 people.

Kegler's Kafe, at Whidbey Lanes, Ault Field, : 257-1567 — Pizza, ribs, burgers, all the usual bowling alley fare, with delivery service.

EDUCATION

● **Navy Campus**, Building 126, Ault Field, 257-2284 — High school completion and college degree programs for active-duty military.

● **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**, Building 126, Ault Field, 257-2540 — College level aviation-related courses are open to both military personnel and civilians.

● **Chapman University**, Building 126, Ault Field, 257-2540 — Bachelors and masters degree courses in business, computer science, psychology, health science and social science are open to military personnel and civilians.

FAMILY SERVICES

Family Service Center programs are open to active-duty military, reservists when on active duty, retired military and their families.

● **Family Service Center**, Building 13, Seaplane Base, 257-NAVY — Provides information, counseling and personal enrichment programs. Other services in-

clude transition assistance, relocation assistance, spouse employment assistance, retired activities, and women, infants and children/maternity support services.

HEALTH CARE

● **Naval Hospital, Oak Harbor**, Ault Field, 257-9500 — open to active-duty military, reservists, retired military and their dependents, and to civilians when it is the nearest hospital in an emergency. Emergency room, inpatient and outpatient treatment.

● **Dental Clinic**, Naval Hospital, Building 993, Ault Field, 257-2301 — services only for active military, no family members. Retirees are treated on a stand-by basis.

HOUSING

Active-duty military and full-time reservists are eligible for military housing and housing assistance.

● **Housing Office**, Building 13, Seaplane Base, 257-3331 — Administers family housing on base for active-duty military, and operates a Housing Referral Service for off-base properties.

● **Navy Lodge**, Seaplane Base, 675-0633 — temporary accommodation for



Ignacio DeLacruz, right, prepares to make a shot at the billard room in NAS Whidbey's bowling alley. Looking on to his left is Navy Lt. Hunter Newton
Photo: The alley, and many other Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities, are available to anyone authorized to come on base. Jim Davidson photo

active-duty military, reservists, retired military and members of their families. Priority goes to anyone changing stations.

LIBRARY

● **Holman Library**, Building 103, Ault Field, 257-2702 — Open to anyone with a military identification card and Department of Defense employees with recreation cards. Over 16,000 books, software and videotapes. Open Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mobile library makes stops at the Seaplane Base and Whidbey Apartments Thursdays.

RECREATION

Recreation and entertainment is administered by the Department of Morale, Welfare and Recreation. All activities are open to active-duty military, reservists, retired military, their families, civilian guests and Department of Defense employees with recreation cards.

● **Auto Hobby Shop**, 257-2295 — Facilities for most engine repairs and maintenance. Tools available. Retail area stocks basic tune-up parts.

● **Crafttech Center, Ault Field**, 257-2173 — Hobby workshop, classes and supply center. Gift shop with finished craft items. Woodshop is located at the Seaplane Base Marina.

● **Gallery Golf Course**, Clover Valley Road, 257-2178 — 18-hole golf course. Lessons, clubs, carts and lockers available. Pro Shop and Duffer's Deli. Open to civilians.

● **Gym/Fitness Center**, Ault Field, 257-2420 — Weight room, aerobics, racquetball courts, locker rooms with sauna, steamroom and showers; classes, intramural sports and personal fitness training. Athletic Pro Shop and health-food lunch cart.

● **Marina, Seaplane Base**, 257-3355 — Recreational fishing pier, fishing, sail boat and gear rentals. Safety and sailing classes available.

● **MWR Leisure Travel Offices**, Seaplane Base, 679-3461, Ault Field, 679-7432 — Full service on-base travel agency.

Single Sailor Program, 257-4590 — Open to bachelors' quarters residents and their guests. Program includes in-

house activities and off-base trips, mostly free. Kick-Back Shack has wide-screen TV, computers, games, and snack bar.

● **Skywarrior Theatre**, Ault Field, 257-5537 — Movies and snack bar.

● **Special Interest Clubs**, visit MWR office, Ault Field, or call 257-2432:

• NAS Whidbey Trap and Skeet Club, 679-3188

• Navy Flying Club, 679-4359

• North Whidbey Amateur Radio (MARS), 675-2823

• Whidbey Island Bowmen Archery Club, 257-6380

• Whidbey Island Mountain Bike Assn., 257-8880

• Whidbey Island Sailing Assn., 257-3355

● **Tickets**, Gym/Fitness Center, Building 117, Ault Field, 257-2432 — Ferry, movie, and Seahawk tickets. Ticketmaster on site.

● **Trips and tours**, special events and classes, 257-6437 — Pacific Northwest tours, holiday events, piano and dance lessons.

● **Whidbey Lanes**, Ault Field, 257-2074 — Bowling on 32 lanes, game room with pool tables, video games and electronic tip dart boards. Locker rentals, Pro Shop, and Kegler's Kafe.

STORES

● **Navy Exchange**, 257-0600 — Open to anyone with a military identification card: active-duty military, reservists, retired military and members of their families. Main store on Seaplane Base with a branch on Ault Field. Main store is a full retail outlet, with barber and beauty shops, optical shop, video rental, liquor store and food court. Ault Field branch includes uniform shop, service station, mini mart.

● **Navy Commissary Store**, Seaplane Base, 257-3319 — Open to anyone with a military ID card. Groceries, fresh produce, meat, seafood and bakery goods.

● **Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office**, Ault Field, first turn to right after entrance on Langley Boulevard, 257-2501 — Many kinds of surplus military equipment. Open to base commands Monday to Wednesday and to the public Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Public auctions are held at intervals.



Monica Bingham, left, holds her 10-week-old daughter Victoria Bingham, as John Ezell looks on. Ezell is the Leading Chief for the hospital. The obstetrics ward at the Navy Hospital is one among many services available to local families. Jim Davidson photo

● **Outdoor Recreation Center**, Ault Field — Open to active-duty military, reservists, retired military, and members of their families; Department of Defense civilian employees on base; and civilian friends of those authorized to shop at the center. Outdoor equipment, mostly for camping, hiking and fishing.

● **Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Store**, Seaplane Base — Open only to those with a military identification card.

● **Gallery Golf Course Pro Shop** — Civilian and military golfers can buy the items they need for a day of play, such as tees and balls. Only military identification card holders can buy other equipment.

● **Perfect Game Pro Shop**, Whidbey Lanes, Ault Field, 257-2074 — Bowling balls, shoes, and other equipment. Qualified ball driller available Monday to Friday.

● **NAS Whidbey Recycling Centers**, 257-3231 — both the Ault Field and Seaplane Base centers are open to the public to drop off recyclables. The Ault Field Center is at Building 2555. Enter at Charles Porter Gate. Open Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and

Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 257-5481. The Seaplane Base Center, Building 98, Tulagi Ave., is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

YOUTH

These programs are open to active-duty military, full-time reservists and their families.

● **Child Development Center**, Seaplane Base housing, 257-3302 — Day care for preschool age children, Monday to Friday, plus Family Home Care Program. Fees based on family income.

● **Family Child Care Program**, Base Housing, 257-6116 — Certified caregivers living in base housing provide day care for up to six children.

● **Youth Activities**, Building 65, Brant Street, Victory Homes area, 257-3150 — Activities for children grades one to six, six to eight, and nine to 12.

● **S.A.F.E. Before and After School Programs**, 257-0889 — Before and after school care from kindergarten to grade five, plus two week Summer Day Camps.

● **Neutral Zone**, 257-3150 — Friday night entertainment for ages 12 to 18.

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