



Whiting Tower

Seventyone Years of Aviation Training News

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Forging Wings for the Fleet
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100 years

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women who have volunteered to serve our nation and protect the freedom that many have sacrificed for," said Pensacola Chamber Foundation Executive Director Jerry Maygarden.

The weekend long festivities will kick-off with a golf tournament Aug. 21 at Marcus Pointe Golf Club at 12:30 p.m. There will be lunch, prizes and equipment rentals if needed. The event will cost \$30 for active and retired service members and \$65 for civilians. Teams will consist



Naval Air Station Pensacola as viewed from above, 1918. Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy Archives

of one military member and one civilian; participants may register as single or a pair. Saturday will bring the reunion to Seville Quarter on Aug. 22 from 6 to 10 p.m. for all participants 21 and over.

Seville Quarter is dedicating its entire property to the celebration, with each room representing a different command or mission from the bases history. There will be numerous activities including a tail hook chair challenge, live music and a car show. Entrance fees for the event will cost \$30 for active duty and retired service members and \$40 for civilians. The fees include food, two drink tickets, and a souvenir mug with \$2 beer refills.

The three-day celebration will conclude with a tailgate party before the Blue Wahoo's home game against the Montgomery Biscuits. The final event will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Seville Quarter and all ages are a welcome to attend. Entrance to the tailgate will cost \$10 and includes access to the game. A trolley at Seville Quarter will provide transportation to and from the stadium.

"The celebration is a way for the community to give back to the military and their service at NAS Pensacola," said General Manager of Seville Quarter Jack Williams.

Interested patrons can get more information and buy tickets by calling (850) 438-4081 or by visiting the events website at <http://www.nasp100.com>

Performance troupe takes on sexual assault training

By Lt j.g. Robert Provencher, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

It's a balmy 85 degree day as Sailors, Marines, and Guardmen drag their feet on the way towards the Base Auditorium. It's time for the base's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) training, and the students are bracing themselves for a lecture that has traditionally been viewed as awkward, painful, and uncomfortable. The auditorium fills with flight suits, groans, and muttering as the students filter in, ready for another of the military's fine slideshow presentations.

"Ready for the SAPR brief?" I ask a nearby Marine.

"Oh definitely" he replies, his deadpan immaculate.

"Awesome." The Sailors near him notice the notepad and camera, and they avoid eye contact. Nobody wants to talk



The members of InterACT. From left to right: Chino, Dr. Marc Rich, Barry, Breeza, Jill, Nicole, Tim, Bobby Gordon. Photo by Lt. j.g. Robert Provencher about SAPR.

What they don't know is that there's no slideshow today, and the first hint they get is when the lights dim and three young men barrel onto the stage, raucously laughing and trash-talking.

"Hey, Tim!" Calls out the one. "What was that dance you were doing at the club?"

"It's called Twerking – check it out!" Tim responds, and begins demonstrating the move onstage. The audience laughs, and the tension that had filled the assembly just moments before lifts noticeably. With the audience engaged, the performers are able to move the scene along, flowing naturally from its comic and engaging hook to a demonstration of a failed bystander intervention.

As the scene unfolds the show's creator and executive manager Dr. Rich and facilitator Bobby Gordon pause

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SAPR training

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the performance to engage the audience directly, calling on individuals from the crowd to ask what they could have done to prevent this situation.

The performance comes courtesy of InterACT, a social justice performance troupe founded by Dr. Marc Rich in 2000. The goal of the troupe is to provide effective training by putting on shows that are not just entertaining, but proactive – facilitating the highest level of audience interaction with the show. Several Sailors and Marines were even brought onstage to act out their answers, working with the improv troupe to demonstrate effective bystander interventions.

Following the prevention half of the performance, the three male performers, Chino, Barry, and Tim, yield the stage to Nicole, Breeza, and Jill, who play out a poor response to a sexual assault survivor. Again Dr. Rich and Bobby halt the show to encourage the audience to participate, using the event to show both right and wrong ways to approach a response to an assault.

Both scenes demonstrate relatable, believable situations of how an assault can happen, and how a poor response can continue to injure survivors well after the fact – a point driven home viscerally by Jill's portrayal of an assault survivor.

Operating out of California State University, InterACT has been working with the Navy for seven months, already performing at bases in San Diego and the Great Lakes. After Milton, they have plans to present their act in Guantanamo Bay, Bahrain, Japan, and Italy.

"It's just been a real pleasure, working with the Sailors and Marines" said Rich after the presentation. "As you saw today, we just keep seeing so many creative interventions, people just seem to be really engaged and just so respectful we're really enjoying working with the military."

Bobby Gordon, who worked to facilitate the show and engage the audience during the presentation, was quick to agree. "The work is all about moving from passive to active, and it's been an amazing experience to be in a room

full of servicemen and women who really know how to creatively and safely take action to support each other."

The show's effectiveness hinges on its interactivity and its encouragement of active participation over passive listening. In this regard, the troupe says that the Navy goes

above and beyond as an audience. "What I love about this venue and all the Marines and Sailors on base is they're totally respectful, they have fantastic interventions" said Tim Maurer, one of the performers, after the show. "It seemed like everyone was getting it, and that's what we want to see. Every time we've been out, every single show, people seem to get it. We've seen some of the power points – we were

in San Diego and we came in early, our show was right after another presentation – and we understood. Seeing people just read you the slides, just read directly word for word, it's like... it's just so refreshing to get you up and doing something, instead of just being passive."

Over and over, the cast and crew of InterACT were quick to point out that the servicemen and women they've worked with have been nothing but respectful and engaged. The truest measure of success, however, comes from the Sailors and Marines themselves. As the show ended, the assembled audience rose and the Auditorium filled with chatter about the performance. A handful of Marines stayed behind to talk with Jill, discussing her role as a survivor during the performance and ways that they could respond in a real life scenario.

The biggest takeaway InterACT hopes to leave with the audience: be compassionate. Says Breeza: "Even if you don't take a lot from this, as long as you say 'I believe you' then that's what we want to teach everyone."



InterACT brings audience members onstage to become active participants, rather than passive observers. Photo by Lt. j.g. Robert Provencher.

