

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WEAR-TV
Location: Pensacola, FL
Quarter ending: December 31, 2008

Issue/description: 4. MILITARY AFFAIRS. Issues of concern to military and civilian workers at local bases; military retirees; the military's impact on our area's economy and lifestyle; military dependents, etc.

How Issue was treated (Program, PSA, etc.):

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time/Duration</u>	<u>Program type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. Channel 3 News at 6PM "Angels in our Midst"	10/20/08	06:07PM/3 minutes	News	*

Channel 3 News' co-Anchor and Public Service Director Sue Straughn produces these segments highlighting those individuals who provide outstanding service to others, while receiving little or no recognition for their service. Tonight's report concerned the guardians who accompanied World War II veterans on their "Honor Flight" to the World War II memorial in Washington, DC. Those honored tonight were themselves veterans of the Army, Air Force and Navy, but all were helping make the trip possible for the WWII vets. We interviewed several of these individuals about their reasons for volunteering to help on the trip.

2. Channel 3 News at 10PM	10/25/08	10:02PM/2 minutes	News	**
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** The city of Valparaiso is suing the U.S. Air Force...again. This time city leaders are concerned about excessive noise from the new F-35 fighter planes that will be deployed at Eglin Air Force Base. They believe the Air Force's final Environmental Impact Statement on the F-35 supports their concerns.

3. Channel 3 News 1 st at Four	10/29/08	04:04PM/3 minutes	News	***
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*** Gulf Coast voters won't just be choosing a President next week; they'll be selecting a Commander In Chief for the nation's military. Sue Straughn reported on the economic impact of the military in our area, and the effects of deployment on the families who live here while their military members are deployed.

4. Channel 3 News at 10PM	10/29/08	10:02PM/2 minutes	News	****
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**** We reported that Eglin Air Force Base has the largest number of people deployed at any given time than any other base in the Air Force. Jack Dale, head of the Military Officers Association, talked about the importance of the Military to the area...it's the biggest financial thing in Okaloosa County. The University of West Florida's Haas Center says the economic impact to the county is six billion dollars annually, 73% of all economic output. County Commissioner John Jannazo says more is on the way with the arrival of the Army's Seventh Special Forces Group, and then Joint Strike Fighter Training Center.

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5. Channel 3 News 1 st at Four "Your 3 Cents"	11/11/08	04:20PM/3 minutes	News	*****

* This is our regular segment where we present a current issue and solicit viewer input of their opinions on the issue. The following day, we present several viewer comments on the previous day's question. Today's question was about the Veterans Administration. Two Veterans' organizations this week filed a federal lawsuit seeking to accelerate decisions on disability claims for retired military personnel. The lawsuit seeks to force the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide an initial ruling on every veteran's claim for disability benefits within 90 days, and to resolve appeals within 180 days. They say it takes an average of six months to rule on a typical claim now. But there's some good news for the V.A. ...since 2001, the V.A. has seen a 98% increase in funding, and President-elect Obama has promised to increase veterans benefits to keep pace with rising costs. In June, President Bush signed a 162 billion dollar war funding bill that contained a new "G.I. Bill", expanding education benefits for vets who have served since 9-11. And the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2008 became law last month, offering V.A.-guaranteed home loans to veterans with more expensive and risky sub-prime mortgages. Locally, the Veteran's Superclinic was opened in Pensacola, expected to serve as many as 34,000 vets and active duty military. And in April, a new outpatient clinic was opened for vets at Eglin Air Force Base. Congressman Jeff Miller helped pass the "northwest Florida Veterans Health Care Improvement Act", authorizing 54 million dollars for the construction of a new wing at Eglin that would provide medical and surgical services to veterans. We asked viewers for their "3 cents". Do you think our nation is doing enough to take care of its veterans?