

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WEAR-TV
Location: Pensacola, FL
Quarter ending: March 31, 2014

Issue/description: 6. 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	02/03/14	06:00PM/3 minutes	News	*

* Laura Hussey reported from our Fort Walton Beach bureau that the Air Force will cut more than twenty-two-thousand troops before the end of the year. Many airmen now face a choice of leaving on their own, or being told their careers are over. The Air Force calls it Force Management ... reducing the ranks to help absorb the budget cuts required by sequestration. This year, they're rolling out eighteen different voluntary and non-voluntary separation programs. Reduction In Force boards and other panels that evaluate whether airmen can stay in service will start their work this summer. Qualifying airmen are being offered the chance to leave now instead of facing those boards. Some are eligible for early retirement, others for voluntary separation. Retired Colonel Scott Berry says for airmen who have skills that translate into the civilian marketplace, voluntary separation can be a smart choice. The incentive payment can be one-point-two-five times higher than the standard separation payment. Because RIFs are concentrated in career fields the Air Force considers over-manned, retired Chief Master Sergeant Kevin Thurman says top performers can be cut ... "the quality isn't the number one priority for cuts, it's the job specialty that you're in, so we lose a lot of good people in the Air Force." Because the window for these programs has just opened, it's too early to know how much impact we'll see at our local bases.

In a related story, we reported that the U.S. Army is considering elimination one thousand people from the Florida National Guard's ranks. Florida Guard leaders say the state already lags in National Guard funding, and the cuts would hamper the Guard's ability to respond to hurricanes and other disasters.

2. Channel 3 News at 6PM	02/19/14	06:02PM/2 minutes	News	**
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** An organization that gives homes to combat-wounded veterans is expanding its presence in the panhandle. "Building Homes for Heroes" plans to give twenty-five mortgage free homes this year. Twenty of them will be in Florida. Plans are already in place for a home in Destin, one in Navarre, and two in Pensacola. Channel Three's Laura Hussey reported that they got a boost when a local company gave them free office space. Building homes for heroes works two ways, either they build from scratch or they rehab foreclosures. The need is huge in our area, with bases all over the panhandle. Combat wounded veterans are coming back to this area because the community is so fantastic. Now, they're moving into a suite at the summit building in Destin, donated by Pelican Real Estate. Manager Stephan Mihacevich says the inspiration was an agent who donated his last commission to building Homes for Heroes. When asked how long will building Homes for Heroes be in their building, Stephan said "as long as they want."

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3. Channel 3 News 1 st at Four "Your Three Cents"	02/27/14	04:20PM/2 minutes	Public Affairs	***

*** This is our regular segment where we present a current issue and solicit viewer input of their opinions on that issue. Today's issue was: "Do you think the U.S. spends too much, too little, or about the right amount on the military?" U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel has recommended drastic cuts of billions of dollars that would take American military forces to its lowest level since before World War II. The cuts in military spending, forces and weapons programs comes amid growing budget pressures at home, and the improbability that the U.S. will engage in a large ground war. The latest Gallup survey shows no broad consensus among Americans that the U.S. is spending too much or too little on the military. 37% now say the nation spends too much. 28% say it spends too little. The rest say spending is about right. Historically, Americans were most likely to believe the nation was spending "too much" on the military in 1969 (52%) and in the early 1970s, just after the peak of the Vietnam War. The "too little" percentage peaked in 2000 and early 2001 as George W. Bush campaigned for and won the Presidency after a period of lower military spending during the Clinton administration.

4. This Week	02/23/14	08:00AM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	****
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**** Today's topic was the Bush Institute's Military Service Initiative. Guests were Tom Friedman, Foreign Affairs Columnist for The New York Times; President George W. Bush; and Jacob Wood, U.S. Marine Corps veteran and co-Founder and CEO of Team Rubicon.

5. Channel 3 News at 6PM	03/05/14	06:06PM/2 minutes	News	*****
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***** Military commissaries are setting new limits on coupon use and bulk buying. This comes as the Pentagon is asking Congress to let them essentially remove much of the overall discount at commissaries. If you shop at commissaries like the one at Corry Station, you'll still be able to use certain coupons. Authorities say this move is meant to regulate bulk buying and cut down on what they call "coupon abuse." Under the new rules, you may not order more than three cases or 36 units of any product. The agency also says it will no longer allow returns of "unreasonable quantities". Commissary shoppers we spoke with are not happy about the changes. They want to be able to buy what they need. Authorities say the new policy is meant to stop coupon-using customers from getting items for free and re-selling them, or making money by splitting transactions to get more cash back. The move to curb "coupon abuse" and bulk buying is separate from a Pentagon budget request before Congress right now that would reduce the commissary agency's funding by one billion dollars. If that proposal becomes a reality, prices at commissaries throughout the country will go up.

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6. Channel 3 News Dayside	03/10/14	11:02AM/2 minutes	News	*****

***** The Veterans Memorial Park in Downtown Pensacola is once again expanding by adding a new statue. Revolutionary War Memorial will be placed in the northern most part of the park. The memorial is sponsored by the local chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The 'Minute Man' statue has already been cast and is an exact replica, using the same mold, as the original Minuteman statue in Concord, Massachusetts. The statue has already been paid for. The base and site preparation will be funded by a combination of BP grant funds and funds raised by both the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution groups. The recommendation to build this statue just needs approval from Pensacola City Council. The hope is for the statue to be in place by Memorial Day 2014.

7. Channel 3 News Dayside	03/11/14	11:04AM/1 minute	News	*****
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***** The Blue Angels will be back in town this month, but their schedule has changed. The Blues practice Tuesdays and Wednesdays on NAS Pensacola during the air show season. Starting March 26th, they will move back their practice time from 8:30am to 11:30am. The new time more closely matches the time the Blues typically perform air shows. The later practice should also help ease traffic during the busy morning commute on base. The Blue Angel pilots will be at the National Naval Aviation Museum on Wednesdays immediately following the practice demonstration to meet the public and sign autographs.

8. Channel 3 News at 10PM	03/24/14	10:01PM/2 minutes	News	*****
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***** Eglin Air Force Base houses the largest collection of the Air Force's F-35, and is responsible for training nearly all of the pilots who fly that aircraft. But until now, those planes flew exclusively in the day time. Now residents of Okaloosa County can expect to see them in the moonlight as well. Channel Three's Rob Brown spoke with Eglin officials and found out what this news means to those who live near the base. According to the Air Force, upgrades to the F-35's software and hardware now allow night training programs. The jets will fly in the same air space and flight patterns as current day-time training flights. Most will take off and land at Duke Field or the Choctaw outlying naval field. The flights will be used to train pilots in flight patterns for takeoffs and landings in the dark. They'll also train on air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons targeting systems, both with and without night vision assistance. The Air Force says day and night processes for those systems are different, and that lessons learned at Eglin will help develop the training manual for the F-35 moving forward. Night missions will last around a week, and will take place sporadically, when pilots reach that portion of their training. Eglin says most night-time take offs and landings will take place at remote air fields, and that noise impact should be kept to a minimum.

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9. ABC News Nightline	03/25/14	12:04AM/10 minutes	News/Public Affairs	*****

***** On tonight's program we profiled the Navy's Flight Demonstration Team, the Blue Angels, as they prepare for their 2014 season of air shows. The Blue Angels did not perform any air shows in 2013 due to sequestration. The Blue Angels are home based at Pensacola Naval Air Station.