

Prepared

Local woman helps pilots

Newly qualified Navy pilots require a great deal of additional flight experience before they're ready to join an air squadron. Pilots of attack aircraft must hone their skills in gunnery, bombing and aircraft carrier landings.

Helping those pilots prepare to carry out their mission is the job of Kimberly Lanzendorf of Farmington Hills. Lanzendorf, 20, is a Navy aviation machinist's mate at the naval air facility in El Centro, Calif.

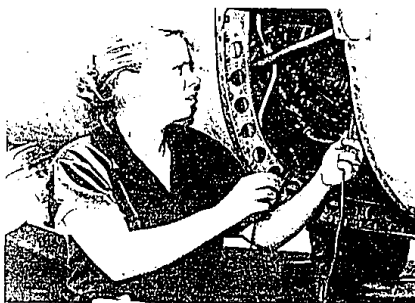
"I repair and maintain A-7E attack aircraft engines," said the daughter of Tim and Marge Walquist of Farmington Hills. "I'm just now learning about the field, mostly through on-the-job training and training manuals. I'm in the process of being worked into the shop."

"As a machinist, my main function is to make sure the airplanes are safe to fly," she said. "I fix the engines, and I do regular maintenance — like taking oil and fuel samples and cleaning out the engine cavity."

LOCATED 125 miles east of San Diego in southern California's Imperial Valley, El Centro has been a training ground for Navy pilots in the art of air combat since 1946. Over the years the facility has been "Marine Corps Air Station, an auxiliary landing field and a parachute drop zone."

Today, the base is home to a detachment of Attack Squadron 134, based at Fort Worth Naval Air Station, Fla. The detachment instructs and replaces pilots in gunnery and weapons delivery in the A-7E. "I attack aircraft before reaching El Centro," pilots receive instruction in formation flight, aerobics and other flight skills.

In addition to Attack Squadron 134, other Navy flight squadrons, including the famous "Blue Angels" precision team, take advantage of the non-perfect flying conditions



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which exist year-round. The sunny weather and wide open spaces make El Centro an ideal location for the flight-instruction curriculum.

According to Lanzendorf, the agreeable climate is only one of the good aspects of serving at the facility. The airman said she finds her work both challenging and enjoyable.

"IT'S CHALLENGING doing this job as a female," she said. "When I first got here they wanted to put me in administration. I was going to go for a less dirty and greasy job, but I decided I really wanted to work on the aircraft."

"I like showing the men that I can do this kind of work. At first they thought I'd never make it, but after I showed them I could do it they gave me a lot of support."

"After I get done fixing an engine,

I like to sit back and realize I did something I never thought I could do before," Lanzendorf said. "I found it's not nearly as difficult as it seems."

Lanzendorf graduated from North Farmington High School in 1984. She joined the Navy in 1985 and attended boot camp at the Naval Training Center in Orlando, Fla., before reporting to El Centro.

"I went to work right out of high school," she said. "I was having a good time, but after a while I started thinking about what I was going to do with my future. I wasn't sure what I wanted, so I joined the Navy to help me decide."

"Civilian employers are impressed with former military people, because they're well-disciplined," said Lanzendorf. "That's why I think the Navy will prove to be a good job experience when I get out."

Trustees discuss goals

Continued from Page 1
well, why try and take it away from them?" he asked.

FINANCIALLY, TRUSTEE Susan Rannels called for a review of annual 5 percent, across-the-board increases given to non-union employees in years past, and Cotton requested a better-defined budget. Increasing the district's fund equity to 10 percent and protecting local tax money were issues also discussed.

Good morale, employee incentives and building atmosphere were all key issues discussed by trustees in the staff development area.

The board committed earlier this year to a \$2.5 million building improvement program. Trustees suggested Thursday this be enhanced by developing a grounds maintenance schedule and a safety awareness program for staff and students.

Other suggestions included devel-

oping an informational handbook about the school board, developing a wellness program and a literacy program for all staff, developing effective evaluation techniques for student and staff progress.

White and her staff will compile the information from trustees and from other staff members and will present a suggested list of goals and objectives for the district at a future meeting.

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