



WINGSPAN



Vol. 21, No. 23

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

December 31, 2015

2015 - Year in Review

Editor's note: The Wingspan staff would like to welcome you to our "Year in Review" edition, which features photos from significant activities at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi from throughout the 2015 calendar year as we prepare for the upcoming New Year.



NHCCC decon team trains
— page 3



Roadwork underway
— page 5



'Hamburger Hill' vet shares story
— page 9



Fire department named best in DoD — June 18 Wingspan — Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Fire and Emergency Services was selected as the Department of Defense Fire Department of the Year (Medium Category) for 2014. The awards program recognizes individuals, teams and departments that make significant contributions to fire and emergency services. Pictured is most of the 68 fire personnel from the five stations they man. "The fire and emergency services community is on duty 24-hours a day, putting their own lives on the line while protecting those who defend America," said Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, John Conger in his announcement of the winners. "I congratulate their achievements." NASCC's F&ES was one of three Navy winners selected as best in the Department of Defense. Also selected was Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka, for fire prevention program of the year and fire services instructor of the year.



Blue Angels ... Arriving — April 23 Wingspan — Naval Air Station Corpus Christi hosted the "Wings Over South Texas" 2015 Air Show April 18-19. Despite uncertain weather, approximately 90,000 attended the event. (Courtesy photo)

Executive Officer's Column



Cmdr. Scott Wilmot
Executive Officer



As we enter the New Year, many will head out to enjoy the company of their coworkers, family members or friends. Most often, the celebrations will involve planning on how to get where the celebrations are occurring ... as well as planning how to get home if the celebration involves alcohol.

For members of the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi community, this planning is vital. The effect that excessive drinking of alcohol can have on a career is quite "sobering."

A recent study posted by 24/7 Wall St. indi-

cates that the city of Corpus Christi has the dubious distinction as the "Drunkest City in Texas." The report can be read at: <http://247wallst.com/special-report/2015/11/11/the-drunkest-city-in-each-state/>

The rating is based on a variety of statistics, to include binge drinking, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines as men consuming five or more drinks, or women consuming four of more drinks, at a single sitting. It also looked at heavy drinking, which it defines as men consuming 15 or more drinks per week and women consuming eight or more drinks per week.

In the report based on metropolitan areas, Corpus Christi's level of binge or heavy drinking rate is reported as 27.5 percent of adults. The rate is significant in that the state of Texas overall has a rating of 16 percent. And in the state, 31 percent of driving deaths are alcohol related. Victoria, which lies 85 miles to the north, is next heaviest drinking level in the state at 24.7 percent.

For the NASCC community, awareness is imperative. Be vigilant, you must know what is happening around you. In addition to being aware of road conditions, be observant of those who are driving around you and their actions on the road. How many times have we heard of "wrong-way" drivers on the highway?

If you are somewhere that serves alcohol, be aware of other people's actions. Alcohol-related incidents are not relegated solely to the road. Alcohol affects people differently. For some, it makes them much more aggressive. For others, it may make them more relaxed or sleepy. Bottom line, you must be careful in situations that may put you, or a loved one, in danger.

With the New Year come new opportunities and new challenges. Make sure one of those challenges is not overcoming an alcohol-related incident from the "old year."

Have a safe and happy holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone back safe and sound aboard NASCC after the New Year.

Chaplain's Message



New Year!
New
Beginnings!

Lt. Kevin Jackson
Chaplain

I am certainly thankful for the opportunity to serve my country and the men and women of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. More specifically, I am honored to serve as staff chaplain for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. Throughout my tour of the naval station, I have met some pretty amazing people. I look forward to the opportunity to serve each of you as we progress through the New Year.

Speaking of some amazing people, the congregation at the Protestant Chapel has to be one of the most loving congregations in Texas. Upon my arrival, I was greeted with smiles, hugs and wonderful words of encouragement.

The Protestant Chapel is very active in the community. In fact, several of our members volunteered with the Salvation Army. They collected a substantial amount of donations that will ensure families throughout our area are served.

On another occasion, I was particularly overjoyed to participate in a Christmas Eve outreach event at the Church Without Walls with Mr. Rey and his wife. Special thanks to Sarah Banta and the host of volunteers she brought with her to serve Christmas Eve dinner to members of our community in Corpus Christi. The children were excited to receive toys and other items to make their Christmas brighter.

Can you believe it? The year has gone

by so fast. So what should each of us focus on as we enter the New Year? First, before making a laundry list of New Years' resolutions, take some time and assess where you are currently in regards to stewardship, relationships, education, your physical health and your spiritual walk. Assessing where you are first will give you a good starting point to begin with in this New Year.

Second, once you have properly assessed your current status in each aforementioned category, be determined to let go of those things that are not beneficial for your own betterment in the New Year. You may have to let go of past issues, not so frugal spending practices, unhealthy eating and reasons not to grow spiritually.

Third, be determined to move forward to pursue realistic and obtainable goals. The New Year will require an intentional effort on your part in order to see real results. Some examples include developing a budget, enrolling in some courses, establishing a workout routine with a friend to keep you accountable and attending, on a more frequent basis, your particular house of worship.

In terms of my 2016 goals, I have decided to ensure continued financial stability for my family, pursue additional education, continue physical training and, most importantly, continue to grow in my Christian discipleship through intentional study and reflection.

This New Year really signifies a new beginning for me and my family: new career focus, new community, new friends, new challenges and new opportunities to serve. I am very fortunate to have this chance to "live-life" with amazing people both at work and within the community. Hello 2016! Here we come!

Worship Services

CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Catholic Chapel
Daily Mass Mon-Thurs & 1st Fri: 11:30 a.m.
Sunday Mass: 9 & 11 a.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Protestant Chapel
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

JEWISH WORSHIP SERVICE

Congregation Beth Israel, 4402 Saratoga Blvd.
For worship service times, call 857-8181

ISLAMIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Islamic Society of South Texas, 7341 McArdle Rd.
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New Year's Eve Party

Where: Catalina Club

When: Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m.-1 a.m.

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Wingspan

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To advertise in the *Wingspan*, contact *The Port Lavaca Wave* at afrench@plwave.com or (361) 746-4341.

Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer

Fifi Kieschnick
Public Affairs Officer

Eric Lobsinger
Editor



This paper is published for people like Kevin Mattix, a contractor who teaches in the T-44C simulator for VT-31 students. A native of Portage, Ind., he retired as a major from the Marine Corps at NASCC in 2014 following 20 years of service.

NHCCC DECON team trains in first receiver operations

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Public Affairs Office

Twenty-three Sailors from Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Decontamination Team completed the Navy Bureau of Medicine First Receiver Operations Training Dec. 7-9.

The 2.5-day course is designed to educate U.S. Navy Medical First Receivers on life saving skills required to triage, initiate field treatment, decontaminate and save victims from CBRN, or hazardous materials.

The Sailors learned to set-up and use the equipment provided to decontaminate patients, as well as how to help protect the first-responders from becoming contaminated. The first day of training was spent introducing participants to the equipment available to detect signs of CBRN exposure.

The second day consisted of practical application of the tools and detection devices, donning personal protective equipment, as well as quickly and properly setting up the decontamination tent.

The final phase was a timed event where Decontamination Education & Consultation instructor Charlie Jansen monitored the time it took individuals to be mission capable. This included having at least four team members in full PPE, the decontamination tent set-up, and able to accept incoming patients.

When Jansen gave the start signal, the CBRN team suited up and began paving the way for quickly and efficiently decontaminating mock casualties from a simulated terrorist's weapon of mass destruction.

Observing the crew while the minute hand raced forward, Jansen evaluated their responsiveness to don hot and uncomfortable personal protective equipment,

and set-up a decontamination station with its pump, electric hook-up, heater, plumbing and other necessary gear. In 4:58 minutes the team erected shelter and attached water connections, and within nine minutes they were processing, triaging and fully decontaminating patients.

"The team focused on speed and efficiency to provide quality care," said HM2 (FMF/SW) Gabriel V. Besa, FROT team chief. "We treated the training as if we were in a real emergency situation resulting in a quicker setup." Besa's team shaved 36 seconds off of the previous competition in May.

"The time is just the icing on the cake," he said while emphasizing that the most important aspect of the drill was decontaminating and treating patients once they were processed at the site.

Capt. Guido F. Valdes, NHCCC's commanding officer, observed during the event noting that his team's preparation and performance underscores its significance to the community.

"The NHCCC Decontamination Team continues to be ready to respond as an integral part of NAS Corpus Christi emergency response plan," he remarked.



Photo caption: Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Decontamination Team undergo the Navy Bureau of Medicine First Receiver Operations Training Dec. 7-9. (Photo courtesy of Rick Foust)

The NHCCC is part of a global health care network of 63,000 personnel that provide health care support to the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, their families and veterans in high operational tempo environments, at expeditionary medical facilities, medical treatment facilities, hospitals, clinics, hospital ships and research units around the world.

For more information about NHCCC, visit www.facebook.com/nhccc and <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhccc>.

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Upcoming Community Events

Square Dancing Lessons

The Sparkling City Singles and Pairs Square Dance Club will host beginner square dance lessons Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Classes start Jan. 4, 2016.

Lessons will be taught at the Lindale Senior Citizen Center, located at 3135 Swatner, Corpus Christi. Club caller/instructor John Ivey is ready to offer his many years of experience to help you become a confident, fun square dancer. All ages welcome! For more information, call 361-758-5318.

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION, EMAIL AFRENCH@PLWAVE.COM. THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT EVENTS IS 10 A.M. THE FRIDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION.

UPCOMING EVENTS ARE PUBLISHED AS SPACE PERMITS THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES AS TO HOW MANY TIMES AN EVENT WILL RUN. QUESTIONS REGARDING EVENTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ASHLEY AT 361-746-4341.

Faison promoted to Navy surgeon general

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON – The Navy promoted its 38th surgeon general during an official ceremony at the Pentagon, Dec. 15.

Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations, presided over the ceremony, promoting Rear Adm. C. Forrest Faison III to the rank of vice admiral and the dual position of Navy surgeon general and chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

"I am humbled to represent more than 63,000 active duty, reserve, civilian and contract personnel who are entrusted to provide the best care that our nation can offer for those who have volunteered to defend our freedom," said Faison.

A native of Norfolk, Va., and Cleveland, Ohio, Faison graduated from Rocky River High School in Cleveland, received his bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University in 1980 and received his commission through the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in 1980.

He earned his medical degree in 1984 from USUHS.

Faison most recently served as the Navy's deputy surgeon general and deputy chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

As the Navy's new surgeon general, he will lead the Navy's health care enterprise

through a transformational time in medicine while continuing to ensure the health and well-being of every Sailor, Marine and family member.

"Our main focus is keeping the Navy and Marine Corps force and their families healthy, ready and on the job," said Faison.

"We must also build on the unprecedented combat survival rate we attained during recent conflicts and preserve our ability to save lives at a moment's notice no matter what setting - on, above, below the sea and on the battlefield," Faison said.

Faison is board-certified in pediatrics and is an associate clinical professor of pediatrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He is also a senior member of the American College of Physician Executives.



Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson presides over a promotion ceremony Dec. 15 for Rear Adm. C. Forrest Faison III in the Pentagon. Faison was promoted to vice admiral and was recently confirmed as Navy surgeon general and chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nathan Laird)

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi is part of a global health care network of 63,000 personnel that provide health care support to the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, their families and veterans in high operational tempo environments, at expeditionary medical facilities, medical treatment facilities, hospitals, clinics, hospital ships and research units around the world.



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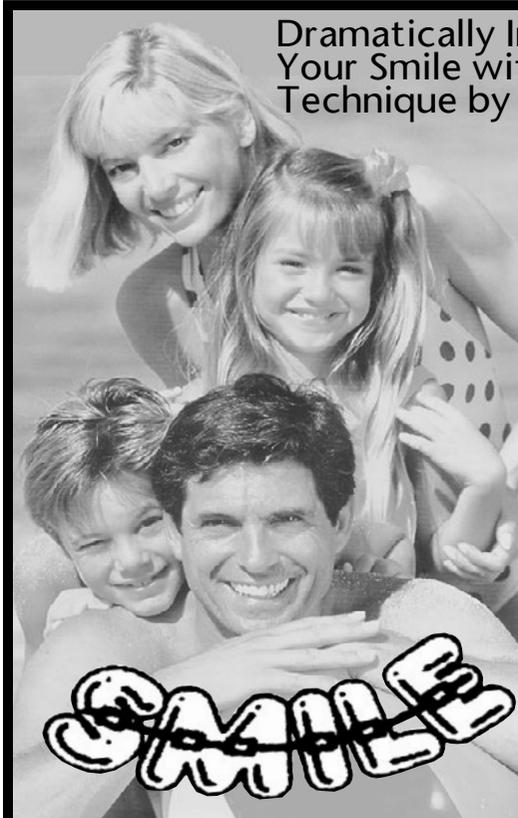
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Roadwork underway – Public Works will be working to provide some much needed asphalt repair to designated parking lots and roads on Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. The repairs will include the demolition of the asphalt material and base material, the installation of new base material and finally resurfacing the areas. The parking lots projected to be repaired are located at Bldg. 1830 (above) and near H-55 by the turnstiles. The road repair will take place adjacent to Bldg. 2 on D Street (below). For your safety, remain clear of the construction sites and equipment. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at (361) 961-5349. Photos courtesy of PW)



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Naval Air Training welcomes new commander – July 16 Wingspan – Rear Adm. Roy Kelley (right), departing Chief of Naval Air Training, and Rear Adm. Dell Bull, arriving Chief of Naval Air Training, shake hands after reading their official orders as Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker, commander, Naval Air Forces, looks on during a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's Catalina Club. "This has by far been the best tour of my career," said Kelley. "We have made many friends here and this city does so much for the military and shows its support in so many ways. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs Office)



NHCCC welcomes new commander – Sept. 10 Wingspan – Rear Adm. Terry J. Moulton (right) congratulates Capt. Guido F. Valdes during a change of command ceremony Aug. 27 aboard USS Lexington Museum. Valdes becomes the 38th commanding officer of Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi in its 74-year history after relieving Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley (center), who transfers to Chief Business Operations Tricare Regional Office-South, San Antonio. "The past two years have been an incredible journey for Melissa and the boys and I," said Bradley. "It has been the highlight of my naval career, and I have Navy Medicine to thank for that. (Photo by Bill W. Love, NHCCC Public Affairs Office)



NASCC enters the fray – Feb. 19 Wingspan – Naval Air Station Corpus Christi took part in the annual Solid Curtain – Citadel Shield 2015 exercise, which tested the responses to active shooters, gate runners and more. Pictured here, security forces search the NASCC headquarters building for an "active shooter" during an exercise Feb. 3. The exercise was part of the annual exercise conducted Feb. 2-13 on naval installations throughout the United States. (File photo)



Ribbon cutting celebrates refurbished marina – Jan. 22 Wingspan – A ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 14 commemorated the opening of the refurbished Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Marina. The Marina has three piers with 61 covered and four uncovered wet slips available. Pictured are (from left) Lt. Col. Kevin Heartwell, executive officer of MATSG-22; Col. John Rahe Jr., commanding officer of MATS-22; Capt. Steve Banta, NASCC commanding officer; Marine employee Jesika Streeter, Marina director Dale Marinets; MWR assistant director Kass Varner; and MWR director Dave Sullivan. (File photo)



Base, tenant commands support SAAPM – Sept. 10 Wingspan – Leaders from throughout Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and the tenant commands came together Apr. 2 and signed a proclamation in support of April's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at the NASCC's Catalina Club.



Top Dogs! NASCC awarded best kennel, dog handler – April 9 *Wingspan* – Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's Military Working Dog program was recognized by Commander, Navy Region Southeast as Best Military Working Dog Kennel of the Year and MA3 Derek Smith was recognized as Top Dog Handler for 2014. Pictured above are some of the working dogs and members who manage and handle the working dogs. From left are, MA3 Derek Smith with MWD Fergina; MA1 Preston Streeter with MWD Shadow; Lt. Robert Long, NASCC security officer; MA3 Kasey Kasper with MWD Skyo; and Kennel Master, MA1(SW) Joseph Dominguez with MWD Pad. (U.S. Navy photo)



Celebrating 100 years – March 26 *Wingspan* – Naval Operational Support Center personnel and guests kicked off their yearlong celebration of the U.S. Navy Reserve centennial with a cake cutting. The command continued the celebration with a series of events spread over the next month. (Photo by MC1 Ruben Perez)



Ensign James Butz and 1st Lt. William Parker, Training Squadron (VT) 28 Student Naval Aviators, taxi after completing the squadron and Navy's final formation flight in the T-34C Turbomentor primary training aircraft. (U.S. Navy photo by Richard Stewart)

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T-34 Turbomentor makes its final flight

June 18 Wingspan – The last training flight in the T-34C Turbomentor took place Tuesday, April 28, at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas.

The new T-6B Texan II has been phasing the T-34C out of service as the primary training aircraft for Naval Aviation since its integration in 2012.

This final flight marks the full transition of the T-6 Texan II into the Naval Aviation Training Command as the primary training

aircraft for all future Naval Aviators.

The T-34C Turbomentor has had a long and venerable service life of more than 35 years and has produced thousands of Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force and NATO pilots.

Widely termed the “workhorse” of Naval Aviation Training, the T-34’s sundown was commemorated during a fly-by during the 2015 Wings Over South Texas Air Show.

Two students, Ensign James Butz and 2nd

Lt. William Parker, both assigned to Training Squadron (VT) 28 “Rangers,” flew their final solo formation flights on April 28.

“It was exciting both to be going on my last flight for primary but also for it to be the last flight for the T-34,” said Ensign Butz.

“The plane was really fun to fly and the T-6 is a great new aircraft. But I know a lot of our instructors learned on the T-34, so it will be sad to see it go.”

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Army 'Hamburger Hill' vet shares his story

Editor's note: This is part of a continuing series of stories honoring our community's veterans.

By Eric Lobsinger
NASCC Public Affairs Office

Lazaro O. Camarillo III, served for two harrowing years during the Vietnam War and continues to serve today as president and service officer with United Vietnam Veterans of Texas and as commander and service officer with VFW John N. Timon Post 2397, both in Corpus Christi.

A Brownsville, Texas, native, Camarillo lived in the border town "until the Army drafted me on March 6, 1968," at the age of 20 years old. Born Jan. 29, 1948, he has three brothers and two sisters. Although he is the only one of his siblings to serve, his father served in the Army in the Pacific during World War II and his grandfather served during World War I.

He is married to his wife, Amalia, and has two sons and two daughters.

After being drafted as an infantryman, he shipped out to Fort Polk, La., for both basic training and advanced individual training before heading on to jump school at Fort Benning, Ga., and then on to his assignment with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg N.C.

His stay at Fort Bragg was a short one however as he was soon en route to Vietnam with Company C., 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment, where his unit would spend a majority of its time in the infamous A Shau Valley.

Upon arriving in Vietnam, Camarillo said he made a startling discovery.

"You are a professional Soldier in less than 24 hours," he stated, with a sagely nod.

Along with his company, he entered the A Shau Valley in the first week of March 1969. It was a place where the unit would spend its next 122 days straight. While there, the unit fought at notorious places such as Hill 654, Airborne Hill, Hill 939, Hamburger Hill and throughout the DMZ.

His welcome to combat in Vietnam was a harrowing one.

"The first day we entered the A Shau Valley, the three choppers in front of us were all shot down," he recalled. "We landed in a hot landing zone ... it was my first day in combat."

Once on the ground, he and his fellow combatants went through the arduous task of policing their wounded and of recovering their dead brethren and putting them into plastic body bags before continuing on into the valley.

The unit fought through what seemed to be an endless series of ambushes, fire fights and hill assaults. He vividly recalls one such battle at Airborne Hill – his ninth day in country.

"We went to help the people up there," he said. "At about 10 o'clock at night, we ran out of ammo. My platoon sergeant told me to 'fix bayonet.' We went to hand-to-hand combat. We did good, but we lost a lot of men."

During the conflict, as a Specialist 4, he quickly found himself as the acting squad leader after the squad leader was wounded.

He said the conflict tested him in ways he did not want to be tested, and he and his fellow Soldiers found themselves in a precarious place.

"You are so young," he said, shaking his head in remembrance. "We grew up Catholic; we grew up with: 'You should not kill,' and the first thing we do is kill. But you see a lot of our GIs killed and you have to do it – what they do to us."

A Purple Heart recipient, he said the first time he was wounded happened the first time he "walked point" during patrol. He would later also earn the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for valor in another ambush.

"I got hit in my shoulder," he recalled. "The impact of

the wound threw me back. The medic patched me up and told me not to worry. It wasn't a "million-dollar wound."

After getting patched up, he quickly reentered the fray. However, two weeks later, he developed a large boil on the wounded area and couldn't put his rucksack on so he was medivaced to the "rear" where the wound could be properly cared for.

That treatment, however, would leave a lasting memory as well.

"They said 'we are sorry but we don't have any anesthesia,' so they told me to bite the towel – and then they cut me and fixed me up."

Four to five days later, he found himself back at the front lines and engaging the enemy once again before being wounded the second time.

"I was walking point again, and I got shot the second time," he recalled.

Luck was on his side this time however. While walking point, he carried a .45-caliber pistol in a holster across his chest ... and the shot by the sniper struck squarely on the weapon.

"The impact of the bullet felt like someone hit me with a sledgehammer," he said. "It knocked me back."

He was medivaced once again, this time back to Camp Eagle. After being looked over and treated, he was sent back to "the line" the following day.

One thing that has always stood out with him was the camaraderie and the esprit de corps with his fellow warriors.

"We never retreated," he said. "We always took care of each other; we never left anyone behind."

"It was hard, really hard ... it was real bad. There were good times and bad times ... and really bad times."

An example of those "really bad times" was at what is known as Hamburger Hill, where Camarillo and his fellow Soldiers once again found themselves in the horrors of war ... up close.

"On the fourth day, we went to hand-to-hand combat," he said. "I saw this Vietnamese commie who was going to stab me, and 'the chief' got in front of me and he got stabbed – he took it for me. That's the kind of brotherhood that you got."

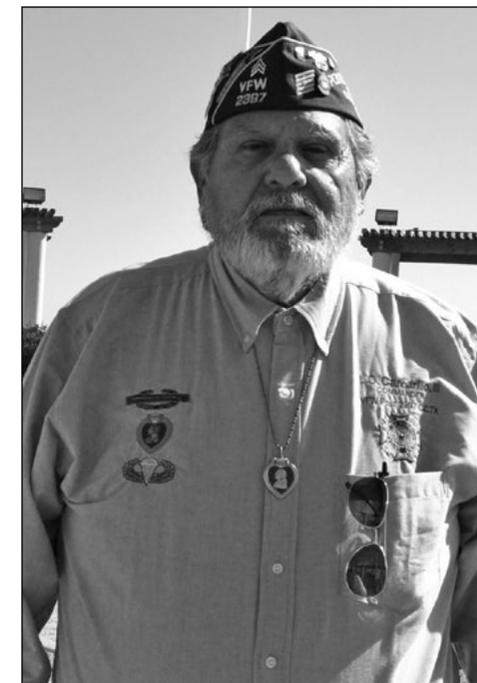
"In the front lines, we depended on each other. It doesn't matter who you are, where you come from, if you're white, green, purple, or whatever, right there, we are all Americans. There's no definition of color or race. We are all American soldiers, defending each other, taking care of each other. Man, we were hard core."

He returned from Vietnam in 1970. He said he was frustrated because once everyone returned, they went back to their "little groups: the brown people, the white people, the black people, the yellow people – and that's wrong. We are Americans."

His father taught him from an early age what it meant to be an American.

"He told me, 'Son, you were born in Texas – you are an American, that's just the way it is.'"

"My father was correct. If you were born and raised in this country, you are an American."



Lazaro O. Camarillo III then (courtesy photo) and now. (Photo by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)

Although his military career is long in the rear-view mirror, he said it is important for him to continue to help his fellow veterans and their families to get the help that is available to them.

"We, the Vietnam veterans in this area, want to make sure we include the World War II, the Korean War, the spouses and children, today's veterans, to get the counseling and to make sure they get the benefits that they deserve," he said.

The experiences and the challenges brought on through that service can be traumatic and draining and on both the service members as well as their families. For Camarillo himself, he said he will never forget the true horrors of war.

"I did my job," he said. "I'm a combat infantry veteran. I was in the frontline. We, my squad, my platoon, went to hand-to-hand combat twice. We saw the enemy eye-to-eye. We fought. We didn't fight like the military taught us."

"The military teaches you how to defend yourself, how to survive, how to defend everybody else, but one thing they didn't teach you ... they didn't teach you to be an animal. And every single one of us who were in that jungle were animals."

"Me and my platoon, we were out there for 11 months and 10 days in that jungle. That was a long time being in the jungle."

Now, more than four decades since he returned from Vietnam, he said he has forgiven the people he fought against because of the hard work and mentorship of a WWII veteran who committed himself and became a father with the Catholic Church upon his return from combat following WWII.

Camarillo said he would like to tell the young men and women coming back from their deployments to be proud of what they did for their country.

"Be proud," he exclaimed. "Do not let anyone tell you different. When you enter the armed forces of America, there are a lot of people who don't understand that when you raise your right hand, you sign a 'blank check,' including with your life, to the United States of America."

"It doesn't matter what your [military occupational specialty] was or which of the armed forces you served in – you served."

And, he said he encourages the veterans, to include those making their transition from military to civilian life, to seek out the services that are available to them.

News Briefs

CREDO Marriage Enrichment Retreat available

Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Outreach Southeast will host a marriage enrichment retreat Feb. 12-14 at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi. All expenses are paid. Registration closes Jan. 29. To register, or for more information, contact Steven Arndt at steven.k.arndt.ctr@navy.mil or call 961-3786 or 961-5011.

Bowl free for reading

MWR is sponsoring "Bowled Over by Books." From Jan. 1-31, check out, read, and return a book from the Library to receive a bookmark with a free game of bowling at Lighthouse Lanes Bowling Center. Participants receiving 10 bookmarks by reading 10 books will receive a certificate to a bowling party for up to six bowlers for one hour at the Lighthouse Lanes Bowling Center. For more information, contact the Library & Resource Center at 961-3574.

Start Smart Soccer starts Jan. 6

Children ages 3-5 are invited to participate in Start Smart Soccer every Wednesday, 10-10:45 a.m., Jan. 6-Feb. 10. The Start Smart Program is a free program with the goal of providing an opportunity for pre-school age children to socialize with other children their own age, make friends, get fit and have fun. A parent must attend and participate. Pre-

registration is required at the Youth Activities Center, Bldg. 1756.

New ITT hours

Beginning Jan. 4, the ITT office, located in Bldg. 1757, will be open Mondays-Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. For more information, contact the ITT office at 961-3961.

Captain's Cup Basketball League registration

Registration is underway for the 2016 Captain's Cup Basketball League. Registration deadline is 7 p.m., Jan. 20 at the E-Street Gym. Games will be played Mondays and Wednesdays starting Jan. 25. Team captains are required to attend a mandatory captain's meeting 6 p.m., Jan. 20. For more information, contact the E-Street Gym at 961-2057.

Celebrate Mardi Gras in New Orleans

Take a trip with ITT to Mardi Gras, Jan. 29-31. Deadline for signing up is noon, Jan. 6. and cost is \$204 per person. Those interested can sign up at the ITT Office in Bldg. 1757. The Mardi Gras package includes round-trip transportation on a chartered bus and a two-night stay at the New Orleans Marriott, where the weekend's parades will be passing through. The group will depart from the Wings Auditorium, at 3:45 a.m., Jan. 29, and

will arrive at the New Orleans Marriott at approximately 3 p.m. The bus will depart the New Orleans Marriott at 11 a.m., Jan. 31, and return to NAS Corpus Christi no later than 9 p.m., Jan. 31. For more information, contact the ITT office at 961-3961.

No Texas State Inspections

Until further notice, the Auto Skills Center will not perform Texas State Inspections. The required equipment is undergoing a system upgrade. For more information, contact the auto skills center at 961-3470.

Help keep NASCC system clean

Storm drains aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi all empty into surrounding waters. NASCC has a permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination system to operate our municipal separate storm water sewer system. The permit requires an annual Base Clean Up project and requires minimizing trash, garbage and debris going into storm sewers—including grass clippings and cigarette butts. Everyone has a stake in ensuring our waters are kept clean. Help keep debris, oil and other pollutants out of the storm sewer system. For more information, contact the NASCC Public Works Environmental office at 961-5365

New CHINFO apps available

CHINFO has some new apps on the

street and are available for download. One new app is called "New to the Navy" and provides answers to common questions. It is available on all mobile platforms via their respective application stores: Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/new-to-the-navy/id1039873883?mt=8> or Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tracen.newtothenavyguide&hl=en>. For more information about Pay and Personnel Support visit www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/paypers/Pages/default2.aspx.

Free Fast Track NCCER program available for veterans

Del Mar College offers a free Fast Track NCCER program for veterans with classes starting in January and February. The 88-hour core curriculum includes OSHA 10 training and provides two stackable credentials that industries want. The program is accredited by the National Center for Construction Education and Research, a not-for-profit, industry-recognized education foundation. Del Mar College's program encompasses NCCER's 88-hour core curriculum, which includes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10-hour General Industry Training course. For additional information and to access the online application, visit the Fast Track NCCER Program website at www.delmar.edu/nccerveterans or contact Dara Betz at dbetz@delmar.edu.



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FOR LEASE

Seamount Cay Condos has two units available. It's a resort-style living located on the Island close to NAS Corpus Christi. These units are both a two story unit with 3 bedroom/2.5 bath and a Garage. The complex has a heated pool and is located close to the new Schlitterbahn Water Park and Resort. Price Range \$1,500-\$1,600.00 depending on size of unit. Condos are located at 15421 Seamount Cay Ct, Corpus Christi, TX 78418
Please contact Rachelle for more information 361-728-6412

Classifieds

FOR RENT: Flour Bluff School District minutes away from NAS...house for rent 3 bdrm 1 1/2 bath, central air and heat, 2 car garage, Lg fenced back yard. \$1,200/month plus \$1,200 deposit. 361 960-2345 cell 361 353-4847 Hm.

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Fare thee well – Naval Air Station Corpus Christi bid farewell to Capt. Captain Jeffery Hammond during his retirement ceremony at the Fire Station Dec. 17. Joined by his wife, Melinda, his children, Whitney, Jared and Reagan, (bottom right) and his mom, Mildred Hammond, they sat back and listened as Dan Sheppard appropriately played the bagpipes (left) as Hammond closed out his quarter of a century career with the Navy. He entered the federal fire service on November 1, 1990 as a firefighter at Naval Air Station Chase Field, Texas, where he remained until the base was slated for closure in 1992. He then transferred to Fort Sam Houston, where he became certified as a firefighter II and a hazardous material technician. Next he transferred to Naval Air Station Kingsville in 1994, followed by Naval Station Ingleside in 1995. He was promoted to the rank of captain in 2001 and remained at Ingleside until transferring to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi in 2009. Among his many accomplishments was being recognized as the South Texas Coastal Bend Fire Training Academy “Excellent Instructor” 1996-2005. At Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, he was awarded two Commander Naval Installations Command Life Saving Awards, and he and his crew were recognized by the Texas Fire Chiefs Association as the winners of the 2010 Valor Award and as the Navy Region Southeast “Heroism Award.” (Upper right) At the conclusion of the ceremony, Capt. Hammond transferred command of Engine 1021 to Capt. Glenn Helwig. (Photos by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)



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