

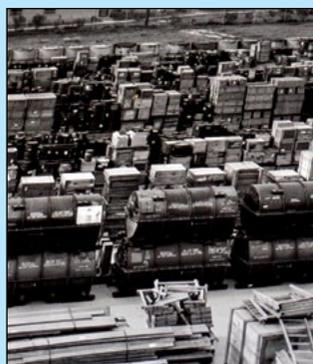


# WINGSPAN



## VT-31 names Instructor Pilot of Year!

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## The Yearbook 1940-1941

– page 6



## Returning to service

– page 11

# Fitness center provides watchful eye

Story and photos by Eric Lobsinger  
NASCC Public Affairs Office

The installation's fitness facilities provide patrons with a multitude of activities designed to meet their physical fitness needs.

And, perhaps just as importantly, the fitness staff provides a watchful eye in helping to ensure patrons are provided a safe environment.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation's fitness department has the vital mission of supporting all aspects of Naval Air Stations Corpus Christi's physical activities for the base's active duty personnel, family members, retirees and civilian employees, explained Joseph Belt, director of fitness, MWR, NASCC.

"The number-one key element in the military is being physically fit and being able to perform at a top level," said Belt. "That's our duty – to provide them support to be able to do recreational activities, sporting leagues, or to other measures, such as using the group exercise room when needed for command physical training classes."

The Fitness Center is open Mondays-Fridays from 5 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The E-Street Gym, located across the street, has the same weekday hours and is open Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays and holidays, noon-5 p.m.

Sailors and Marines from throughout the base routinely use the facilities for their physical training, either in a structured setting or through their personal endeavors.

"Physical fitness is probably one of the most important things to be mission ready," said Belt, adding that the fitness team is available to provide a variety of support, such as through one-on-one training, structured group exercise classes, specific skill training, circuit training and even through low-impact dance classes.

What many of the facility patrons may not be aware of is that it is



Joseph Belt and Mykkie Scott, MWR's fitness department leadership.

required for each member of the fitness staff, approximately 20 personnel, to be trained and certified for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and First Aid. Additionally, all are trained on how to use the Automated External Defibrillator, which are found in emergency cases on the walls of both facilities.

So, as the patrons are pushing their bodies through their physical assertions, staff members are keeping their watchful eyes on the patrons.

Staff members need to "expect the unexpected" and to be prepared to react quickly in the event something happens to the exercisers, said Belt.

*see Watchful on page 8*



LN2 Kimberly Ellis, command services paralegal, talks AC2 Karina Reid through the process of logging into Military One Source to access tax services while at the NASCC tax assistance center Jan. 25.

## Tax season is upon us ...

### Income tax center open, seeks volunteers

Story and photo by Eric Lobsinger  
NASCC Public Affairs Office

As tax season is upon us, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's legal services is preparing to "ratchet up" its volunteer tax service program to man the tax assistance center.

The tax assistance center, located at NASCC's legal offices in Bldg. 3, 320 Fifth Street, opened Jan. 25 and will provide services through April 15.

Those eligible for tax assistance at the center include: active-duty personnel and their family members; Reservists who have been activated for 20 days or more; entitled former spouses; and retirees and their family members (with an adjusted gross income of less than \$57,000).

To help meet the tax assistance needs of this community, the center is seeking any military personnel or civilians who desire to help.

"I look forward to hearing from anyone who would like to provide help for their fellow Sailors," said LN2 Kimberly Ellis, who serves as a command services paralegal. "Anyone can volunteer. It's a great way to support the community."

In 2015, the tax assistance center assisted in processing approximately 60 tax returns. The goal for 2016, said Ellis, is to increase the number of volunteers available to provide services for a greater number of patrons.

In addition to helping others with their taxes, she said volunteers also obtain a greater appreciation and understanding of their own taxes.

The center will also provide an opportunity for those who prepare their own taxes to have them reviewed before they submit them.

"For those who use online tax programs

*see Tax Center on page 11*

## Command Master Chief's Column



Capt. Steve Banta  
Commanding Officer



with tenant commands and first responders from the City of Corpus Christi, will play an active role in the exercise.

This important exercise is the largest force protection drill conducted across the Department of Defense. All personnel on board NASCC need to be aware of this vital training, which is designed to enhance the readiness of our security forces, first responders, and the rest of our personnel.

Although we have taken measures to minimize any potential disruptions to NASCC's mission or to the local community, everyone, including visitors to the installation, should be aware of the potential for some delays during the exercise.

There may be random security measures in place that could potentially impact traffic entering the installation or traversing around the installation.

Please plan accordingly. Give yourself plenty of time to get where you are going. Most importantly, I ask that you be patient.

This annual exercise is designed to help prepare us to defeat potential threats. Unfortunately, there have been actual force protection incidents on board military

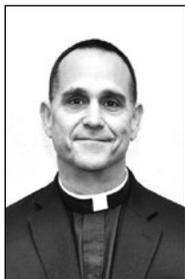
The beginning of February marks the commencement of Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2016, which will be conducted Feb. 1-12 on board Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

This annual Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection exercise is conducted simultaneously on board naval installations throughout the United States.

Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield uses realistic scenarios to ensure Navy Security Forces maintain a high level of readiness in order to respond to a myriad of potential dynamic threats – and to ensure the safety of all installation occupants, including military, civilian, and families.

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, along

## Chaplain's Message



Upgrading our  
spiritual lives

Father John Vidal

our caring for others through prayer, charitable contributions and volunteering. If you don't observe Lent, you can still take a few weeks to do some of this introspection.

You can do this by spending time in prayer and meditation. Did you know that the base chapels are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week?

They are an excellent place to sit quietly to think and pray. Perhaps you'd find it easier by walking on the beach and letting the beauty of God's creation inspire you. Another opportunity is to go to one of the CREDO marriage, family and/or personal resiliency retreats.

After this period of taking stock or introspection, you can look around for ways that you can change your prayer, reevaluate your contributions and recharge your efforts in existing volunteer efforts or find new ones.

You'll be surprised how small changes can make a big and positive difference in your life.

The Chaplain's Office can help you in many ways. For example, did you know that the Chaplain's Office coordinates volunteers for Church Without Walls, a ministry to the homeless just outside the NAS gates? We can also help plug you

installations in the past. During those incidents, any successes or reduction in loss of life can be attributed to the type of training that is conducted during Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield.

Here are a few examples of actual attacks that took place on board military installations in the past:

April 2014: Three killed and 14 injured at Fort Hood, Texas.

March 2014: One killed at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

September 2013: 12 killed and eight injured at the Navy Yard complex in Washington, D.C.

November 2009: 13 killed and 32 injured at Fort Hood, Texas.

October 1995: One killed and 18 injured at Fort Bragg, N.C.

June 1994: Four killed and 23 injured at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington.

Please take these training events seriously. Everyone needs to know how to safeguard yourselves, your families and your co-workers.

Thanks in advance for your continued support of our vital mission here at NAS Corpus Christi.

into the many centers of worship in Corpus Christi for just about any faith you may follow. Most of them have outreach projects of one kind or another. The Protestant and Catholic chapel communities would love to have you join us on Sundays.

Any or all of these can help you improve your spiritual lives, and you will be rewarded greatly in terms your interaction with friends, co-workers and family.

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Sunday Mass: 9 & 11 a.m.

#### PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

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

#### ISLAMIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Islamic Society of South Texas, 7341 McArdle Rd.  
For worship service times, call 992-8550.

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Capt. Steve Banta  
Commanding Officer

Fifi Kieschnick  
Public Affairs Officer

Eric Lobsinger  
Editor



This paper is published for people like AC2 Salvador Orellana, a new arrival to Air Operations, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. A native of Sonsonate, El Salvador, he has served in the Navy for 11 years. He recently arrived from USS George Washington (CVN-73).



Wingspan



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# VT-31 names Instructor Pilot of the Year

## NASCC Public Affairs Office

A native of Edina, Minn., he has served on active duty for eight years, seven of these years as a pilot and the past four as an instructor – and most recently, he was named Training Squadron THIRTY-ONE's Instructor Pilot of the Year for 2015.

Lt. Sean Anderson said he is truly honored for the recognition.

"It means the world to me because this was voted by my peers," said Anderson. "There are so many other instructor pilots who deserve this award, so having their support and recognition is extremely rewarding."

Anderson currently serves as the department head of VT-31's instructor training unit. He is qualified to instruct in eight multi-engine phases of advanced maritime flight training.

During 2015, he amassed more than 540 flight hours and completed 240 student naval aviator and instructor training unit syllabus flight events, which increased his total mishap-free flight time to more than 2,500 hours.

"Lt. Anderson is an outstanding

instructor pilot; he epitomizes the best of naval aviation, said Cmdr. Sam Gage, VT-31's commanding officer. "The hard work and dedication he displays every day is representative of the men and women in VT-31, who train our nation's future Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviators. I can't think of a better example for our students to aspire to."

Anderson said he thoroughly enjoys his mission as an instructor and in sharing his knowledge and experience with the perspective aviators.

"I enjoy every minute of it," he said. "It's extremely satisfying watching student's progress through the advanced stages, all the way to earning their Wings of Gold."

"To see years of hard work pay off, and their motivation to get to their operational squadrons and deploy, is exciting."

His instructor style, he said, is a matter of keeping the training environment "light" to help avoid having students overly stressed so they can take it all in.

"If a student is over thinking everything and overstressed, it hurts

training," he said, "so I'll sing a few lines from the B-52's hit single "Love Shack" to relax everyone in the flight station."

Anderson and his wife, Jacquelyn, are expectantly awaiting the birth of their first child, and he has enjoyed being a member of the community – both on and off the installation.

"I would like to thank the city and the base staff for all the support they provide the squadrons here on base," he said. "Whether through air shows or sporting events, the local community always comes out to show their appreciation."

"I hope to return back here someday and see how far the base and city have grown."

The Anderson family is moving on to join the crew of the USS Eisenhower, where he said he will be "singing sea shanties and learning to tie knots."

Cmdr. Sam Gage (right), commanding officer VT-31, congratulates Lt. Sean Anderson after Anderson was named Training Squadron THIRTY-ONE's Instructor Pilot of the Year for 2015. (Courtesy photo)



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# Ten US Navy Sailors detained by Iran return to US

## Navy Expeditionary Combat Command

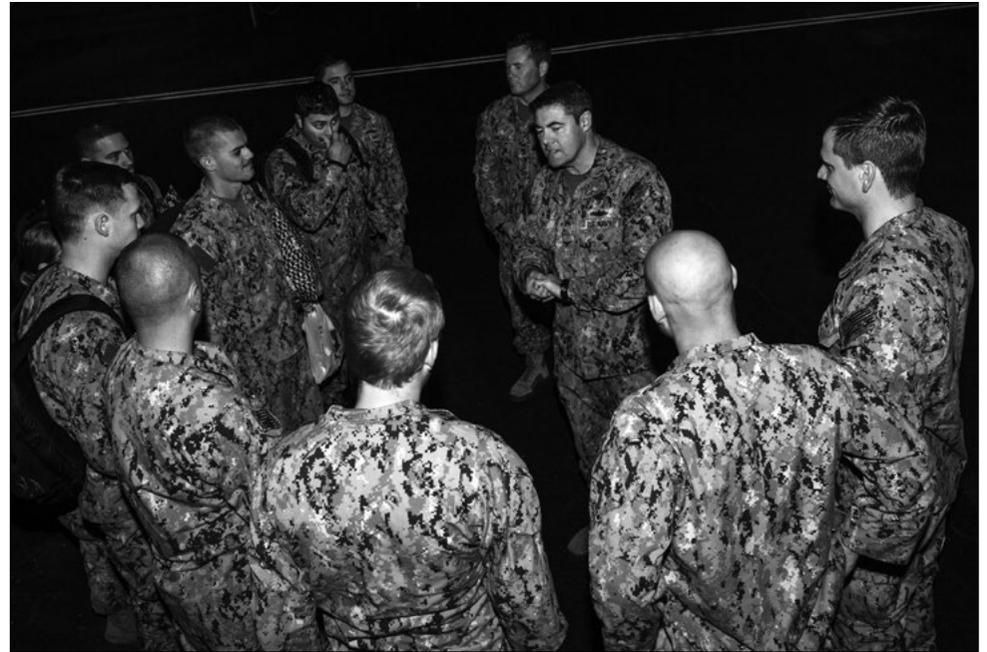
SAN DIEGO (NNS) – The 10 U.S. Navy Sailors assigned to Coastal Riverine Squadron 3 who were briefly detained by Iran Jan 12-13, returned to their homeport in San Diego last night.

All of the Sailors are in good health and each will complete the final phase of reintegration. During this phase, which can last several days, Sailors reunite with their families, continue debriefings, and receive any ongoing medical care and support as necessary.

“Our Sailors are being reintegrated with dignity and professionalism,” said Rear Adm. Frank Morneau, Commander Navy Expeditionary Combat Command. “My top priority is the health, welfare and well-being of our Shipmates as they return to duty.”

The three-phased reintegration process began in theater immediately following their release, Jan. 13.

The focus of Phase I of the reintegration process was to ensure the immediate health and safety of the Sailors. During the second phase of the reintegration process, individuals completed a medical exam and critical decompression, which included mental and physical coping strategies that will enable them to return to duty.



Capt. Gary Leigh (center right), commander, Coastal Riverine Group One, greets the 10 U.S. Navy Sailors assigned to Coastal Riverine Squadron Three, upon their return to Naval Air Station North Island, Jan. 22, to complete the final phase of reintegration and to be reunited with their families. The Sailors were briefly detained by Iran Jan. 12-13 and are in good health. Image altered for security and privacy purposes. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Charles White)

The final and third phase commenced when the Sailors reunited with families, while ongoing medical evaluations and various levels of support are provided. A Navy command investigation, initiated Jan. 14, is ongoing.

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## Bravo Zulu



Congratulations to MA2 Andrew Echevarria and MA2 Dwayne Shepard Jr., who were each awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for their service while assigned to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. MA2 Echevarria (left) served as a watch commander, Security Department, NASCC, from November 2012-January 2016, a position normally held by a petty officer first class. He supervised 12 patrolmen through 400 calls for service, 2,000 hours of flight line security checks, 200 random vehicle inspections, and 50 incident complaint reports. MA2 Shepard served as a patrol supervisor, Security Department, NASCC, from January 2013-February 2016. He supervised 10 patrolmen through 175 calls for service, 1,000 hours of flight line security checks, 100 random vehicle inspections and 35 incident complaints reports.

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# A LOOK BACK: THE YEARBOOK 1940-1941

*“The Yearbook 1940-1941” was published by the Texas Auxiliary of the Navy Relief Society, which was founded in Corpus Christi in April 1941. The Yearbook not only was a fundraiser for Navy Relief, but also served as a “souvenir of the construction days at the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station,” according to Capt. Alva Bernhard, the base’s first commanding officer. This is the first of several accounts found in The Yearbook 1940-1941.*

## NASCC Public Affairs Archives

On June 20, 1940, contractors set up temporary offices in downtown Corpus Christi. On June 26, the officer-in-charge of construction reported and, soon after, plans were approved for temporary buildings and offices to be used for construction purposes.

The station, prior to the arrival of the contractors, was largely covered with scrub oak, mesquite, desert grass and sand. Rattlesnakes, cattle and cow hands frequented the area.

At the outset, the problem of supply was a paramount issue. Adequate roads had to be provided, water supply developed, ample telephone and telegraph services extended to the site and a railway connection built to the station. These difficulties, along with scores of others, had to be solved promptly in order to avoid delays in the construction program.

The contract required the contractors to set up an operating committee, made up of at least three of their job personnel to act as a steering committee for job operations and consult with the officer-in-charge of construction in all matters concerning the work. So, in a matter of a very few

weeks, the initial obstacles were solved and construction gained momentum.

Nueces County officials agreed to improve certain roads – other than Ocean Drive – to improve access to the main station area. Mud Bridge Road was one of those improved, which entailed the construction of a causeway and a 400-foot trestle bridge across the Oso at some distance south of the station.

On the station area, there wasn’t adequate supply of potable water, and what was available was not suitable to drink because of a high salt content. So, office personnel used boiled water and city water was trucked to the job for the construction workers. Some existing wells were used as a supply for sanitary purposes.

For the permanent supply, the city of Corpus Christi agreed to extend its service to the station by a means of a 16-inch cast iron line. The city financed and built this line to a point on the base from which our own system extended. The city’s service was ultimately extended to the three auxiliary fields that were constructed.

Communications systems were worked out in collaboration with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Western Union and Postal Telegraph Company. Each of the telegraph companies installed teletype machines in the contractors’ communications office. The telephone company originally had very meager service to Flour Bluff.

The service required amplification. First, eight circuits were installed to the contractors’ office – these were increased to 10 and later 30 circuits served a two-position PBX board. The telephone company also installed ready-for-service eight miles of 100-pair cable for the permanent communications systems in 10 days.

Plans were also made for the extension of railway service to the main station. Rights-of-way and easements were obtained, and construction of the railroad began July 5, 1940. Thirty-five days later, on Aug. 9, 1940, the first carload of freight was delivered to the main station. The railroad, which was 20 miles long, ran from the Texas-Mexican line west of Corpus Christi to county roads and private property.

At Flour Bluff on June 30, ground was broken for the temporary office buildings that housed the construction officers. It was 367 feet long and 34 feet wide and was built in 10 days.

A camp hospital with a 30-bed capacity was built. It supported industrial accidents as well as performed routine physical examinations and treated victims of heat exhaustion. It contained a well-equipped air-conditioned operating room and x-ray room.

Barracks and dormitories for workers on the station were built due to the increase in population to the area. A two-wing barracks building with connecting toilets was built to house 60 men. A dormitory with 44 rooms – two men to a room – was also built for office workers. Additionally, a 400-person capability mess hall was built. And, another building was remodeled for a superintendents’ mess.

Title to the main station area was received on July 12, 1940 and, on the same day, work began on moving sand dunes. Earth moving also started, clearing, roads and streets began to take form, and construction of temporary shops, field offices, warehouses and other work began.

Tractors and scrapers, bulldozers, cranes, trucks and concrete mixers were active and, on Aug. 6, the first



NASCC today.

concrete was placed for the foundation of the enlisted men's barracks. A few days later, footings were started for the land plane hangars, followed by the seaplane hangars' foundation and that of the Assembly and Repair shop.

Late in September, as the volume of work was increasing at the main station, activity got underway on Rodd and Cabaniss Fields, and then in November, work was started on Cuddihy Field. At these fields, in smaller scale, the same type of activity was seen at the station field. Foundations and superstructures were transformed into finished buildings throughout the winter and spring. At times, these fields were seas of mud and water, but work progressed even under these conditions.

There was a need for a sizeable guard or police force. An experienced police officer from the Austin, Texas, police force headed the camp guard. Camp police maintained 24-hour service, manned the gates, directed traffic and served as a fire patrol in addition to escorting visitors.

In addition to the temporary roads built by Nueces County, a permanent military highway was built to provide access between Corpus Christi and the main station. The county furnished the right of way, earth borrow sources and \$375,000. The road included 11 miles of 22-foot concrete pavement and a 1,200-foot concrete deck bridge across the Oso. A concrete access road 4.5 miles long was also built between Cabaniss Field and Old Brownsville Road, providing a direct route to Cuddihy Field.

Work also progressed at the 25 practice landing fields that had been identified.

Peak employment was 9,348 persons with a payroll of \$305,125. And, it was reported that approximately 22,000 people had been on the contractors' payrolls at some time during the course of construction.



The Chosen Land – Shown is Corpus Christi Bay (below) the site for construction of the Naval Air Station, Flour Bluff area, in 1938. Seaplane hangars will rise from level ground where once were sand bluffs along the lower left shore. Meanwhile (above), construction supplies are piled up and ready to construct the base. (U.S. Navy Photos from NASCC Supply Department Archives)



NASCC circa 1938.

**Watchful from page 1**

Belt and Mykkie Scott, MWR sports and aquatics coordinator, recalled a scary event that occurred Nov. 20 at a flag football game during NASCC's Sports Day.

Belt said he was very impressed when members of the staff, along with the athletes and observers, sprang into action to help a stricken athlete.

During halftime, one of the competitors suddenly fell to the ground," explained Scott. At first, it seemed that he had fainted ... and then it became apparent that there was a much bigger problem, perhaps cardiac arrest or shock, so those at the event quickly sprang into action.

"Immediately it was a team effort," said Belt "from the guy tilting the head, from the person ripping the chain off and cutting the shirt, to the guy doing CPR, to hooking up the AED, everything – it worked well – not just from our staff but from those competitors and the active duty as well."

He said those rendering aid were able to quickly assess the scene, recognize the issue, immediately call 911 and render aid.

Scott said it was also important to have the resources on hand, such as the first aid kit, which was already on site, and the defibrillator, which was close by. The team quickly hooked up the defibrillator as a Coast Guard member performed CPR until medical support arrived.

"He was conscious when they trans-

ported him," said Scott. "If we didn't have that AED ... it was a big part in helping him."

The individual who suffered the heart attack that day was one of the regular competitors on the installation, said Scott. In fact, he was "out there all the time" during the recent flag-football season.

Fortunately, he survived the incident and later successfully underwent a quadruple bypass.

Both Scott and Belt said the fitness staffs are trained to keep an eye on their competitors. They said they are also fortunate that many of the same competitors compete on a regular basis, so they are fairly knowledgeable on their performance capabilities.

"A lot of the people who participate are the same ones we see all of the time," said Scott, "so we know how capable they are in performing ... we look for something that may seem to be abnormal. We may say 'hey, you're not looking too good' and ask them what's going on? Do they feel okay?"

The bottom line, she said, is the staff is walking around and always watching the competitors and exercisers through each event – always looking for anything out of the ordinary.

"It's about taking care of everybody," said Belt. "The active duty is our mission – that's what we're here for – but also you can't forget the family members who



The Automated External Defibrillator (above and right) is housed in plain view at both the Fitness Center and the E-Street Gym in the event it is needed in an emergency. All MWR fitness staff are trained on how to use the AED. Additionally, they are all trained and certified for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and First Aid.



sacrifice as well, and our Reservists, our retirees and our civilians. They are all part of the military family; we're here to support everyone.

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## Upcoming events

### **Dewayne Hughes Exhibition.**

Jan. 28, noon-6 pm, Islander Gallery, 4024 Weber Rd, Corpus Christi. The Islander Gallery at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is pleased to welcome Tyler, Texas-based sculptor Dewane Hughes as he presents, Neocryptofunk 2.0.

### **First Friday of the Month Artwalk.**

First Friday of each month, Marina Arts District, Corpus Christi. You'll find artists, musicians and all things creative converge in the Marina Arts District. It's where downtown comes alive with bands on every block, food trucks serving up South Texas fare, and art galleries featuring local and national artists. Take in the free live music and local flavors outside, find a nice watering hole or grab a bite to eat.

### **Weekly Birding Tours.**

Various days at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, South end of Ross Avenue, Port Aransas. Weekly guided birding tours are offered free of charge on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and the species of birds visible in this large open area depend on the season. Free.

### **Port Aransas Home Tour.**

Jan. 30, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at Port Aransas Community Center, 408 N. Alister St., Port Aransas. From gated communities to architecture forward homes, from beach properties to cottages and condos, you will visit homes showing off island living at its best exemplifying life at the beach.

### **Passing Down a Legacy of Women in Military Aviation.**

Feb. 18, 6-9 p.m., at USS Lexington Museum, 2914 N Shoreline Boulevard, Corpus Christi. a special event celebrating over 70 years of Women in Military Aviation. Cost is \$50.

### **Whooping Crane Festival 2016.**

Feb 24-28, 6 a.m. daily. The Coastal Bend is the only spot in the United States where the endangered Whooping Crane can be viewed at close range, and the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce celebrates this astonishing natural wonder with an annual festival honoring these grand birds.

### **Fiesta de la Flor.**

May 6-7. Corpus Christi bayfront. Fiesta de la Flor celebrates the life and legacy of Selena with Texas-style family fun and togetherness. A portion of downtown Corpus Christi's bayfront area will closed to traffic and transform into a pedestrian mall and street festival. Visit [www.fiestadelaflor.com](http://www.fiestadelaflor.com) for the latest information.

For additional community event information, visit sites such as the following: [www.events.caller.com](http://www.events.caller.com), [www.visitcorpuschristitx.org/events](http://www.visitcorpuschristitx.org/events), [www.business.corpuschristichamber.org/events/calendar](http://www.business.corpuschristichamber.org/events/calendar), [www.lonestarcalendar.com/localevents/corpuschristieventcalendar](http://www.lonestarcalendar.com/localevents/corpuschristieventcalendar).

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 and Related Festivities  
 Commemorating  
 the 75th Anniversary  
 of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi  
 March 12, 2016

### FESTIVITIES INCLUDE:

#### March 11 – (Base access required)

8 am: Golf Tournament, NASCC Gulf Winds Golf Course

#### March 12 – (Open to the public)

11 am: Official 75th Anniversary Ceremony,  
 NASCC Building 1, CNATRA Front Lawn

12-5 pm: Entertainment & Activities, NASCC Seawall

5-7 pm: Concert & Fireworks, NASCC Seawall

#### March 13 – (Base access required)

10:30 am: Non-Denominational Church Service,  
 NASCC Protestant Chapel

Noon: Sunday Brunch, NASCC Catalina Club

For more information, E-mail [nascc-pao@navy.mil](mailto:nascc-pao@navy.mil)

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**“NAS Corpus Christi 75th Anniversary Celebration”**

## News Briefs

### CNATRA to host golf tourney Feb. 11

The CNATRA Gold Tournament kicks off with a shotgun start at 9 a.m., Feb. 11. Players of all skill levels are invited. The tournament will be conducted in a four-person team format. Cost is \$50 per player, which covers green fees, cart, lunch, sleeve of balls, tees and door prizes. To sign up, stop by the Gulf Winds Golf Course or call 961-3250. For more information, contact Lt. Cmdr. Jonathan Hullihan at 961-3578.

### Catalina Club open for Super Bowl party

Ready for the Super Bowl party? Join your friends at the Catalina Club to celebrate and watch the two top teams collide in Super Bowl 50 on Feb. 7. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and game time will be 5:30 p.m. The Catalina Club has eight 80" TVs to enjoy the game on and will have food specials and games on the patio. This event is free to all hands. For more information, call the Catalina Club at 961-5697.

### Library & Resource Center hosts 'Blind Date with a Book'

Stop by the Library & Resource Center, Bldg. 1872, during the month of February and enjoy a blind date with a book. The covers are hidden – so choose carefully. Read it; return it, and be entered to win a coffee. Drawings for free coffee will

be held Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26. For more information, call the Library & Resource Center at 961-3574.

### MWR hosts kids' fitness clinic

MWR is offering a free clinic for children, ages 10-16, to learn the proper use of the Life Fitness machines and cardio equipment, such as elliptical, treadmills, stationary bikes, stair masters, versa climbers, rower, and fluid cycles. A guardian at least 18 years or older must be present with the participant throughout the duration of the clinic. The clinics will last one hour or can be divided into two sessions if needed. Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate showing they are knowledgeable and aware of proper use of selected equipment in Fitness Express. For more information and to schedule an appointment, call 961-3164.

### CREDO Marriage Enrichment Retreat registration ends soon

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. Participants must provide their own transportation to and from retreat site. The event is open to 15 couples per retreat so register now. Registration closes Jan. 29. To register, or for more information,

contact Steven Arndt at [steven.k.arndt.ctr@navy.mil](mailto:steven.k.arndt.ctr@navy.mil) or call 961-3786 or 961-5011.

### Gym seeks certified officials

E-Street Gym is seeking certified sports officials for basketball, softball, soccer, volleyball and flag football. Officials earn \$30 per game. Those interested must be certified and must provide proof of certification. For more information, contact the E-Street Gym at 961-1314 or 961-2057.

### CYP Online Services

A new service is now available for child youth services. NAS Corpus Christi Child and Your Program Online Services features online payments, hourly care reservations and more. For more information, visit [http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas\\_corpus\\_christi/ffr/support\\_services/families/child\\_and\\_youth\\_programs.html](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas_corpus_christi/ffr/support_services/families/child_and_youth_programs.html).

### 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](http://store/apps/details?id=com.tracen.newtothenavyguide&hl=en).

### Register for upcoming elections

Register now and request your absentee ballots at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov). For those desiring more information on registering to vote in the following States, visit [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) now to complete a registration application and request your absentee ballots for the presidential preference primaries and State primaries. February: New Hampshire, South Carolina and South Carolina; March: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Virginia. To register and request ballots, applicants must complete the Federal Post Card Application using the FPCA online assistant at [fvap.gov/military-voter/registration-ballots](http://fvap.gov/military-voter/registration-ballots), or fill out the PDF at [fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca2013.pdf](http://fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca2013.pdf) or pick up a hardcopy version from the unit voting assistance officer. For more information, visit [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) or call FVAP at (703) 588-1584, or (800) 438-VOTE or email [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov). On NASCC, contact the unit voting assistance officer or visit the NASCC voting assistance office, located near the chaplain's department on the 5th deck of NHCCC.

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**Tax Center from page 1**

available and do their taxes at home, you can make an appointment at the tax center, and we will double check to make sure everything is accurate and to help ensure you are maximizing your refund,” said Ellis.

Perspective volunteers will undergo Volunteer Income Tax Assistance training online. NASCC volunteers are required to obtain the IRS volunteer training certification. The training features an introduction to taxes in addition to a military portion that concentrates on tax issues specific to military personnel. Those interested can view some of the available training resources at <https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/IRS-Tax-Volunteers>.

All volunteers in the VITA/TCE Program must take the Standards of Conduct training and pass the certification test, according to the IRS tax volunteer website. Volunteer tax return preparers must be certified to prepare taxes and perform quality reviews of returns. Students must pass the applicable course test—Basic, Advanced, Military, or International in order to perform these duties.

Any perspective military volunteers will need the approval from their chain of command. Volunteers are required to provide their services a minimum of three hours per week.

“This is a great opportunity to provide a valued service to your fellow Sailors and to those aboard NASCC,” said CMDCM Jeffery Tidwell, NASCC. “I encourage you to share your time, efforts, knowledge and experience in support of your shipmates.

“It’s a rewarding way to give back to your community.”

The tax assistance center hours are currently scheduled for Tuesdays-Thursdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Walk-in appointments are available for common access card holders. Services for non-CAC holders are by appointment only.

To volunteer – or to schedule an appointment – call LN2 Ellis at 961-3568 or email [kimberly.a.ellis@navy.mil](mailto:kimberly.a.ellis@navy.mil).



**Returning to service** – YN3 Anthony Torres recites the Oath of Enlistment Jan. 22 on the Quarterdeck at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi’s headquarters building. Lt. Scott Beck, administrative officer, NASCC, served as the enlistment officer. Torres enlisted in the Navy Reserves to become a Navy recruiter. He left active-duty service in 2012. He is married to ABH3 Pamela Torres of NASCC’s administration department, and the couple have a son. (Photo by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)



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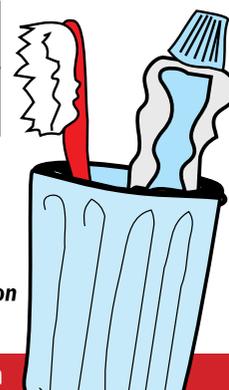
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