



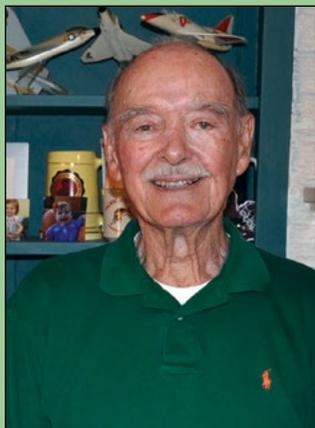
WINGSPAN



Vol. 22, No. 5

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

March 10, 2016



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**75th Anniv.
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Planes stand ready and waiting for students and instructors for another flight circa 1941-1942. (File photo)

NASCC celebrates 75 years of aerial excellence

The following information was garnered from a Corpus Christi Caller Times 50th Anniversary special insert.

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and the South Texas community will celebrate the Navy's 75th anniversary at Corpus Christi.

The following is a "look back" at key events throughout the base's 75 year history:

Mid-1930s: Corpus Christi is proposed as the site of a new Navy air training base. In 1938, the Navy recommends building the base.

May 15, 1940: House Naval Affairs committee opens hearings on a bill that would provide funding for 12 new Navy bases, including the Corpus Christi air station. The facility in Corpus Christi was planned to be twice as large as any of the other bases. Rep. Lyndon Johnson told the Corpus Christi Caller that the bill for the Corpus Christi base was put on a rush schedule.

June 30, 1940: Construction begins.

March 12, 1941: The Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi is commissioned, although just 70 percent complete.

April 7, 1941: First class of 52 cadets begin ground school.

May 5, 1941: The first training flight takes off from the air station. The initial training at the station is in N3N Yellow Peril biplane trainers.

June 7, 1941: Rodd Field commissioned. Although it would be closed down after the war, the

field would reopen for a time as a NASA tracking station.

July 1, 1941: Base hospital commissioned.

July 9, 1941: Cabaniss Field commissioned. Cabaniss would close briefly in 1948, then reopen as a separate command, which would be decommissioned in 1958. However, NAS students

still use the field to practice touch-and-go landings.

Sept. 3, 1941: Cuddihy Field commissioned.

Nov. 1, 1941: First class of aviation cadets graduate. Of the 52 who began training, all but seven

*see 75th Anniversary
on page 6*



Student pilots sprint to their waiting aircraft as they prepare to soar during training circa 1942. (File photo)

Captain's Column



Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer



Throughout this period, the local community was right there working hand-in-hand with the new aviation training base. In fact, the local community involvement stems back to 1940, when the City of Corpus Christi donated 640 acres of undeveloped city land, added to what the federal government would purchase, as well as \$2 million to help with the cost of construction.

As a result of the combined efforts of NASCC and the city, this new base in the Flour Bluff area of Corpus Christi, one of 12 naval air stations authorized through a naval appropriations bill passed in June 1940, would become the most successful and largest in the world, covering more than 20,000 acres.

We will conduct our official anniversary ceremony at Bldg. 1, Chief of Naval Air Training headquarters, at precisely 11 a.m. – the exact same location and time as the dedication ceremony in 1941.

I encourage everyone aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and from the local community – Sailors, Marines, Coast Guard members, Soldiers, government civilians, family members, retirees, and community

members alike – to come celebrate our combined heritage.

In a fitting tribute to the partnership this base shares with the city, Mayor Nelda Martinez has graciously accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker at the ceremony, which will conclude with a flyby of historic and modern naval aviation training aircraft.

There will be a myriad of attractions on the NASCC Seawall after the ceremony, and the daylong activities will culminate in a concert starting with local Texas band Costello, and then featuring country music singer/songwriter Sara Evans. A fireworks display sponsored by MWR will cap off the festivities.

This event is free and open to the public, so invite your friends and family to come join the celebration. We have so much to celebrate, and our commemoration is all the more significant for the friendship and support of the City of Corpus Christi and the South Texas community. It is an honor to serve here!

The gates will open at 10 a.m. Please see inside this issue for additional details.

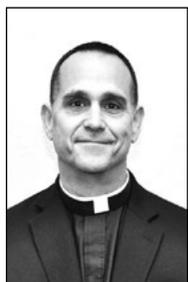
Happy Diamond Anniversary, NAS Corpus Christi!

On Saturday, March 12, we have the honor of celebrating Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's 75th anniversary of its service to the United States of America. This anniversary also affords us the opportunity to celebrate our robust ties with the City of Corpus Christi, the Flour Bluff community and all of South Texas.

Three-quarters of a century ago, at 11 a.m. on March 12, 1941, the Navy welcomed the "University of the Air" to fill a growing need for highly-trained aviators.

NASCC immediately swung into high gear, graduating its first winging class on Nov. 1, 1941, and training approximately 35,000 aviators during World War II.

Chaplain's Message



Easter =
Holy Week

Father John Vidal
Catholic priest

Jerusalem on the day we now call "Palm Sunday." The central feature of the service proper to this day is the procession of palms followed by Mass, where the mood quickly shifts when three readers read the Gospel of the Passion.

The three days just before Easter are called the Easter Triduum and are the holiest days, with Easter itself as the pinnacle, of the liturgical year.

On Holy Thursday, we reenact the Lord's Last Supper, which he shared with his apostles on the night he was betrayed and arrested. At this mass, the priest will wash the feet of 12 people, just as Jesus did for his apostles. Our Lady of Guadalupe will celebrate Mass at 7 p.m.

"Good Friday" is the day of the crucifixion and death of our Lord. We venerate the cross in order to show honor and respect for Christ's sacrifice for our sake. At Our Lady of Guadalupe Stations of the Cross – when we reenact the route that Jesus took on his way up to Calvary – followed by the veneration of the cross at noon. Veneration of the cross will also be offered at 7 p.m., followed by Holy Communion from the reserved Sacrament.

Holy Saturday is a day of vigil as we await the expectant rising of our Savior, culminating at dusk by the Great Vigil of Easter when the story of salvation is retold through the reading of eight readings from the Old and New Testaments, beginning with the story of creation and culminating in the Gospel announcing the Resurrection.

Catholics and Christians around the world believe that Jesus gained for us forgiveness of our sins by his death on the Cross and opened the gates of heaven by his Resurrection. Following the tradition of the early church on this night, persons who have spent months of preparation are received through baptism and confirmation into the Catholic Church. It is a joyous occasion. Members of Our Lady of Guadalupe will join the faithful of the Diocese of Corpus Christi at the Cathedral at 8 p.m.

It has been my experience that those who engage themselves wholeheartedly in Holy Week discover that it can change them forever.

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 McArdule Rd.
For worship service times, call 992-8550.

Last week, I returned from a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was a wonderful trip, and I would encourage all, Christians, Jews and Muslims, to make the trip. It is truly a remarkable experience that will cement you in your faith.

For me, since we were at the beginning of the Lenten season, it made me ever aware and connected me to the events of the Passion of Jesus.

For Catholics, and for many Christians who follow a liturgical calendar, Holy Week is the most sacred time of the year when we commemorate – and in many ways relive – the last week of Jesus' life on this earth.

Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday, March 20, leads up to the great Easter Feast. The Roman Emperor Constantine issued the "Edict of Milan" in 313, which commanded the official toleration of Christianity and other religions. Historical documents reveal that this freed the church to openly celebrate the "Great Week" with a feeling of profound sanctity.

It begins with Jesus' triumphant entry into

Wingspan

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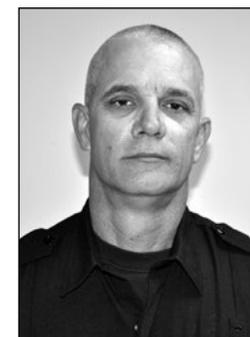
Comments, letters, or suggestions should be sent via e-mail to: nascc-pao@navy.mil.

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 Firefighter William Graves, a recent arrival at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. A native of Gilbert, Ariz., he served as a firefighter at Fort Sill, Okla., for nine years prior to his move to NASCC. He and his wife have two children.



Wingspan



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75th
Anniversary
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Korean War Navy fighter pilot shares story of 'interesting' career

By Eric Lobsinger
NASCC Public Affairs Office

Born in 1928 and seemingly 88 years young, he has experienced what he calls an "interesting" trip down life's path.

Retired Navy Capt. Robert Hoke Hartwell entered service with the Navy in 1946, soon after the conclusion of the Second World War, at a time when jet planes were emerging to become the dominant force in the sky.

He would continue serving for the next 32 years before retiring at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi in 1978.

"I got in about the time that jet aircraft were coming into the services ... actually coming into their time of being," he said. "It was interesting. I flew some of the first jets that the Navy had: the Grumman F9F Panther, the McDonnell F2H Banshee, and the AD, which they would later call the Douglas A-1 Skyraider."

He landed both the F9F and the F2H on aircraft carriers but said he did not have the opportunity to land the A-1 on a carrier.

Born and raised in the city of Royersford, Pa., located approximately 10 miles from Valley Forge, he was the sole child of his parents, who both also hailed from the area. He was named after his mom's brother, Robert Hoke, an Army corporal

who lost his life Sept. 26, 1918, while serving with Company I, 316th Infantry, at the Battle of the Argon Forest in France during the First World War.

His father did not serve in the military, he added, saying that being born in 1903, he was too young for World War I and too old for World War II, being married with a child.

Bob spent his formative years in Royersford, living there until he graduated high school ... and joining the Navy.

He grew up during the Depression in the town of approximately 5,000 people, recalling there were numerous farms throughout the area and that the town itself was fairly industrial. In fact, during his high school years, he worked for a company that specialized in producing bed springs for mattresses, seats of cars – and spring seats for tanks during World War II.

His father worked as a bank teller. Like many other businesses during that time, the bank ran into hard times and was closed by the government in 1932, when Hartwell was four.

"After the crash, he picked up a shovel and an ax and worked in the WPA [Works Progress Administration], the guys who built roads and all kinds of construction under the Franklin Administration," said Hartwell. "It was a way to provide work for

those struggling through the depression."

Years later, his father would return to the banking trade as a bank examiner with the Philadelphia office of the Pennsylvania State Banking Department. One day, he brought home something his son found interesting – that ended up changing his life.

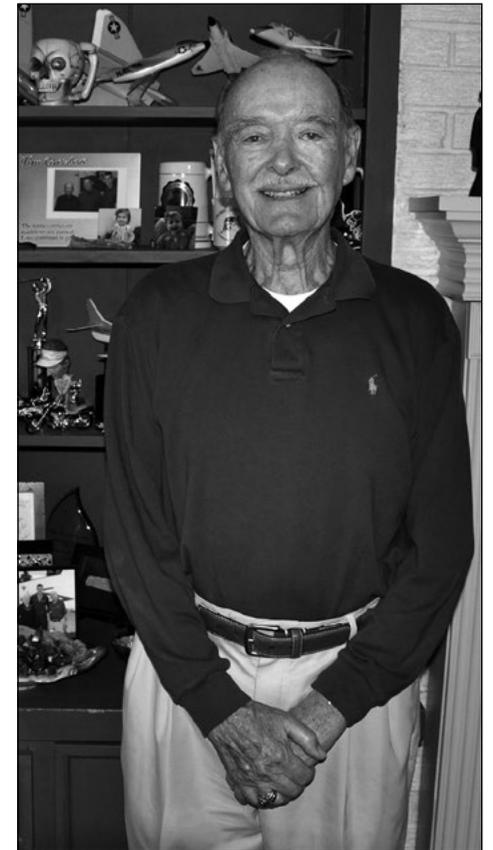
"My dad brought home an advertisement that was on a bulletin board in the building he worked in – this little flyer where the Navy was looking for people to go into this aviation program."

It was so interesting, in fact, that the 17-year old joined the Navy in April of 1946. The following month, when he graduated high school and turned 18, he was off to Ursinus College, in Collegeville, Pa., under the Naval Aviation College Program, which was also known as the Holloway Plan, named after Adm. James L. Holloway.

"It was a midshipman aviation program where we went to college for two years," Hartwell said.

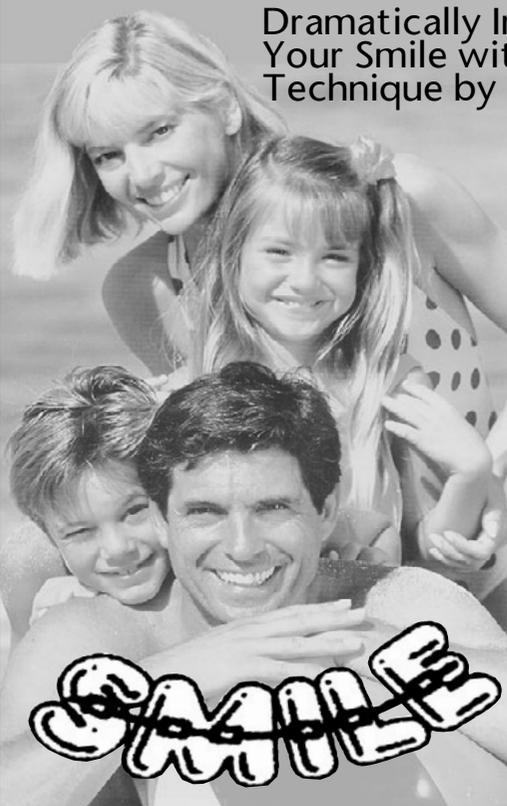
After the two years of college, the students were shipped to Pensacola, Fla., in 1948, for their initial aviator training.

"At that time, we became 4th class midshipmen while going through flight training. It took us about two years to get through, and over that period we became



Robert Hoke Hartwell

see Navy Vet on page 5



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Upcoming Community Events

Boater Education Class

TPWD will host a Boater Education Class Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The cost is \$25.00 per person. The class will be held at Padre Balli Park Admin Bldg. - Bob Hall Pier and Park Road 22. Preregistration required- Call (361) 443-4426 or Email windlinetexas@gmail.com. Contact - Chuck Pendlyshok, Area Chief and TPWD Senior Instructor #020177

“TPWD Certified Boater Education Course and Photo ID is required for any person born on or after September 1, 1993, to operate a (1) PWC or a boat with a rating of more than 15 hp; or a windblown vessel over 14 feet in length” Texas Water Safety Act - 2015

NAMI Homefront

NAMI Homefront is a free, six-session class for family, friends and significant others of Military Service Members and Veterans experiencing symptoms of a mental health condition. It focuses on the unique needs of military and Veteran communities, such as post-deployment and post-discharge transitions. NAMI Homefront online classes are scheduled for:

March 10 – April 14, 2016 (consecutive Thursdays from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. ET)

March 14 – April 18, 2016 (consecutive Mondays from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. ET) To learn more and register visit <http://bit.ly/1mt0cGX>.

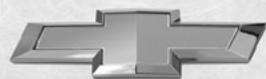
TO HAVE YOUR EVENT INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION, EMAIL AFRENCH@PLWAVE.COM. THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT EVENTS IS 10 A.M. THE FRIDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION. UPCOMING EVENTS ARE PUBLISHED AS SPACE PERMITS THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES AS TO HOW MANY TIMES AN EVENT WILL RUN. QUESTIONS REGARDING EVENTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ASHLEY AT 361-746-4341.



Run and fun – Volunteers from the Protestant congregation worked with the Religious Ministry Team to provide breakfast Feb. 24 for the participants of morning Command PT at the Protestant Chapel. Prior to the breakfast, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Sailors were joined by Marines and civilians for an arduous morning workout. The breakfast volunteers pictured below are: (first row, from left to right) Anna Resue, Connie Armstrong, Ruth Cramer, Evelyn Papasan, Nelia Gipson, Jo Hartzell, Rena Davis and (second row, last two) Lisa Fowler and Glen Fowler. Joining them are (second row, from left to right) Cmdr. Scott Wilmot, Capt. Steve Banta, CMDCM Jeffery Tidwell, Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne and AOCS Robert Newton. (Photos by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)



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Navy Vet from page 3

3rd class, then 2nd class, then by the time we got our wings, we became 1st class and stayed 1st class midshipmen until the full two years were up.”

After Pensacola, he headed to Naval Air



Hartwell (then)

Station Corpus Christi’s Cabaniss Field for his advanced aviator training in 1949.

“We had several different types of service aircraft that had been used in World War II. The F4U Corsair was the one I was taking my advanced training in. Other guys were in the F6F Hellcat or the TBM Torpedo bomber.”

Next he moved on to VX-3, one the Navy’s air development squadrons, at Atlantic City, N.J., which was part of the Navy’s research development test and evaluation command.

He said he arrived at his new duty station as “a 1st class midshipman with wings, which was the first time it ever happened – and it hasn’t since.”

Those students who completed the training at the two-year mark were promoted to ensigns and then sent out to their first duty stations. Those who completed the training early, as had Hartwell, arrived as a 1st class midshipman and then were promoted to ensign once they hit the two-year mark.

He served at VX-3 from 1950-1952 before yet another interesting opportunity arose.

“I volunteered to go to VF-74 – a fighter squadron whose air group was going to Korea,” he explained, adding there was a need for pilots for an F4U Corsair Squadron, which was the aircraft



Hartwell

he flew during his advanced training at Cabaniss Field.

“Now, two years later, I’m going to combat in it in Korea. It was an old aircraft from World War II.”

see Navy Vet on page 9

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75th Anniversary from page 1

earn their wings of gold.

Dec. 7, 1941: Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. Navy personnel, many of whom earlier were stationed in Hawaii, greet initial reports with disbelief. Leaves and holiday vacations are canceled. Training accelerates. Also, first church service held at Protestant Chapel.

Dec. 13, 1941: Training expands to seven days a week.

Dec. 21, 1941: Boot training is initiated at the air station to take some of the load off jammed Navy bases around the country. So, in addition to educating budding pilots, the base indoctrinated regular Navy recruits.

July 4, 1942: Auxiliary field at Kingsville is commissioned.

Aug. 15, 1942: Intermediate training takes over at the Corpus Christi air station; primary training is assigned to auxiliary fields around the base.

Aug. 29, 1942: A torpedo bomber squadron is commissioned at the base.

April 1, 1943: Waldron Field, one of the two auxiliary air fields in Corpus Christi still in use, is commissioned. Today, the field is used to practice landings.

May 31, 1943: Largest wartime class of cadets graduates with 331 members. During this year, a total of 1,912,000 flight hours would be logged by NAS student pilots. Graduation ceremonies would soon be held twice a week.

June 1, 1943: Chase Field near Beeville commissioned.

Aug. 6, 1945: A group of German Prisoners of War arrives to build temporary POW prison camps at the air station and surrounding fields. The camps were intended to house about 1,200 POWs. On the same day, Hiroshima is devastated by an atomic bomb.

Oct. 27, 1945: The air station hosts Navy Day festivities. The event was the first time since the bombing of Pearl Harbor that the public was allowed on the base.

March 15, 1946: The German POW camp closes. Prisoners at the camp are sent to San Antonio for processing to be sent back to their homeland.

July 1, 1946: Chase Field, the last of the auxiliary fields to be commissioned, is the first to close after the war.

Late 1946, early 1947: Waldron, Rood Field and Cuddihy fields close.

September 1946: The airfield in Kingsville closes. The



Link Trainer Instructors stand by to observe a "hop" circa 1942-1943. Link training referred to flight simulators during the time period. (File photo)

land is leased by Texas A&I University for the school's agriculture department and the barracks are used to help house the post-war surge in students.

Fall 1948: The Blue Angels, the Navy's acrobatic demonstrational team, move from NAS Jacksonville, Fla., to Corpus Christi. At the time of the move, the squad was flying F8F Bearcat, a powerful propeller airplane. Soon after, however, the Angels entered the jet age with F9F Panthers.

September 1949: The Blue Angels, after a year's stay in Corpus Christi, are transferred yet again, this time to Pensacola, Fla. On Sept. 9, the team gave a farewell performance over the Corpus Christi Bayfront.

Aug. 11, 1950: The Blue Angels are disbanded for form a combat squadron for the Korean War flying the same F9F Panther jets they performed in.

April 1, 1951: The Kingsville air field is recommissioned because of the Korean War. To accommodate jets, the base is expanded from 3,000 to 5,000 acres. The expansion includes an auxiliary field at Orange Grove.

Nov. 13, 1951: The Blue Angels are reorganized at NAS Corpus Christi.

July 1, 1954: With the number of students going through the Navy's advanced flight training program up 50 percent, Chase Field is reactivated as a jet training base.

July 1954: First jets to operate out of Corpus Christi – F9F Panthers – arrive.

July 9, 1955: The Blue Angels leave the Coastal Bend – for good, this time. Their new base of operations is Pensacola, Fla.

Nov. 26, 1957: Jet training in Corpus Christi is moved to NAS Kingsville.

July 1958: Cabaniss Field is decommissioned.

Dec. 18, 1958: Navy officials announce that the Navy Overhaul and Repair Department, which employed 3,000 civilian workers, will close. Workers are laid off in groups over the next few months and the facility shuts its doors in the summer.

Oct. 9, 1959: Seaplane training is discontinued in Corpus Christi.

April 21, 1961: The U.S. Army Aeronautical Depot Maintenance Center – ARADMAC – opens in the O&R facility site to work primarily on Army helicopters, although the facility also serviced the base's Navy planes as part of the lease agreement.



Students fly in perfect echelon as they soar across the sky in their SVN trainer aircraft. circa 1942-1943. (File photo)

see 75th Anniversary on page 7

75th Anniversary from page 6

1967: ARADMAC specializes in helicopter overhaul and repair.

May 20, 1971: A ground-breaking is held for the new naval hospital.

Early 1972: Navy advanced and basic training are combined under one command, the Naval Air Training Command in Pensacola, Fla. Shortly after the change, the command was moved from its Florida base to the air station in Corpus Christi.

March 30, 1972: Training Air Wing Four commissioned. It is one of six air wings in the Navy's flight training system and governs training at NAS Corpus Christi. Other wings cover training at different locations, including Kingsville, Chase Field, Meridian, Miss., Pensacola and Whiting Field in Florida.

June 1974: ARADMAC's name is changed to the Corpus Christi Army Depot, or CCAD.

April 7, 1977: The first T-44 Pegasus, the base's current multi-engine training, arrives.

Aug. 6, 1986: Dedication of Myron M. Truax Airfield. Lt.j.g. Myron Truax, USN Reserve, earned Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism in operations against the enemy while serving as pilot of a carrier-based Navy Fight Plane in Fighting Squadron 83 (VF-83) attached to USS Essex (CV 9) in action on during a two-plane search mission in the vicinity of the Island of Okinawa, March 27, 1945. Truax sighted an enemy combatant ship and skillfully and courageously pressed home an attack against it in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire.

April 1989: A new U.S. Customs Surveillance Center formally opens at the base. Customs aircraft had been making drug interdiction flights from the base since 1986. The new center, employing 70 Customs workers, now houses seven surveillance airplanes – two E-2Cs, four P-3As and two P-3AWFs.

March 12, 1991: 50th Anniversary

1993: Mine Warfare Command headquarters was relocated from Charleston, S.C., to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, as did the Mobile Mine Assembly Group.

June 30, 1996: Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15) moved from NAS Alameda to NASCC

1997: Naval Hospital Corpus Christi announced plans to close the emergency room and inpatient care, but remain an independent hospital command.

July 7, 1997: Laguna Shores Ground-breaking, family housing aboard NAS Corpus Christi

Feb. 14, 2008: The 34-year old, six story hospital building was officially renamed Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi.

2012: A WWII seaplane ramp was rebuilt by Navy Seabees for the MWR Marina.

2012: Navy Outlying Field Goliad opens.

April 2013: Catalina All-Hands Club opens

March 12, 2016: NASCC celebrates Diamond Anniversary



A Grumman S-2F multi-engine trainer from Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's VT-28 soars over the Corpus Christi bayfront circa late 1950s-early 1960s. Since its inception, the base has been a focal point for naval aviation training. Commissioned on March 12, 1941, NASCC will commemorate its 75th anniversary at 11 a.m. on March 12, 2016. (Courtesy photo)

75th Anniversary Schedule of Events

	March 11:	
8 a.m.	* Golf Tournament	Gulf Winds Golf Course
6 p.m.	1940s Gala	American Bank Center
	March 12:	
10 a.m.	South Gate open to base	South Entrance
11 a.m.	75 Anniversary Ceremony	Bldg. 1 (CNATRA HQ)
	Mayor Nelda Martinez (Guest Speaker)	Bldg. 1
Noon	Fly-over of vintage craft	Sea Wall
1 p.m.	Static Aircraft (Vintage & modern aircraft)	Sea Wall
	Vintage Cars	Sea Wall
	Historical Slideshow	Concert Stage
	Firefighter Reunion/Games	Field adjacent to Navy Lodge
	Food Trucks	Sea Wall
1-4:30 p.m.	Tours of Base	Sea Wall
1 p.m.	FB NJROTC Drill Team	Sea Wall
1:20 p.m.	FB Dance Team	Sea Wall
1:30 p.m.	Zumam Dance Team	Sea Wall
1:45 p.m.	MATSG-22 MCMAP Demo	Grass near Sea Wall
2:15 p.m.	Zumama Dance Team	Sea Wall
2:30 p.m.	Fire Department Demo	Sea Wall
3 p.m.	Military Working Dog Demo	Grass near Sea Wall
3:30 p.m.	USCG Search & Rescue	Bay, inside breakwater barriers
5-6 p.m.	Costello (free concert)	Concert Stage
6:30-8 p.m.	Sara Evans (free concert)	Concert Stage
8 p.m.	Concluding fireworks display	Sea Wall
	March 13:	
10:30 a.m.	* Non-Denominational Mass	Protestant Hall
Noon	* Brunch	Catalina Club

(* denotes events for those with base access)
(All projected times are as of date of publication)

Voting assistance officers provide vital information

Story and photo by Eric Lobsinger
NASCC Public Affairs Office

Voting is the right of citizens to have a voice in who becomes the decision makers in running our nation.

Some believe it is a civic duty for everyone to vote. Others may feel it is a right, for them alone, to choose whether they wish to exercise their voting privileges.

A group of professionals at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi are dedicated to help guide those who choose to execute their voting rights.

Located in Room 5054 on the 5th deck of the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, the NASCC voting assistance office is a great source for information for those wishing to exercise their voting privileges, said Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, NASCC's command chaplain, who serves as the installation voting assistance officer.

He and RP1 Michael Clayton, who also serves as NASCC's unit voting officer, are standing by to answer any question they can on where, when and how to vote in the upcoming elections.

At the voting assistance office, patrons can choose from a wide variety of informational forms and promotional items to assist them in the voting process.

Additionally, there are a dozen unit voting assistance officers assigned throughout the base to aid in the voting process.

"We are committed to helping people in knowing how, when and where they can vote," said Warne, adding that it is important for each of the voters to come to their own, independent decisions on who to vote for.

"We will not recommend how they vote. It's up to the



RP1 Michael Clayton (right), who serves as the assistant installation voting assistance officer and as NASCC's unit voting officer, reviews a voting information form with RP2 Nicole Schuster. The voting assistance office is located in an area adjacent to the chaplain's office on the 5th deck of the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi building.

individual to research, for themselves, and then to decide

who they want to vote for."

Although many may focus on voting once every four years for the presidential candidates, there are numerous significant national, state and local elections as well, such as the Senate, House of Representatives, state governors, city mayors and council members and judges – just to name a few.

"Everyone has a voice – and everyone's voice counts," said Warne.

Some may feel that their singular vote doesn't really matter and, in the grand scheme of things, their vote doesn't count. That is not true, said Warne, adding that there have been numerous elections throughout our history decided by a mere handful of votes.

"Even in election years where voters 'turn out,' the percentages of voters who actually do vote are relatively low," he said.

In presidential races, one needs to look no further than the 2000 election with the race for Florida's electoral votes. Of the almost six million votes cast, the race ... and the election ... was decided by a mere 537 votes. Other recent examples include: U.S. Senate in Minnesota – 312 votes, House of Representatives in Oklahoma – two votes, Attorney General in Virginia – 323 votes and the Governor in Washington – 133 votes.

"We are not here to persuade you who to vote for, but rather to persuade you to vote, added Clayton. "People have fought and died for their nation to ensure we have the right to exercise our right to vote.

"I believe it is our civic duty to participate in the voting process."

For more information, call 961-3751.

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Navy Vet from page 5

In fact, he added, some of the airplanes in his squadron had seen action during the Second World War.

"It was interesting – certainly," he said. "We were shooting at them – and they were shooting at us. Our mission, primarily, was dropping bombs on anti-aircraft positions so that the bombers that were coming in behind us would get less anti-aircraft fire and would be able to make their runs with less disturbance and more likely to hit their targets."

Other targets would include bombing bridges, dams and power plants. And, while they were firing their munitions downward, the enemy was firing upward.

"We would be coming down – and you would see the shots coming up," he recalled. "They looked like golf balls – like streaks coming straight up."

"They were generally 38 mm. On other targets, like over at Pyongyang, we had 88 mm 'stuff' coming up that was bursting at 10,000 feet, which was the altitude we were coming in at."

"It was pretty interesting. I never got hit or anything, but we had two fellows in the squadron who were shot down."

After his experiences in Korea, he next found himself moving to Naval Air Station Memphis, Tenn., where he would meet and marry his wife, Jo Hartwell. The

two have been together for the next three scores of years – and counting and have five children: four daughters and a son.

His son did not serve in the military but found his life's track through college. Bob said his eyes weren't good enough to be an aviator so he didn't encourage him to go into the service. His son's son, however, has chosen an aviator career path with the Navy.

His grandson is a naval aviator stationed at Naval Air Station Lemoore in California with an F-18 Super Hornet Squadron. He went through his aviator training at VT-27 at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi in 2010 and then moved on to VTG 22 for his T-45 jet training at NAS Kingsville.

Later during his career, this time as a commander, wartime service would call Hartwell once again, this time during the Vietnam War, where he served aboard aircraft carrier USS Ranger (CVA 61) as a department head for the ship's aircraft intermediate maintenance department.

"I was in the combat zone – but not flying in combat," he said. "It was interesting. I was on the ship out in the Gulf of Tonkin. It was sort of a picnic, I guess, being on the ship."

He spent two cruises in support of the war effort from 1969-1971.

In 1974, he made his final move in

the Navy, returning to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi a quarter of a century after his initial stint here. Now as a captain, he returned to serve as the head of the maintenance materiel division on the Chief of Naval Air Training staff as the assistant chief of staff for aircraft materiel until his retirement in 1978.

After his retirement, he served for four years as a loan officer at a local bank.

"I guess enticed me to look for a job in the bank was because my dad was a banker," he said. "It turned out that I didn't like it all that well."

Now, nearly four decades after he retired, he said he still enjoys being near the Navy.

His advice, for those serving, is for Sailors to work to the best of their ability and to choose for themselves whether they wish to make the service a career.

"Stay in the Navy, get your time in and then retire from the Navy. It's a good, interesting life that teaches you a lot about people," he said, adding that he felt the key to success was effort and determination.

"Stick to it: perseverance and working hard," he continued. "I wouldn't have gotten where I did, to be a captain, if I hadn't been burning the midnight oil a little bit."

He said that he and his wife of 62 years keep themselves fairly busy with



Robert Hoke Hartwell

the chapel on base and their involvement with the Salvation Army in the community.

"It's been a really interesting life," he said.

"Here I am, 88 years old in May, and it doesn't seem possible that it's all gone by that fast."

News Briefs

Show Us Your Kidneys 5k Walk & Run set for March 12

The Coastal Bend Kidney Foundation will host its inaugural "Show Us Your Kidneys" 5k Walk & Run at the Schlitterbahn Golf Course on March 12. The event will raise money for its programs and services, designed to serve the needs of kidneys disease patients in the local Coastal Bend community. Registration begins at 8 a.m., and the 5k competitive Run/Walk starts at 9 a.m. The Team Parade Walk, consisting of those affected by kidney disease and kidney professionals, begins at 10 a.m. Afterward, the participants will be treated to a healthy lunch, award ceremonies, in addition to a health fair and a children's area. To register online, visit <https://vfitproductions.webconnex.com/showmeyourkidneys5k> for the Competitive 5k Run/Walk or <http://coastalbendkidney.dojiggy.com> for the Team Parade Walk. To volunteer, visit <http://coastalbendkidney.dojiggy.com>. For more information, call the Coastal Bend Kidney Foundation at 884-5892.

Chaplain's office hosts Road to Resurrection

All are invited to attend "Road to Resurrection," an Easter event for everyone, at the Protestant Hall on March 20 at 2 p.m. The event, scheduled for approximately an hour, will include a variety of skits, activities, snacks and more. To register or for more information, call 961-3751 or visit the Chaplain's Office located on the 5th deck of the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi in Bldg. H-100.

Youth Activities Center hosts Spring Eggstravaganza

Join MWR for the Spring Eggstravaganza on March 26 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the park across the street from the Youth Activities Center. The free event includes inflatables, balloon sculptures, face painting, egg coloring, caricature artist, egg hunt, golden egg and prizes, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Food and drinks will be served. Don't forget your basket or bag for the egg hunt. For more information, call the Youth Activities Center at 961-2355.

Captain's Cup Softball League kicks off March 28

Registration is underway for the Captain's Cup Softball League, which kicks off March 28. The Deadline to register is 7 p.m., March 23 at the E-Street Gym. A mandatory Manager's meeting will be conducted at the gym at 6 p.m., March 23. Games will be played Monday and Wednesday evenings, starting at 6 p.m. on Softball Field A, with the lights. Service members, retirees, family members and civilian employees are required to pay a \$25 sports fee. For more information, call the E-Street Gym at 961-2401.

Join the Sexual Assault Awareness Run

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi Army Depot and Marine Aviation Training Support Group 22 will host a unit run at the Naval Health Clinic in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month on Friday, April 1. The schedule of events include: 6:45

a.m., Formation; 7 a.m., commander signs proclamation and chaplain addresses joint formation; 7:15 a.m., start time; 8 a.m., event completed. The order of the unit formation is: Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard. Each individual unit will carry its unit guidon at the front of their individual formation. Family members and DA civilians are invited to participate in the 2.4 mile run, and an alternate 1-mile run/walk course will be available. For more information on the Sexual Assault Awareness Run, call Ruben Ramirez at 961-5464 or email at ruben.g.ramirez.civ@mail.mil.

Marines challenge all during Buc Days 2016 Calf Scramble Challenge

The Buc Days 2016 Calf Scramble Challenge is set for April 15 at the American Bank Center. The Marines are undefeated. Who will rise to the challenge and dethrone the reigning champions? The Calf Scramble requires three motivators to quickly catch, harness and influence a calf to a designated area in the arena. The first team to pull this off will be named the 2016 Calf Scramble Champion. The Calf Scramble is only one small portion of an amazing lineup for the 25th anniversary of the Buc Days Rodeo. Buc Days is a non-profit organization that raises funds for college scholarships awarded to local area teens. So, come represent your branch of service and support the local Corpus Christi community. Only one team per service is permitted. To register your team, contact Maj. Anthony Navarrette at anthony.navarrette@navy.mil or call 961-3496.

CREDO marriage enrichment retreat open for April 15-17

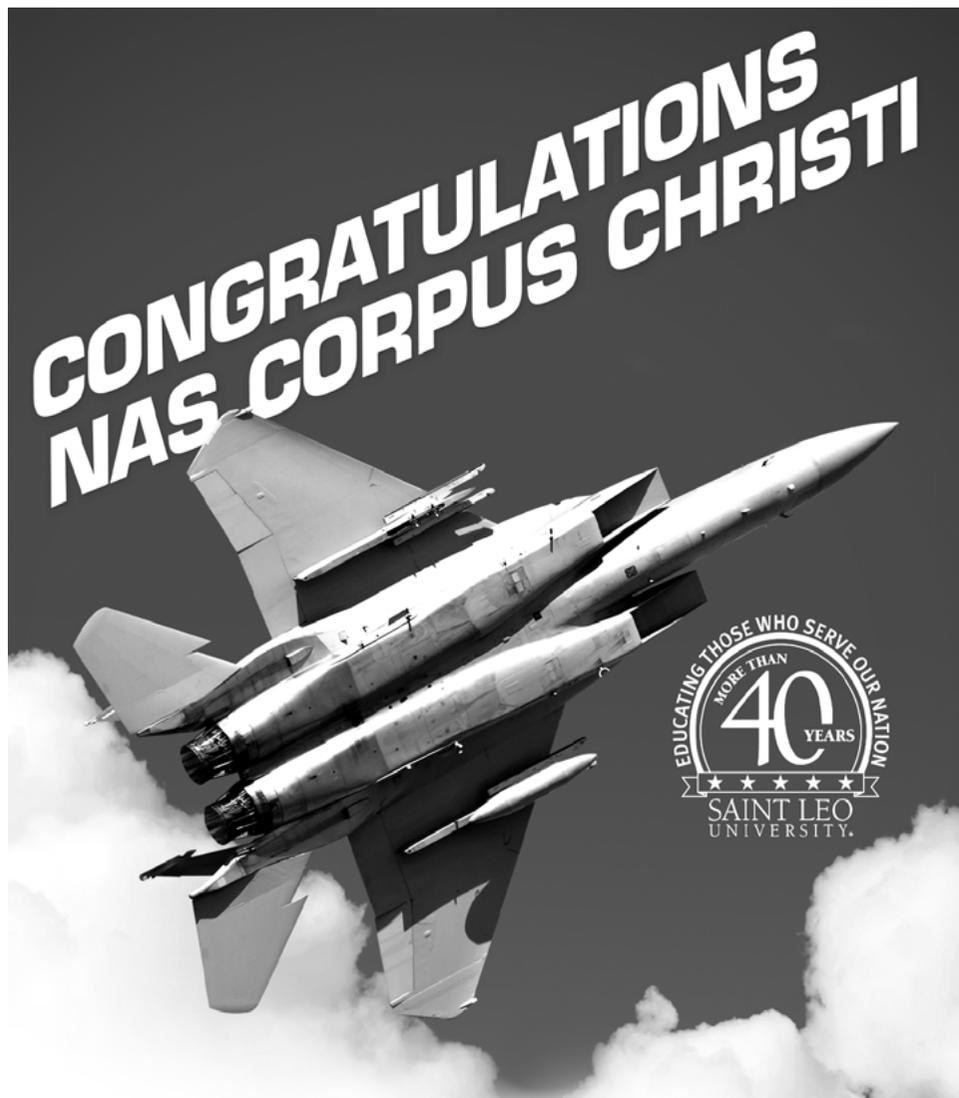
Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Outreach Southeast will host a marriage enrichment retreat April 15-17 at Camp Zephyr alongside Lake Corpus Christi. All expenses are paid. Participants must provide their own transportation to and from retreat site. Registration closes April 1. To register or for more information, contact Steven Arndt at steven.k.arndt.ctr@navy.mil or call 961-3786 or 961-5011.

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Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society announces new hours

The Corpus Christi office of Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has adjusted its operating hours to 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Emergency assistance will be available over the phone after hours via the Armed Forces Emergency Service Center at (877) 272-7337. For more information, call the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society office at 961-3482.



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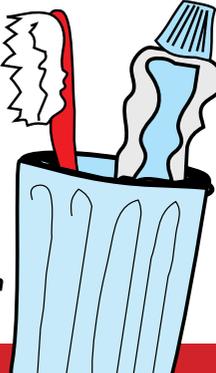
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