



# WINGSPAN



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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

August 25, 2016

## Operation Homefront, NASCC team up

by Jason Kucera  
NASCC Public Affairs

A new school year means new clothes and school supplies for the kids. To help ease those expenses for military families in the Coastal Bend, Operation Homefront hosted a Back-to-School Brigade school supply distribution aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Aug. 12.

More than 400 family members walked into the Catalina Club that day to find thousands of dollars of donated school supplies free to each school-aged child.

Mary Jane Garza, NASCC military school liaison officer to the area's schools said, "Military families move nine-to-12 times throughout their career. This is our way of giving back and saying welcome to NAS Corpus Christi. We value you and we want to help your children be successful."

From crayons to pencils, plain paper to construction paper, children and their parents had a lot to choose from to ensure their children start off the school year with one less worry.

"This is the third year we've been doing Operation Homefront here, giving school supplies to our military families that need them," said Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer of NASCC. "This is an opportunity for our local community to give back showing the appreciation they have for our military. We love the support we receive from South Texas, particularly Corpus Christi."

Chelsea Nye, a spouse to a local Coast Guard Reservist, along with her three young children came in because it's as convenient as a one-stop shop. "Being able to pick up everything on a list, even



Chelsea Nye, center, speaks with a volunteer at Operation Homefront Aug. 12. Nye, along with her three children, were gearing up for the start of a new school year while receiving donated school supplies.

hand sanitizer and tooth brushes, goes a really long way in helping us out getting started," Nye said.

Parents pre-registered their children ahead of time so they could get in that morning seamlessly for their supplies. Children also received new backpacks that truly come in handy when picking up a school year worth of supplies.



### Top Nurse retires

--page 3



### Honoring Our Veterans

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### Bravo Zulu

-- page 7



MAC Bret Hinson and MA3 Crystal Worden conduct active shooter training at Noble Elementary in Aransas Pass, Tx.

## Aransas Pass PD, NASCC Security train together

ARANSAS PASS, Texas- Local law enforcement personnel were provided active shooter response training Aug. 5 courtesy of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Security and Aransas Pass Police Department.

Officers from across the region participated in the two-day training that took place at the Walter Noble Elementary School on Wheeler Street in Aransas Pass.

Aransas Pass Investigator and Training Specialist Frank Kent said this one of the first classes of this type organized by the

Aransas Pass Police Department and he hopes to offer the class more often as time and funding permits.

"Larger departments across the state do this type of training as routine and it is not as prevalent in smaller communities, but we are hoping to change this," stated Kent. "In today's world of heightened threats to law enforcement and domestic terrorism, we must maintain our readiness and be sure we are prepared," he said.

Aransas Pass has quickly become a focal point of training in the law enforcement

See Training on pg. 7

## Captain's Column



Capt. Steve Banta  
Commanding Officer



### Feds Feed Families

The annual charity drive to support local food banks will end on Wed, Aug. 31. If you wish to contribute, please consider picking up a donation bag at the NASCC Commissary. If you wish to directly donate food items or money, please call the Chaplain's office at 361-961-3751/2 for further information.

### Hurricane Preparedness

It's been a quiet hurricane season so far, though we are already on the seventh named storm.

We are approaching the peak of the season in South Texas - between August and mid-September - so I hope you and your families are remaining ready should a storm approach the Texas Gulf Coast.

Storms associated with hurricanes and tropical storms can cause loss of life

and catastrophic damage to property along coastlines and can extend several hundred miles inland. Damaging effects can also include disruption of transportation, power, communications and other services, as well as flooding from heavy rains and storm surge.

It's difficult to accurately predict the path of the storm in advance. The key to safety is to be prepared and to stay informed.

If you haven't prepared already, prepare now to protect yourself, your family and your property. It will enable you to act quickly if the time comes.

Basic preparedness tips include: knowing where to go if you are ordered to evacuate, knowing the local hurricane evacuation routes to take and having a plan regarding where you can stay.

You should also have a disaster supply kit prepared that includes a flashlight, batteries, cash, first aid supplies and copies of your critical information, if you need to evacuate. If you are not in an area that is advised to evacuate and you decide to stay in your home, have adequate supplies in case you lose power and water for several days and you're not able to leave because of flooding or impassable roads.

You should also have in place an emergency communication plan because your family may not be together if a disaster strikes. Some things to consider include: how will the family get emergency alerts

and warnings; how will the family get to safe locations; how will family members get in touch if cell phone, internet, or landlines don't work; how will you let your family know you are safe; and where should family members plan to meet after an emergency.

The National Weather Service issues hurricane watches and hurricane warnings with the intention to provide adequate time for evacuation. If you wait for actual confirmation of a catastrophic storm, you may be trapped by high winds, flooding, or traffic.

Receiving timely information about weather conditions or other emergency events can make all the difference in knowing when to take action to be safe. We will be sharing messages from the National Weather Service and local media via Twitter at @NASCC-CEM, on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NASCorpusChristi](http://www.facebook.com/NASCorpusChristi), via e-mails, and with other mass notification systems.

Additionally, the NASCC Emergency Manager sends out AtHoc alerts to all who are registered. If you haven't already, contact the EM at (361) 961-1725 to register your contact numbers for the alerts. You can also get a wealth of information from various websites including: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), [www.ready.navy.mil](http://www.ready.navy.mil), [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov), [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov), [www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes), [www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart](http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart) and [www.disastersafety.org/hurricane](http://www.disastersafety.org/hurricane).

Be prepared and Stay Safe!

## Chaplain's Message



### Faith Boosters!

Lt. Kevin Jackson  
Command Chaplain

Can you believe it? It is time for school again. Many of our young people have already started their new year of learning and meeting new friends. For some of our children, this new experience may bring on some anxiety. This is especially true if this is their first year of school or a transitioning year to grade school, junior high or high school. What can parents do to ease their

anxiety and fears? Use your faith as "Faith Boosters!" for your child.

Faith Boosters are those encouraging words and phrases derived from religious scripture texts and even wise sayings. In other words, use your faith to give your child the extra motivation and encouragement that they may need throughout the school year. Here are a few suggestions:

- Begin your morning by sharing an encouraging phrase or thought that is representative of your faith. As a result, the seed planted will help your child strive for a successful day of learning.

- Take a moment each morning to pray with your child or speak a blessing over him or her for their protection and success in school.

I'm passionate about keeping our military informed, that includes all of our families and DoD civilian workforce. One cannot accomplish the mission without the support of the other and so it goes.

If you are interested in getting something covered that pertains to NASCC and our large, extended family please contact me at [jason.kucera@navy.mil](mailto:jason.kucera@navy.mil) or (361) 961-3420.

It's great to be a part of an awesome team here. I look forward to continuing to bring you the highest-quality Navy newspaper around...of course, my background is in broadcast journalism so we'll see!

- Write letters of encouragement. Give a sealed copy of the letter to your child's teacher and tell them to give it to your child when he or she is having a challenging day.

- If school work becomes a challenge, use your faith principles to build your child's confidence. Their confidence coupled with academic assistance will keep them encouraged.

- Celebrate! Encourage! Reward! Positive feedback is an excellent tool to build your child's resiliency.

- Take the details of a challenging day as an opportunity to integrate your faith principles. As your child makes the connection between faith and everyday life situations at school, he or she will become stronger in their individual faith.

It is my hope and prayer that every child will excel to his or her God-given potential this school year. Don't forget, parents, boost your child's school year with your faith.

### WORSHIP SERVICES ABOARD NASCC:

#### 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.

## Wingspan

The *Wingspan* is published every other week by *The Port Lavaca Wave*, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas. The *Wingspan* is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Navy, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, or *The Port Lavaca Wave*, of the products and services advertised herein. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher may refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. All editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Public Affairs Office. Comments, letters, or suggestions should be sent via e-mail to: [nascc-pao@navy.mil](mailto:nascc-pao@navy.mil). To advertise in the *Wingspan*, contact *The Port Lavaca Wave* at [afrench@plwave.com](mailto:afrench@plwave.com) or call (361) 746-4341.

Capt. Steve Banta  
Commanding Officer

Fifi Kieschnick  
Public Affairs Officer

Jason Kucera  
Editor



Wingspan



NASCC Facebook



This paper is published for people like Spc. Ricky Waters, with CCAD's Security Department. Waters is a native of Indianhead, Md., and has 4 years of U.S. Army service.

## News Briefs

### Bayside Pool

With school starting, the Bayside Pool is nearing the end of its open season. The Bayside Pool will be open the following days until the end of the Season which is on Labor Day, September 5, 20106.

Aug. 26: Closed

Aug. 27 - 28: 1300 - 1800

Aug. 29 - September 2: Closed

Sept. 3 - 5: 1300 - 1800

### Youth Activities Center

Registration for School Age Care and Teens Before School program at the Youth Activities Center is going on now.

Need a safe place for your child before or after school? Look no further, Youth Activities (SAC) is open from 5 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Children will participate in cooking, arts & crafts, science, team building and much more! Fees are based on the family income, multi-child discount is available. Teens Before School is available for 13 - 18 years old from 5:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. for free. Register your children at [militarychildcare.com](http://militarychildcare.com)

### Housing Available

On-base Public Private Venture housing has a limited number of three and four bedroom homes with move-in dates within the next 30 days.

If you are interested in housing information including prices, sizes and amenities, or to set up an appointment to view a home, call the South Texas Military Housing PPV office at (361) 937-0190. The housing office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For information about applying for on-base housing, call the Navy Housing Office at 961-1704, 961-2869 or 961-1702. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Motorcycle Safety

For Active Duty Personnel refer to OPNAVINST 5100.12 J for training requirements or contact your designated Command Motorcycle Safety Representative.

Enroll at [www.navymotorcyclerider.com](http://www.navymotorcyclerider.com) or for those who use ESAMS, go to My Links, Classroom Schedule and enroll.

Basic Rider Course

Sept. 10-11

Advanced Rider Course

Aug. 29

Sept. 26

Experienced Rider Course/BRC-2

Sept. 16

If you have questions about the course content, call the instructor Mr. Norm White at 817-845-6174.



Registration: August 1<sup>st</sup> – September 2<sup>nd</sup>

\$50.00 per participant; includes jersey, shorts, trophy, and picture.

Parent Orientation/Skills Assessment: September 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

All levels of play are welcome.

Practice: Starts September 12<sup>th</sup>

Monday through Thursday after 5pm at Youth Activities, exact date and time dependent on the team.

Season: September 23<sup>rd</sup> – November 10<sup>th</sup>

Games will be held every Friday at the E Street Gymnasium from 5pm to 8pm .

\*Pre Requisites: Training Video (Completed prior to registering)

Parents will be required attend orientation and view a 20-minute online training video Introduction to Being a Model Youth Sport Parent.

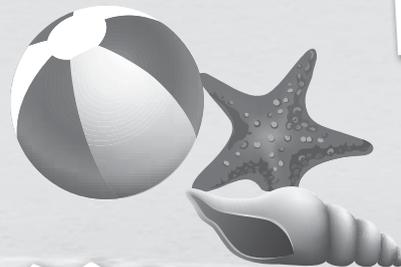
<https://www.nays.org/parents/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL YOUTH ACTIVITIES 361-961-2355



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## What's Happening?

**On-Going**  
Volunteer opportunities via Coastal Bend Connection  
www.cbvc.org

**Wednesdays**  
Downtown Farmers Market, 5-8 p.m.  
Art Center, free,  
growlocalstx.com

**Aug. 25 and on..**  
Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service at Padre Island National Seashore. It's always open and active duty military and retirees are always free.

**Aug. 26-28**  
Hunting and Fishing Extravaganza 2016  
American Bank Center  
Doors open Friday 3 p.m.  
Free entry for military and veterans.

**Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m.**  
Harbor Playhouse presents  
Schoolhouse Rock Live!  
Tickets \$18 adults, \$15 military, seniors and students, \$10 children

**Sept. 1**  
Orchidology Class  
Botanical Gardens  
7 p.m., free.  
Call (361) 290-7429

**Sept. 2**  
First Friday at the  
Art Museum of South Texas  
Free entry 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
361-825-3500  
artmuseum@tamucc.edu

*If you have or know  
of an event to list,  
e-mail nascc-pao@navy.mil.*

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# Navy Nurse Corps, Clinic, bid farewell to Capt. Cavallario



Rear Adm. Rebecca J. McCormick-Boyle, commander, Navy Medicine Education and Training Command, and Director, Navy Nurse Corps, presents the Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award) to Capt. Dawn M. Cavallario for outstanding meritorious service while serving as Director, Branch Health Clinics, Naval Health Clinic, Corpus Christi, Texas from July 2013 to September 2016.

Cavallario's award citation specified that she significantly improved the quality and access to health care for a population of approximately 13,000 beneficiaries in four geographically dispersed locations. Her leadership and mentorship of 486 military, civilian and contract personnel throughout the command, its branch health clinics, and San Antonio Detachment (SA Det.) was infectious. She engaged members of the Army and Navy leadership at Joint Base Fort Sam Houston to establish a memorandum of understanding to relocate and realign the SA Det., providing better support of Navy and Marine Corps Wounded, Ill, and Injured patients and their families. She spearheaded Branch Health Clinic Kingsville's transition from Family Practice to a Medical Home Port model, leading to the application for National Committee on Quality Assurance Level 3 recognition. Both branch clinics were awarded the Surgeon General's Blue "H" Gold Star for 2014 and 2015. Her superb direction and guidance enabled aggressive template management that led to a decrease in third next available appointments from two days to 0.6 days, increased primary care manager continuity from 41 percent to 92 percent and increased patient satisfaction from 67 percent to 98 percent. As senior nurse executive, she developed and implemented a nursing competency program, garnering a 99 percent completion rate; the program was recognized across Navy Medicine as a best practice. Cavallario's superior performance of duty during this period is the hallmark of a career devoted to accomplishing broad and diverse tasks which highlighted the culmination of 27 years of honorable and dedicated naval service. (Photo by HM3 Bryan G. Kanthack)



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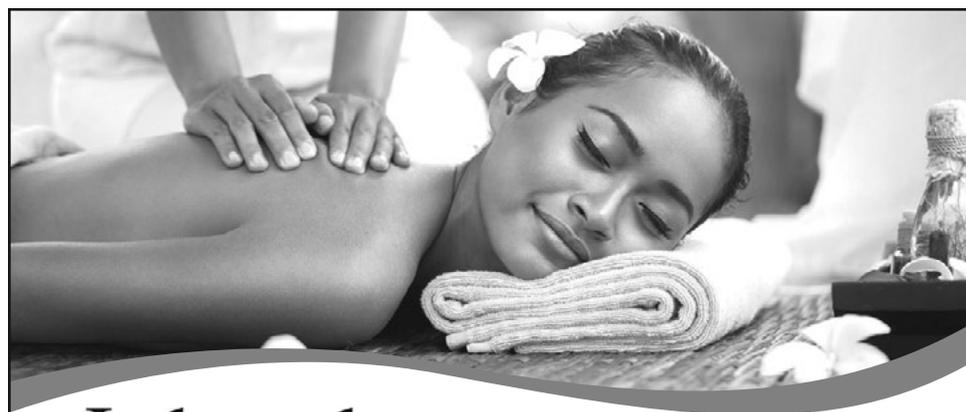
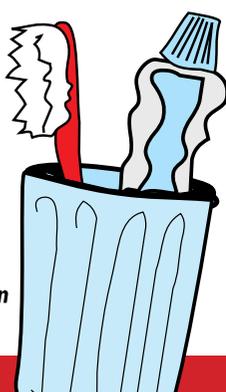
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## Honoring Our Veterans

Editor's Note: This is part one in a series highlighting veterans in our community.

# Former NASCC CO, roots planted firmly in South Texas

by Fifi Kieschnick  
NASCC Public Affairs

When Rocco Montesano came to South Texas the summer of 1994, he didn't expect the warm welcome he received from the local community.

"The people here are the most military friendly I've ever met compared to anywhere else I've lived," Montesano said.

So, when he retired here from the U.S. Navy in 1998, he and his family decided to make Corpus Christi their home.

The native of Hackensack, N.J., grew up in a family of school superintendents. So a career in education was a possibility for him.

But, he says, as a youngster something he encountered on a field trip with his Cub Scout group to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., stuck with him. He saw an F-100 jet fighter and thought it would "be cool" to be a jet pilot.

"And, I didn't outgrow it." He added that he really didn't know much about the Navy, just what he heard from a Navy ROTC presentation at his high school. Nonetheless, he applied to the Naval Academy.

"In 1967, the war in Vietnam was still going on. People were getting their draft numbers and I decided to apply to the Naval Academy, to achieve my dream of flying," Montesano said.

His first two years, he studied Naval Engineering, but graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in management in 1971. He completed his first carrier landings in July 1973 on USS Lexington (CV 16), when it was in use as a training carrier. Montesano earned his Wings of Gold in August 1973.

Montesano said he got out of the Navy in 1979 to fly with the airlines, but was later furloughed. Though, he says, he found that he missed the challenge of Navy flying and working with people. He discovered that the Navy still needed pilots with his skills, so he went back in (the service), with orders to fly A-6 Intruders on board USS Midway in Japan.

As a Navy jet aviator, Montesano held a variety of positions while serving in several carrier-based aircraft squadrons, including commanding officer. He has logged more than 5,500 flight hours and 900 carrier landings.

He served as a staff member of Naval Central Command in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during Desert Shield/Desert Storm and subsequently headed the test and evaluation of Air Programs in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C.

He was the commanding officer of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi from 1994 to 1996, and served as Manpower Director for the Chief of Naval Air Training until retiring here in 1998.

Montesano and his family decided to



Montesano, today, in front of his A-6 Intruder that is on the flight deck of USS Lexington Museum.

stay in Corpus Christi following his 30-year career. And, he accepted the position of Executive Director of USS Lexington Museum, which he enjoys and keeps him challenged.

The Lexington is open year-round seven days a week for touring and special events. Montesano says he works for a board of directors, and besides overseeing the day-to-day operations of the museum, he directs the procurement and storage of collections and displays, and monitors special events. For example, next month, the Lexington will be hosting the Historic Naval Ships Association 2016 Conference, so he and his staff have been "sprucing up" the World War II Essex Class aircraft carrier.

"This is a great job. I can make a direct impact and see the results of my decisions," he said. "I also am appreciative of the support of the community."

He says he would advise others to join the military. He realizes that the social issues of today and challenges of leadership are different, but the military offers a great



Montesano, right, during Operation Earnest Will in the late 1980s.

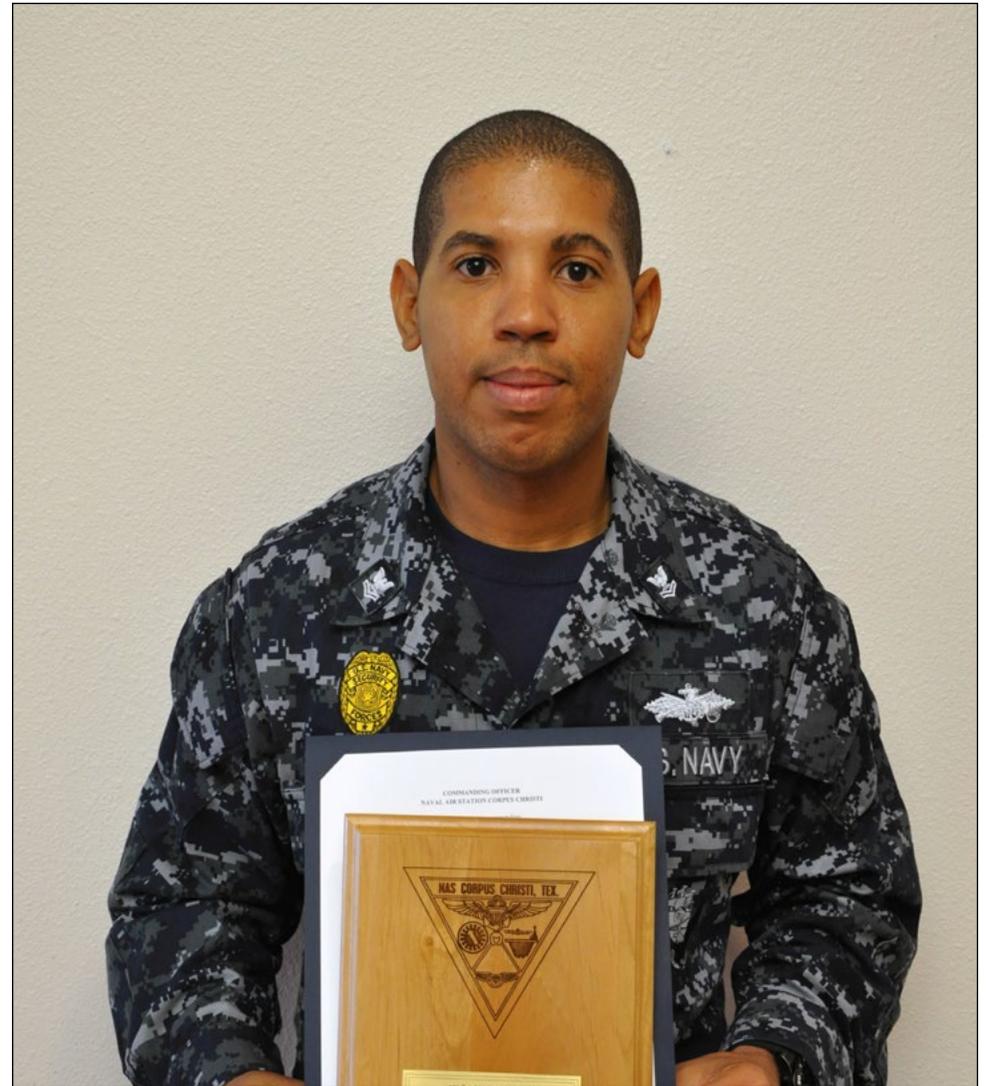
experience for young people.

"It's a good place to find yourself and get a skill. But, if you want to fly, fly Navy. It's

the most challenging and the Navy trains the best pilots."

## Bravo Zulu

NASCC held an All Hands Call and awards ceremony recently. Dozens of personnel were recognized for their achievements. Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer, presented the awards. Pictured here, from top left, clockwise are: ACAN George Ochoa being recognized as Blue Jacket of the Quarter; MA2 Vicacy St John displaying his award for Junior Sailor of the Quarter; Joey Elliott being awarded a certificate for his achievement of 20 years of service; and Ward Hawkins being recognized as Senior Civilian of the Quarter. Photos of all the awardees can be found on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NASCorpusChristi/>.



Training cont. from pg.1



From l to r, MA1 John Hoffman, Kevin Gillum, MAC Bret Hinson and MA3 Crystal Worden after a long day of training with APPD and other local law enforcement agencies.

community under Chief Eric Blanchard, who has taken the department to new heights over the past few years, and now offer an array of hands-on and classroom training.

As part of the training, special operational and tactical specialists from the NASCC

participated. Kent says he and some of his fellow law enforcement officers were in touch early in the planning process and a request was made to the NASCC by Kent for help and future consideration.

MA1 John Hoffman, NASCC Security,

was one of those specialists to help provide some of that training to other officers.

“The training we provided the other officers will build their skills to better prepare them in an active shooter situation,” Hoffman said. “We all worked well together and we look forward to working with other law enforcement in the area.”

According to Kent the NASCC security forces train on active shooter response and scenarios and are well adapted to today’s dangers that face the community and law enforcement. Kent explained that in most active shooter scenarios things happen quickly and proper training is the number one factor between life and death.

Kent said “On average, an active shooter scenario will last only five to ten minutes, but in that short period of time many lives can be lost,” he said. “It is our job to bring that shooter down under any circumstance if they are in the process of killing innocent people,”

As part of the training, police used low-

velocity rounds that are made with pink soap. These rounds, though non-lethal, are quite painful and will definitely be a something that reinforces to an officer what they are really training for and that pain is a reminder that they were just shot and in real life would most likely been killed or seriously injured.

“Using these type of rounds make the training more realistic and more comparable to a real active shooter scenario,” Kent said. “If you are shot during this training you will definitely remember it and it will leave a bruise on you,” he said.

Officers would not allow for video to be taken during the training, nor would they allow for reporters to witness all aspects of what they were doing, but Kent says this is nothing more than a precautionary move to ensure tactics are kept secret.

“There is more to responding to an active shooter than simply entering a building and firing back,” said Kent. “We have particular set of things we do and steps we take to assure that everyone goes home at the end of the day, even if something as tragic as active shooter situation takes place”

Kent says at the end of the day the most important thing to do is save lives, and being prepared is the best and the first line of defense in bringing a violent situation to a quick end. (Courtesy of The Coastal Bend Chronicle)

## Summer Bash brings out thousands for day of fun

Thanks to MWR and several sponsors, military and DoD civilian families kicked the end of summer away prior to the new school year with a bang at Sunfish Beach aboard NASCC Aug. 13. From kettle corn to gourmet burgers, kayaks and giant floats to climb on there was a long list of activities. Live music and ice cold sno-cones kept it cool while several brave souls tried out the mobile zip line that was also there for the day. Check out more photos of the event and other MWR sponsored events on their Facebook page. (Photos courtesy NASCC MWR)



# Corpus Christi Army Depot graduates class of future leaders

By Brigitte Rox  
CCAD Public Affairs

While students throughout Corpus Christi prepared for their first day of school, Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) honored the latest graduating class of Upward Leader Investment for Tomorrow (UPLIFT) August 19th at the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Wings Auditorium.

The graduating UPLIFT Class 16-1 is part of a growing alumni of future civilian leaders. CCAD's on-site course builds from the Army Materiel Command's premier program that develops civilian leaders through the Army's core leadership competencies.

The course was designed at CCAD by the Workforce Development Division for CCAD non-supervisory personnel.

Twenty-three Army civilians stepped up to the challenge.

Event speaker and UPLIFT trainer, Sergeant First Class Patrick Gallagher, spoke about the panel interviews that prefaced the UPLIFT course. Nominees were asked to recall times they failed as leaders.

"If only they had known that was the easiest day of the program," he commented.

Once selected, UPLIFT students spent the next half-year juggling program coursework along with their existing responsibilities at

work and at home.

"They were repeatedly challenged and tested," Gallagher said. But the 16-1 class proved their abilities. As students brought their shared drive and determinism to each lesson, they quickly coalesced into high functioning teams.

Students also shadowed a number of CCAD's most influential mentors and leaders, like Marc Gonzalez, Director of Engines and Powertrain Production, who delivered the keynote address.

Craig Tuttle, Senior Instructor and curriculum writer for UPLIFT, ensured the course wasn't a simple overview of leadership attributes. Students engaged in the psychodynamics of interpersonal communication and the Army problem-solving method to prepare them to effectively manage the Army Soldier-Civilian dynamic they would encounter in the Army's organic industrial base.

"Soldier and Army Civilian alike, by doctrine and profession, by word and deed, we are members of the same team," Gallagher said at the graduation.

"Where the Soldier creed declares 'I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army values,' it is matched by the Army Civilian Corps creed which states: 'I live the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect,



Graduates of the latest class spent six months working through the program's curriculum to achieve success. To qualify for the course, potential students must be nominated by a supervisor and undergo an application process that includes a Q&A before a panel of judges.

selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage."

UPLIFT offers a unique experience for Army civilian employees to acquire critical leadership skills and to learn from industry and professional leaders. For more informa-

tion about CCAD's UPLIFT program and how to apply for the next course offering, call (361) 961-7003.

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# Navy College closing, transitioning to virtual center across fleet

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas. -- With the announcement of the closings of 16 stateside Navy College Offices on Oct. 1 of this year, and the remaining four (Norfolk, San Diego, Jacksonville and Kitsap) closing by Oct. 1 2017, many Sailors are asking how they will start or continue their education.

After Oct. 1, the majority of Voluntary Education services in the Continental United States will be provided by the education counselors at the Navy College Program's Virtual Education Center (VEC).

According to Ernest D'Antonio, Naval Education and Training Professional Development Center's VOLED program director, the goal of restructuring service delivery is to provide Sailors the educational tools and information when and where they need it.

The VEC call center hours are from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST Monday – Friday and may be reached by calling: (877) 838-1659 or DSN 492-4684, or at VEC@navy.mil.

"This new VOLED structure will make educational programs, including counseling, Tuition Assistance and testing services accessible for all Sailors in the continental U.S. through a combination of self-service and virtual services," said D'Antonio.

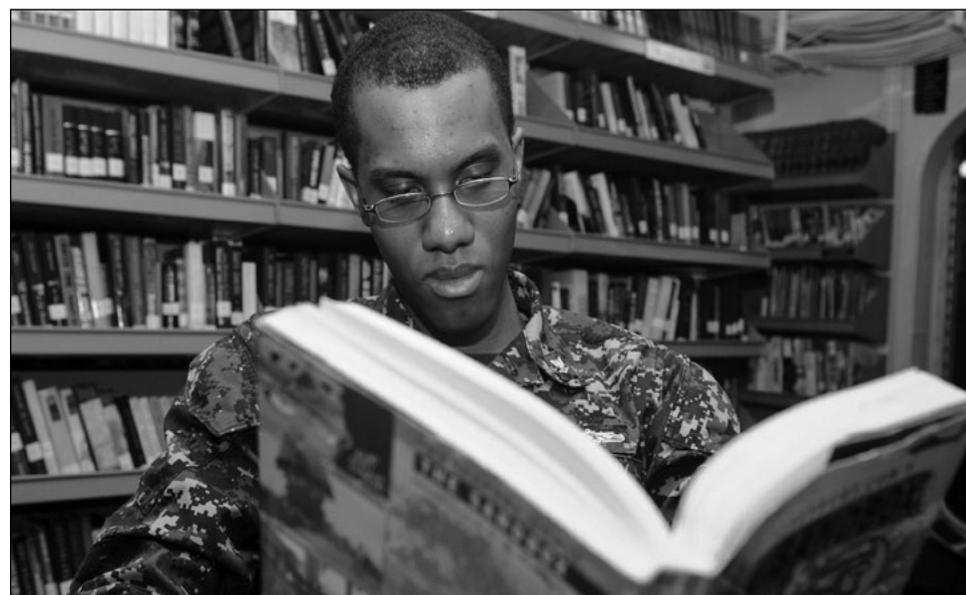
"The colleges themselves will still have access to bases for teaching courses and

counseling students."

The Corpus Christi Navy College Office will close on Oct. 1, but academic institutions with partnership agreements will continue to provide services as they have in the past. Currently, Corpus Christi is served by: Coastline Community College; Embry Riddle Aeronautical University; and Saint Leo University.

The four NCOs staying open until October 2017 will continue to provide full services, including counseling and testing, until they close.

Most of the current steps in the voluntary education (VOLED) process will not change under the new service delivery model. Sailors are expected, both now and in the future, to talk with their chain of command about pursuing an education program; research education programs via the Navy College Program website and the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) website, including completing information modules such as the DANTES Higher Education Preparatory Course and/or TA Decide; receive counseling from a Navy College Program education counselor; work with an approved academic institution to develop an education and degree plan; meet all Navy eligibility requirements to use TA,



As of Oct. 1, Sailors will need to transition to the Virtual Education Center from strictly receiving education counseling locally. The change will broaden services according to the Navy.

including completion of Navy WebTA training and TA applications that will be approved by the Sailor's command; and successfully complete their academic courses.

The MyEducation portal on the Navy College website is available 24/7 for Sailors to establish and monitor their accounts, ensure their degree plans are current and verify they have received education counseling.

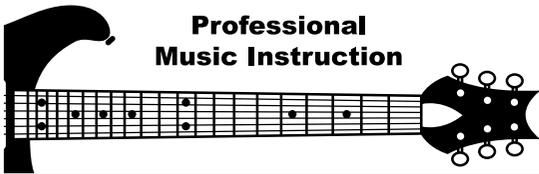
For more information on the Navy College Program and the Virtual Education Center visit <https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/>.

Follow Navy Voluntary Education on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/NavyVoluntaryEducation/>.

Additional information about the Naval Education and Training Professional Development Center can be found via <https://www.netc.navy.mil/netc/netpdc>.

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