



# WINGSPAN



2015 Russell Egnor Navy Media Award winning newspaper

Vol. 22, No. 18

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

September 8, 2016

## Senator impressed with local ops

by Jason Kucera  
NASCC Public Affairs

Texas Senator Ted Cruz visited Naval Air Station Corpus Christi on Aug. 25, as part of his tour of military installations throughout the state. Cruz and some of his staff met with base leadership, received a briefing on the base's goals and long-term needs, and toured the installation.

Cruz visited the NASCC tower and talked with Sailors in the air traffic control tower getting a first-hand look at their "daily grind." He spoke with AC1 Joshua Otwell at length on his mission in the tower.

Otwell said, "We stay extremely busy every day. It's neat to have a visitor now and then to show this to."

It wasn't just Cruz who was interested in what the Sailors and civilian staff accomplish, as his staff members also stayed engaged with personnel.

Down on the flight line, Navy and Marine Corps instructor pilots showed off their aircraft to the Texas senator. Lt. Dave Larnerd, of Training Squadron 28, (pictured above with Cruz) discussed the capabilities of the training aircraft. The Senator also climbed onto the T-6 and into the T-44 and C-12, to see first-hand the aircraft the pilots training in.

Prior to heading off to see the flight simulators, Cruz told said he was very impressed



Air traffic controllers discuss their mission with Senator Ted Cruz and his staff members during their visit aboard NASCC Aug. 25.

with what he'd seen.

After his visit to NASCC, the senator met with the Corpus Christi mayor for lunch, and later in the day, held a roundtable discussion

with local military veterans and veteran community leaders, to discuss issues facing veterans every day.



### Pounds of charity

-- page 5



### Honoring our Veterans

-- page 6



### Blue Angels take flight

-- page 7



MAC Samantha Carpenter and PSCS Paul Perez, both play significant roles in helping NASCC remain a great place to work every day.

by Jason Kucera  
NASCC Public Affairs

The Equal Opportunity and command climate programs are in place to ensure that every Sailor and civilian personnel are given ample resources to a welcoming working environment across the Department of Defense.

PSCS (AW/SW) Paul Perez, assigned to NASCC as the command climate specialist, is the driving force behind the program here. Since arriving, he is everywhere and then some, promoting and managing what needs to take place to ensure an environment of inclusion.

"I'm not here to enforce, but here to support and help service members and civilians know where to go, who to speak with and ensure they have that workplace they want to come to every day," he said.

MAC (EX/AW) Samantha Carpenter, command equal opportunity manager, has been serving in her role for the past 18 months.

"I take care of anything that comes in as far as sexual harassment or discrimination issues for the Sailors," Carpenter says. "Civilians can also come to us; however they must use EEO to formalize any complaints I would take down information and help point them in the right direction."

Perez explains, "There are six bases of discrimination (and harassment) that we

See CME0 pg. 8

## Executive Officer's Column



Cmdr. Scott Wilmot  
Executive Officer

Recycling is a common practice for most of us. We are encouraged to recycle paper and plastics at home. Some of us also recycle glass and toner cartridges, among other items.

Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash. In collecting these materials we are the first step in turning them into new products. It also helps reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills; conserves natural resources such as timber and water; saves energy; and helps sustain the environment for future generations.

For a recycling program to work, a large, stable supply of recyclable material is important. Aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, we don't have a large, stable supply. That is why we don't have a formal recycling program on base.

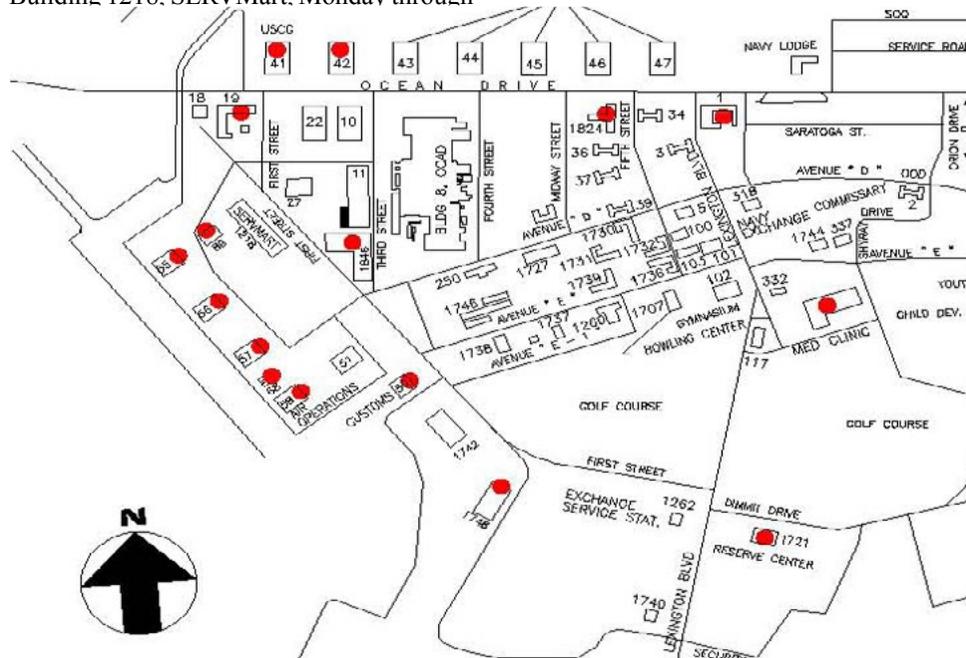
Though, Public Works does manage a voluntary recycling program aboard the installation.

The most visible is white paper as there are 15 recycling containers for white paper and cardboard throughout the base. Locations include: Hangers 41, 42, 56-58, Customs,

Reserve Center, Naval Health Clinic, and Buildings 1, 19, 1748, 1824, and 1846.

Although voluntary, participation is greatly appreciated to demonstrate that we are working together to divert waste from entering landfills. For more information about how you or your command can participate in white paper recycling or have recommendations to improve the recycling of white paper, contact Lelet Graves, solid waste program manager, at 961-5356.

Toner cartridges can also be recycled on base. Please turn in your empty cartridges to Building 1218, SERV Mart, Monday through



## Chaplain's Message



### Knights of Columbus

Father John Vidal

Soon after I became Catholic, almost five years ago, I was invited to join a Catholic fraternal organization called the Knights of Columbus (KoC). In this issue's column I want spend a little time talking about the KoC. My general hope is to encourage each of us to search out a similar organization which is in line with our specific faiths and spiritual beliefs. One example would be the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts service organizations for young people.

The KoC is a fraternal organization founded on four principles: charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

The principle of charity is based on the belief that we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves, members of the KoC work to demonstrate this love by performing a large variety of charitable work such as helping the poor and the hungry with donations of food to local food pantries and soup kitchens, caring for pregnant women who are struggling and choose life for their babies,

volunteering to work at and raising money to support, a variety of projects and initiatives of Catholic Churches and their surrounding communities.

One national initiative is in support of Special Olympics. In 2015 Knights worldwide volunteered more than 73.5 million hours and gave over \$175 million to various charitable and church needs. Some examples of these include support of Middle Eastern refugees and those affected by the recent floods in the southern states.

These amazing statistics are a result of working together in unity making our contributions stronger and allowing us to work better in our communities.

The KoC was formed in 1882 by Michael J. McGivney to support families who lost their breadwinner, usually by premature death from industrial accidents. Members of the fraternity paid dues which were used to form a fund for financial support and gave of their time to assist in the care of the sick and/or disabled of their member families.

Today, this financial fund has grown into a top rated insurance program available to members and their immediate families.

Finally, Knights are proud to support their countries by encouraging all members to be some of their nation's most outstanding citizens.

I encourage all to find faith based organi-

Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 939-9269/7453.

Also, John Phillips, environmental services supervisor, can help you coordinate the disposal of your used oil and batteries. Call him at 961-3760 for information.

Please do your part to help keep NAS Corpus Christi clean and comply with the environmental rules. And if you have any questions about the recycling program, contact Public Works at 961-5356.

## Wingspan

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Capt. Steve Banta  
Commanding Officer

Fifi Kieschnick  
Public Affairs Officer

Jason Kucera  
Editor



Wingspan



NASCC Facebook

zations like the Knights of Columbus. If you are a Catholic man, I encourage you to join your local council. Most Catholic Churches in town have a council and members of the Catholic Chapel work closely with the Padre Balli council at St. Andrews by the Sea.

If you are already a member, I would appreciate it if you would let me know so that I can start to identify members of our organization onboard NASCC so we can join together in prayer and service projects around the base.

### 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.

**CORRECTION:** This is to correct an error in fact in the Honoring our Veterans story on Rocco Montesano, which appeared in the Aug. 25 issue of the *Wingspan*. Montesano does believe that the military is a great experience for young people and would advise them to join, if asked.



This paper is published for people like Glenda Torres who works at the Marina as an operations clerk. Torres is a native of Bayamon, Puerto Rico and has been working here for 14 months.

## 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

### Fridays

Food Truck Fridays every last Friday of the month. North Bayfront Park  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.,  
1590 N. Shoreline Blvd.

Need exercise? Why not kick a box? Cardio-kickboxing class for adults at the Lindale Recreation Center on Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m. The class helps build strength, endurance and flexibility. Ongoing registration. \$7 per class. Visit [www.ccparkandrec.com](http://www.ccparkandrec.com).

### Schoolhouse Rock Live!

The Harbor Playhouse hosts its production of the play 7:30 p.m. this Friday and Saturday at 1802 N. Chaparral St. \$15 for military and students; \$18 regular adult, \$10 children (361) 882-5500 or [www.harborplayhouse.com](http://www.harborplayhouse.com)

The Alzheimer's Assoc. will host its Walk to End Alzheimer's from 9-11 a.m. Saturday at Heritage Park. There is no cost associated with this event.

Can you sing and dance? The Harbor Playhouse will host auditions for "A Christmas Carol" on Sept. 14. Call (361) 882-5500 to get on the A-list.

Conquer the Coast rolls through Corpus Christi and NASCC Sept. 17. The event kicks off at Whataburger Field featuring 65, 25 and 10 mile routes. See more and sign up at [www.conquerthecoast.org](http://www.conquerthecoast.org).

30th annual Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup kicks off Sept. 24. From 9 a.m. to noon, join thousands of volunteers on Padre Island National Seashore to help keep our treasure clean and safe. Visit [www.texasadoptabeach.org](http://www.texasadoptabeach.org) to learn more.

*If you have or know of an event to list, e-mail [nascc-pao@navy.mil](mailto:nascc-pao@navy.mil).*

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# Naval Aviation History



## Grumman F9F-2 "Panther" fighter

Grumman F9F-2 Panther fighter of Fighter Squadron 24 (VF-24) in flight over Kojon Island, South Korea. This plane, based aboard USS Boxer (CV-21), is piloted by Lt. j.g. G.W. Stinnett, Jr. Photo is dated June 27, 1952. The F9F Panther was introduced in November 1947, but it wasn't until May 1949 that the first production models were delivered to the Navy's Fighter Squadron (VF) 51. The Panther saw its first combat on July 3, 1950, flying strikes from USS Valley Forge (CV 45). During the Korean War, the F9F was used extensively by both Navy and Marine squadrons, notably scoring the first jet vs. jet kill in U.S. Navy history, Nov. 9, 1950. (Official U.S. Navy Photo now in the collections of the National Archives).

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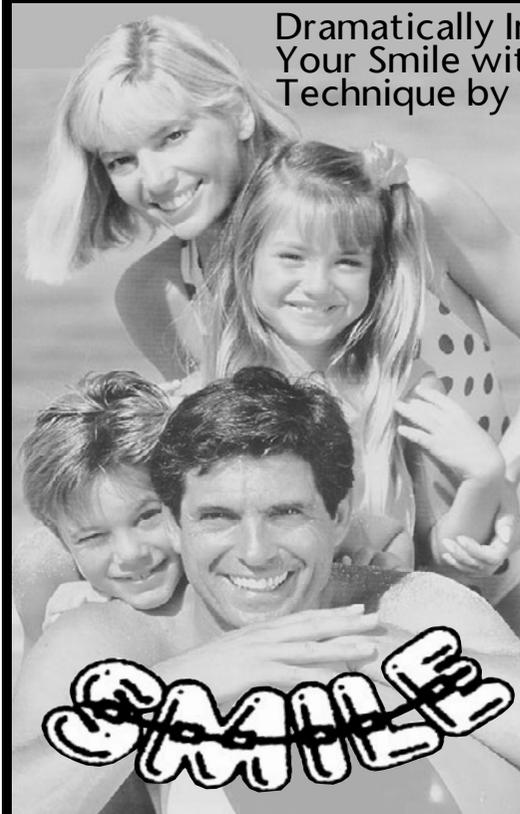
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# Federal employees help knock out hunger through generous donations

by **Fifi Kieschnick**  
NASC Public Affairs

The generosity of those who live, work and play aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi was on display once again as the installation wrapped up the 2016 Feds Feed Families Campaign last week.

The food drive is a voluntary effort by personnel to collect and donate food to help local food banks and pantries stay stocked during the summer months, when they traditionally see a decrease in donations and an increase in need.

According to the Department of Agriculture, which leads the annual effort, the food drive has collected nearly 57.2 million pounds of food since 2009. Last year, more than 17.9 million pounds were donated across the federal government, 30,000 of which was donated via Navy Region Southeast.

Items collected are traditionally canned goods, non-perishable items, and monetary contributions.

Employees of the Fleet Logistics Center detachment Jacksonville, aboard NAS Corpus Christi, have held three fundraisers to support the food drive.

"This is only our third year organizing the fundraisers for Feds Feed Families," said Laura McLaughlin, deputy director. "Collectively, we saw this as a great opportunity

to support the local community by accepting donations in exchange for food items from a well populated group of employees working in Building 10. I was especially pleased when the word spread further than Building 10 and we received support from so many others on the installation!"

McLaughlin added that several FLCJ team members were part of the crew that made the fundraisers happen, most notably the staff from the Official Mailroom: Esther Haigood, Patty McGee and Tony Martinez. In total, FLC raised \$763.82 this summer and presented a check made out to the Corpus Christi Food Bank to Lt. Kevin Jackson, command chaplain.

Commissary Store Director Marlin Dotson also brought a different approach to donations for this year's drive aboard NAS Corpus Christi. His staff put together pre-bagged grocery packages. The items were all nonperishable, bagged, and available to shoppers for a \$10 donation. The food items were a value of at least \$10. Each week different pre-bagged packages were available. Customers purchased 318 pre-bagged packages of groceries from the commissary and each bag had enough food to feed a family of four with one or two meals in each bag.

The FFF program ran from the beginning of June through the end of August. NASCC supports several local "pantries:" the Church



Patty McGee, right, serves a frito pie during a fundraiser held for the Feds Feed Families food drive this summer. The frito pie sale was one of three that Fleet Logistics Center Jacksonville detachment Corpus Christi held in support of the annual drive that supports local food banks.

Without Walls and Timmons ministries in Flour Bluff, the Salvation Army, and the Corpus Christi Food Bank.

This year Team NAS Corpus Christi raised more than twice the amount that was raised last summer, more than 51,500 pounds. Last year, NRSE collectively donated 331,100 pounds to various food banks and pantries. This year, more than 367,000 was collected.

"The Feds Feed Families program feeds

millions of people in need every year," said RP2 Nicole Schuster, of the chaplain's office. "It's important that we show our support and donate what we can. We make the world a better place, by filling one empty stomach at a time."

Schuster echoed the sentiments of everyone taking part in the drive, "Thank you for your donations, whether it was money, food or time. We couldn't have done it without you!"



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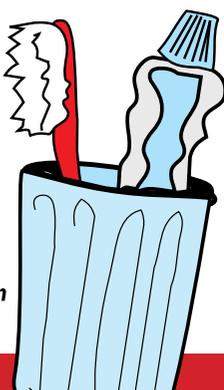
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## Honoring Our Veterans

This is a series highlighting veterans in our community.

# Loyalty, admiration pushes Army veteran to continue to serve

by Jason Kucera  
NASCC Public Affairs

Like father, like son and sometimes like daughter. For Tracy Hughes, following in her father's footsteps is a simple concept.

"I knew I was going to end up in the military from a young age," Hughes said.

An Army veteran who spent four years at one of the largest U.S. installations in the world, Fort Bragg, N.C., Hughes came home to eventually find herself working at the Corpus Christi Army Depot in 2012. Just as her father before, an Air Force veteran, she works in the Directorate of Engine and Powertrain Production.

During her senior year in high school, Hughes was part of a group called Police Explorers. Her intention was to someday join the FBI. Though never officially pursuing a career in law enforcement, she trained as an Electronic Warfare Tactical Systems Repairer after enlisting Army in 1997.

"My time in the Army was challenging for sure," Hughes said, "Being trained for military intelligence and then doing a job besides that taught me how to adapt."

That trait was one learned while growing up in nearby Alice, Tx., just as well as her

time in the Army. Being able to adapt has benefited Hughes in her everyday work life at CCAD. On a daily basis, she says she handles several roles on top of her assigned position as a management program assistant.

Hughes ensures that everything that comes across her desk is 100 percent correct, which in turn helps other employees of the directorate accomplish their mission efficiently and right for the customer.

Prior to Hughes landing in her role at CCAD, she spent six months working for L-3 aboard NASCC as a human resources generalist.

Hughes stated, "At one point working for L-3, I was the sole HR (human resources) representative servicing more than 500 personnel. It kept me very busy and taught me how to stay organized."

Growing up, she recalls the base sticker on her dad's vehicle for many of her formative years. She says her father always had a very strong work ethic, which is something she picked up from him.

"I'm proud to be here and I want to find ways to improve, to help this place grow."

Using her education benefits earned while serving, she has gone on to attain an Associates in Arts Music Theory and Composition



Tracy Hughes, a management program assistant, Directorate of Engine and Powertrain Production, has been serving CCAD since 2012.

in 2005. In 2008, she obtained her Bachelors in Business Administration with Cum Laude honors from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and today continues pursuing her education goal of a Master's degree in Business Administration.

"I missed the sunsets in South Texas," Hughes said as she discussed her military life in North Carolina. "Here at home I can see them every day and that's something I truly appreciate."



## Blue Angels Delta returns to the skies for air shows

By MC2 Jenn Lebron  
Blue Angels Public Affairs

U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, is scheduled to perform with six jets at the Wings Over South Texas Airshow April 1-2, 2017.

The squadron completed training in August to reintegrate Opposing Solo Cmdr. Frank Weisser into the flight demonstration.

Weisser previously served on the Blue Angels from 2008-2010 and performed duties as the narrator, key influencer and VIP pilot, opposing solo, and lead solo.

"The transition has been a bit easier than I expected," said Weisser. "I haven't flown an airshow in six years, but I am pleased as to how fast it's come back. I am really excited to get back and ultimately the crowd will be the best judge."

The August training schedule for the Blue Angels was rigorous and is a testament to the squadron's

tradition of teamwork and dedication to the demonstration.

"After a person has completed a successful Blue Angel tour, they've got two seasons under their belt and roughly six to seven hundred hours of flying in Blue Angels demonstrations," said Lead Solo Lt. Ryan Chamberlain. "We are just taking a rusty bicycle, cleaning off that rust and getting him back up to speed."

"I am grateful that I can, in some small way, do my part to further the mission of the Blue Angels," said Weisser. "I am sad, because this is Capt. Kuss' team; this is his position I am flying. I am thankful that I can honor his memory and his legacy here."

The mission of the Blue Angels is to showcase the pride and professionalism of the United States Navy and Marine Corps by inspiring a culture of excellence and service to country through flight demonstrations and community outreach.



**Bravo Zulu** --The Naval Exchange held its quarterly awards ceremony Aug. 26 presenting Troy Villarreal with an letter of appreciation for his quick thinking while working at the NEX Gas Station. When informed of a trash can fire near the gas pumps, his quick reaction got the fire extinguished and prevented what could have been major catastrophe. From left to right in the photo, Capt. Luis Martinez, Troy Villarreal, Fire Inspector Otis Terrell, Lt. Robert Alejandre and Lt. Shaun Lemon.



**Let's Meet**--HM3 Kelly E. Barth, a native of Goldsboro, Md., and a pharmacy technician at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, promotes preventive health when patients sign for their prescriptions by encouraging them to include exercise and diet in their daily regimen. (Photo by Bill W. Love, NHCCC Public Affairs)



**Civilian recognized** -- Capt. Marnie S. Buchanan, acting commanding officer Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi on Aug. 18, presents a Letter of Commendation to Sue Dost, for her achievement as NHCCC Category II Civilian of the Quarter for the period April 1 through June 30. As the pharmacy supply technician, Dost helped achieve an outstanding result in the management of the pharmacy's medication inventory and meeting the needs of over 20,000 beneficiaries and their families. Her knowledge and experience made her a valuable member of the pharmacy team, and earned the respect and trust of her coworkers and supervisors. (Photo by HM3 Bryan G.Kanthack)

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# Welcome to the Mess: Selectees learn teamwork and heritage

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Mickey Treigle

BOSTON (NNS)-- "Two six, heave! Two six, heave!" Wooden wheels squeak under the three-and-a-half-ton weight of the replica 24-pound long gun as six chief petty officer selectees haul on a line. Two more selectees swiftly move to the front of the gun and begin loading gunpowder, wads of rope and a 24-pound round shot. Eight selectees then split up to haul on two more lines, moving the gun out into its port. "Two six, heave! Two six, heave!" The gun is prepped for fire and aimed. The gun captain gives the command to 'standby'. "Fire!"

Gun drills, simulating how to load and fire a 24-pound long gun aboard USS Constitution, are one of the many ways chief petty officer selectees learn the history of the Navy and work as a team during Chief Petty Officer Heritage Week.

Chief Petty Officer Heritage Week is a week dedicated to mentoring the Navy's newest chiefs through naval history and heritage training aboard America's Ship of State, USS Constitution. The Chief mentors focus on instilling trust and teamwork in the chief petty officer selectees.

"We do a lot of mentoring with a big focus on camaraderie," said Chief Culinary

Specialist Everardo Gonzales, assigned to USS Constitution. "Everything that we do throughout chief petty officer heritage weeks is team building. We have people from all over the world that have never met each other. By the end of the week, they're calling each other brother and sister. That's what we want them to know by the time they leave here. You're working together to realize that together you can never fail."

The selectees that have the ability to train at Constitution take back the knowledge and heritage they learn to their local chief's mess.

"A big part of what these selects do is go back to their commands and they teach their mess what they learn here," said Chief Navy Counselor Nancy Lowe, assigned to Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. "I didn't get to do a heritage week when I got pinned, but I don't feel like I missed out because I just got it from another chief's perspective."

Heritage Weeks offer a glimpse into what the chief's mess is capable of to the selectees.

"For a selectee, it's going to be an eye opening experience because it lets you see how chiefs work together," said Gonzales. "We want them to know that when they leave here, they have brothers and sisters everywhere and they should be able to reach out to them for anything."

The selectees that come through Constitution for Chief Petty Officer Heritage



Chief Petty Officer Selectees conduct gun drills with a replica 24-pound long gun during Chief Petty Officer Heritage Week. The week dedicated to mentoring the Navy's newest chiefs through naval history and heritage training aboard America's Ship of State, USS Constitution. (Photo by MC3 Mickey Treigle)

Weeks are grateful for an opportunity to learn heritage aboard 'Old Ironsides'.

"I think it's a privilege to come here," said Chief Petty Officer (Select) Pedro Caro, assigned to USS Constitution. "There are a lot of people that try to come here that don't

get the spot. That's all they've wanted is to make chief, come to Constitution and take part in heritage weeks. Luckily, my foot was already in the door being stationed here, but I'm still grateful that I get to go through it."

## CMEO cont. from pg. 1

will deal with and look at. The commander's policy letter outlines these, as well."

The six bases are race, color, religion, national origin, gender and sexual orientation.

As stated from the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity: The

Federal government recognizes various minority groups and diversity milestones through heritage observances held on a yearly basis. Each month we celebrate the humanity that represents the face of our nation—its people. As every American Citizen is afforded the freedoms outlined in the Bill of Rights, the workplace remains equally disciplined in these factors.

"Everyone has to be treated with respect and equality. There are always going to be differences in culture, our backgrounds, how we are raised," Carpenter adds, "but that isn't something that should divide us."

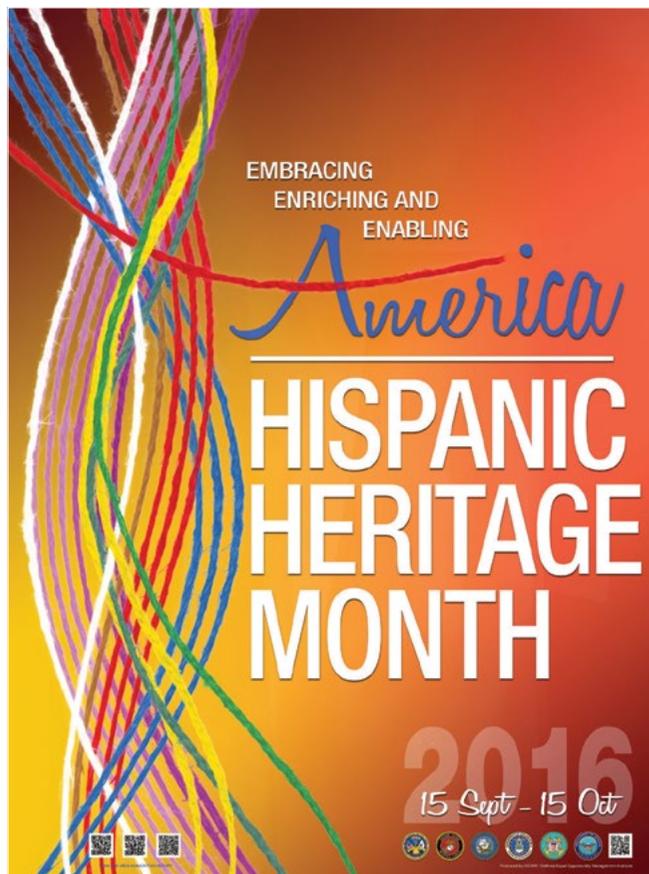
The DoD proclamation Human Goals states, "the defense of the Nation requires a well-trained volunteer total force comprised of active and reserve military members and civilian personnel. We gain a strategic advantage through the diversity of our total force and create a culture of inclusion where individuals are drawn to serve, are valued and actively contribute to overall mission success."



For MAC Samantha Carpenter and SCPO Paul Perez, sometimes just walking around NASCC throughout their day making themselves visible helps them in getting their respective jobs accomplished.

One of the tools a commander has to measure the command climate of their unit is through a command climate survey. These are sent out periodically to give the command a good feel of how service members and civilians under their charge are doing and if there are lingering issues that need to be addressed.

For more information about NASCC's EO, EEO or Command Climate programs, contact either Carpenter at samantha.carpenter@navy.mil or Perez at paul.perez1@navy.mil.



# Suicide Prevention: Knowing when to seek help is a sign of strength

By Yan Kennon  
Naval Hospital Jacksonville  
Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (NNS) -- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), suicide was the 10th leading cause of death for all ages in the U.S. in 2013 -- a rate of about 113 deaths each day.

Building resilience and preventing suicide requires all members of the Navy and Marine Corps community to work together.

Suicide prevention is about being there for every Sailor, Marine, and family member, every day.

"People are our greatest asset," said Dr. Kirsten Pollick, Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville's Mental Health Clinic department head and neuropsychologist. "Our goal is to reduce the risk factors for suicide and strengthen the factors that promote resilience."

Suicide can be a complex behavioral response influenced by a multitude of factors within one's personal life experience. These potentially include individual, relational, community, or societal circumstances; or any combination thereof. Specific risk factors and stressors associated with suicidal tendencies have been linked to illness, isolation, family and marital discord, financial issues, depressive disorders or other mental health

concerns -- including prior suicidal ideation or attempts -- impulsive behaviors, lack of sleep, or changes in brain chemicals due to alcohol or drug abuse.

Warning signs include thoughts or comments about suicide, substance abuse, purposelessness, anxiety, feeling trapped or hopeless, withdrawal, anger, recklessness, and mood changes.

Understanding warning signs and risk factors can help prevent, identify, and enable early intervention to save lives.

Tips to help Sailors and Marines stay mission-ready include:

Find time for oneself -- Improve sleep habits, try yoga or meditation, participate in enjoyable activities.

Break down obstacles -- Break challenges down into small steps and tackle one at a time.

Improve physical conditioning -- Regular physical training strengthens the muscles and the mind.

Avoid alcohol and substance misuse -- In order to manage stress, sleep, relationships, and responsibilities.

Identify people to turn to when in need -- Identify a friend, family member, chaplain, or health care professional to speak with.

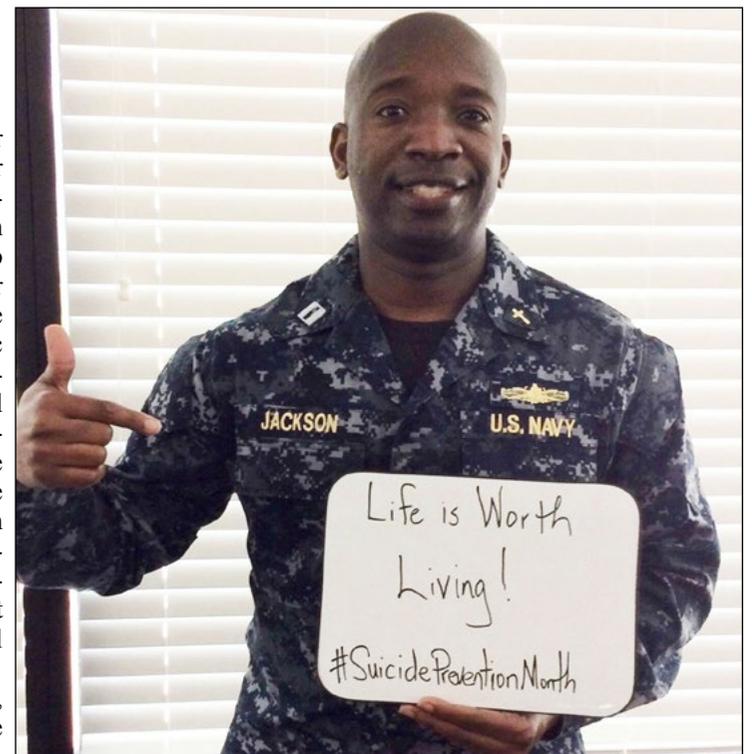
For free, confidential support 24/7, call the

Active-duty personnel can schedule an ap-

pointment with their primary care manager (PCM) at 904-546-7094. The PCM can make a referral to mental health. For urgent needs, the Mental Health Clinic is available for walk-ins. Call the Mental Health Clinic at 904-546-6351 for more information. The Deployment Health Center (904-546-7099) also offers pre- and post-deployment physical and mental health services.

Family members, retirees, and retiree families can call TRI-CARE Value Options at 800-700-8646 for mental health care. In addition, the hospital's family medicine clinic has mental health specialists on-site.

For someone in immediate danger, go to the nearest emergency room or call 911. Remember to ACT (Ask, Care, Treat). ASK if someone is depressed and if they are thinking



NAS Corpus Christi command chaplain, Lt. Kevin Jackson, is taking part in a social media campaign to bring awareness and give encouragement to prevent suicide. See more on their Facebook page under NAS Corpus Christi Chaplain Department.

about suicide. Let them know you CARE. Get them assistance (TREATment) as soon as possible.

Every life lost to suicide is one too many.

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**Navy Education**

# DANTES faster exam reimbursement process

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) Exams Reimbursement Program has changed a reimbursement policy that will expedite the exams reimbursement process for service members, including active duty, National Guard and Reserve.

The policy change includes reimbursement of test fees for the following exams:

- \* GED (beginning October)
- \* GMAT
- \* GRE General and GRE Subject
- \* Praxis Core and Praxis Subject Assessment
- \* ACT and SAT

The online Electronic Reimbursement Request is now the only option available for service members to receive reimbursement to cover the cost of test fees incurred for exams taken at national or international test centers. In accordance with the policy change, DANTES will no longer physically process any paper-based reimbursement mail received after Oct. 1.

"The department continues to receive, on average, 25 paper-based reimbursement requests in the mail each week," said Tom French, DANTES Education Programs. "The new online process is more efficient and beneficial for a service member because

payment is deposited directly into their bank account generally within 2-3 weeks after submitting documentation and receiving approval online."

Service members can submit the Electronic Reimbursement Request online through the DANTES website, [www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil).

On the DANTES website, members should select "Examinations and Reimbursement Eligibility" to get started. Access to the DANTES Exams Reimbursement Center is only available to active-duty, National Guard and Reserve service members with a valid common access card (CAC). Additionally, both a score report and payment receipt are required. Documents must be uploaded for reimbursement request approval and processing.

To find out about other DANTES Examination Program information and resources, visit [www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil) and <http://dantespulse.dodlive.mil>.



Newly commissioned Navy Ensigns and Marine 2nd Lieutenants from the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2016 throw their midshipmen covers in the air at the end of their graduation and commissioning ceremony May 27 at the Navy-Marine Corp Memorial Stadium. The U.S. Naval Academy commissioned 788 Ensigns into the U.S. Navy and 256 2nd Lieutenants into the U.S. Marine Corp. (Photo by MC2 Jonathan L. Correa)

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My Links, Classroom Schedule and enroll.

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Advanced Rider Course  
Sept. 26

Experienced Rider Course/BRC-2  
Sept. 16



**Wings Over South Texas Logo Contest**

**Deadline to enter Sept. 16**

**We are looking for a new logo for the Wings Over South Texas Air Show which we will be hosting April 1&2, 2017.**

**Guidelines include: (1) Include "Wings Over South Texas 2017," (2) Date, (3) Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, and (4) featuring the Blue Angels.**

**Below is some of the art that has been used in the past.**



**Winners will receive an MWR prize package. E-mail design to [nascc-pao](mailto:nascc-pao) Include your name, rate/rank, command, phone number and e-mail address.**

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**Upcoming Community Events**

**Suicide Awareness and Prevention**

NAMI Greater Corpus Christi is offering a free open meeting on Suicide Awareness and Prevention. September 8, 6 - 8 p.m. at Bayview Behavioral Health Gymnasium, 6629 Wooldridge Rd., Corpus Christi, 78414. Guest speaker, Nicole Theriot, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Corpus Christi VA. Panel discussion and Q and A will follow. Refreshments donated by H-E-B.

**TO HAVE YOUR EVENT INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION, EMAIL [AFRENCH@PLWAVE.COM](mailto: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.**



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