

Daylight Savings Time Ends October 26th



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Sawyers assumes command of MATSG-22

by MATSG-22 PAO



Photo by JOC Rita Chadrick

Commander of Troops Lt. Col. Westmoreland, USMC, and MATSG-22 staff.

Col. Michael L. Sawyers relieved Col. Anthony W. Valentino as Commanding Officer of Marine Aviation Training Support Group-22 (MATSG-22) during a change of command ceremony on Oct. 10 at Hanger 58. A native of Barstow, Calif., Col. Sawyers graduated from John F. Kennedy High School, then attended Cal State San Bernardino where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Health. He was commissioned a second lieutenant and graduated from the Basic School in December 1979. Upon completion of basic flight training at Naval Air Training Command in

Pensacola, Fla., and advanced jet training at NAS Chase Field in Beeville, Texas, he was designated a naval aviator in February 1982.

Col. Sawyers flew F-4 Phantoms with VMFAT-101 and VMFA-235 before transitioning to the F/A-18 Hornet in 1987. He flew the Hornet with VMFA-314, as an instructor VMFAT-101, and as the Commanding Officer of VMFA(AW)-121. Under his command, VMFA(AW)-121 was named Marine Fighter Squadron of the Year for 2000.

Most recently, he served as the G-3 and G-5 for Third Marine Aircraft Wing through operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Col. Sawyers has accrued over 3,200 hours in the F/A-18 and over 4500 hours total. His personal decorations include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (with gold star), the Navy Commendation Medal (with gold star), and the Air Medal (with strike Flight Numeral 6).

Col. Valentino retired in ceremonies immediately following the change of command.



Photo by JOC Rita Chadrick

Col. Valentino passes the Marine Corps flag to Col. Sawyers during the Exchange of Colors.

First phase of PPV housing completed

Story and photos by JOC Rita Chadrick

Twenty-two families recently began moving into the housing units that make up the first phase of NAS Corpus Christi's Public Private Venture (PPV) housing, which will eventually be named George Herbert Walker Bush Family Housing.

The units consist of two and three-bedroom duplexes that range in size from 1,488 sq. ft. to 1,674 sq. ft., and four-bedroom single family type homes that range in size from 1,674 sq. ft.



to 1,798 sq. ft. Amenities in all units include brand new kitchen appliances, ceiling fans, separate laundry rooms, ceramic tile, wall to wall carpeting and a single car garage. All units also have fenced-in backyards with patios and landscaping. The families were very excited to be moving in and pleased with their new dwellings.

"These houses are great; a lot better than the old housing on base that I used to live in," said Lt. J.g. Kelly Bowman, assistant officer in charge



of Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment, Truax Field. "The garage is a big plus-- I can keep my car protected from the elements, and there's also plenty of room to set up a woodworking area if I want to. I also have a lot bigger yard, which is great because it's going to come in handy when my one-year-old starts running around."

Kristy Graham, wife of Ensign Todd Graham, a student pilot at VT-27, agrees. "I love it!" she exclaimed. "It's so roomy and clean. The carpeting in the living room is great to have, especially since my kids like to play on the floor a lot. I'm just so happy to be in this new home!"

Groundbreaking for the project began on April 9, 2002. The next phase of housing units is scheduled to be ready for occupancy in January 2004.

From the Skipper

Environmental Management Systems (Part III)

by Capt. Paul Hinger

In my last article, I talked about why Environmental Management Systems (EMS) are important, where we were in the implementation process and where we are going with this program. In this issue I promised to explain how we would identify the potential impacts we have on our unique local environment and how we can control or mitigate these impacts. If you remember from the last issue, this process was called an Aspect Analysis. After I explain the steps involved in an Aspect Analysis, you will see that these basic principles may be employed in your day-to-day life to have a positive impact on our environment. When you think about the thousands of people who live and work on base, if everyone adopted just one changed

behavior in regards to the environment, it would be a very powerful tool for change.

Before we get into the technicalities of an Aspect Analysis, I want to take just a minute to remind you about why this is so important by elaborating on something that I say a lot -- you live and work in a truly unique natural environment. NAS Corpus Christi is quite literally surrounded by the Laguna Madre, or mother lagoon. It is the largest hypersaline lagoon in the United States and the most studied body of water of this type in the world. We sit right in the middle of the central flyway for migrating birds, providing a home for such rare or endangered species as the Piping Plover and White Pelican. The Laguna Madre is a

virtual haven for wildlife, supporting permanent species such as the Grass Shrimp and transient species such as the Spotted Trout and Red Drum. I mention these specifically because we all enjoy the benefits of our environ-



Hinger

From the Skipper continued on page 2

Chaplain's Corner



Christian

Fallen and can't get up

by Lt. Robert Christian

On a day no different than any other, I observed a modern day Good Samaritan situation unfold before my eyes. The problem was that no "Good Samaritan" had yet to come forward. It appeared that my day had arrived. After dropping off my children at the

local schools, I was traveling down Waldron Road toward the base. As I passed the entrance to Whataburger, I noticed an older man lying in the middle of the entrance about 10 feet from the road. A bicycle was on top of him and he was struggling to free himself from it. There were two vehicles with drivers waiting for him to get up so they could leave the parking lot. Surely someone would help the man, but there was no movement from either vehicle. I realized that something ought to be done. I drove around the back of the establishment and parked near the fallen man. There was still no movement from the two vehicles; just two drivers watching the man struggle with the bike.

I am sure there was a lot of speculation going on: he must be drunk, probably a homeless guy, maybe it's a trap, I'm in a hurry and can't get entangled with this problem. But the fact of the matter is that they

were going nowhere until the man moved.

It took me about 10 seconds to help the man get out of the way. Ten seconds. My Boy Scout days taught me to be prepared, so I grabbed my handy first-aid kit to clean up the blood on his elbow. Corpsmen would have been proud of my antiseptic rinse and bandaging techniques.

It took two minutes, tops. Two minutes and 10 seconds later the man was back on his way. While I cleaned him up I learned that he was not drunk and that he had knee problems and could not walk well. He used the bike as a type of walker on which to sit while he walked down the sidewalk.

He was a "Normal Joe." But did that matter anyway? Do we only help normal folks? Who decides who is normal? These were the questions that I pondered in my trek to work. Just when I started to pat myself on

Chaplain's Corner continued on page 2

Healthwatch



Ruttig

Flu season alert

by Lt. Nate Ruttig
Trawing-4 Flight Surgeon

Flu season is now upon us. No one knows why but the flu is seasonal, only appearing in the fall and winter periods. Influenza virus, the causative agent of the flu, is capable of mutating and thus forming many varied strains of itself. Every year the World Health Organization begins studying the flu virus in China, where fall and winter happen first.

By doing this they see which strains are affecting people the most there, then develop a vaccine for the rest of the world. The influenza virus vaccine is trivalent, meaning that it covers for only three particular strains.

Contrary to popular belief, the vaccine is not capable of causing the flu. The vaccine does not contain any active virus. Nevertheless, some individuals who have received the vaccine will still get the flu. This is expected, not because the vaccine caused them to get the flu, but because there are many flu strains and the vaccine only covers the predicted three most common strains. Also, after receiving the vaccine, it takes time for your immune system to build itself up -- sometimes as long as a few weeks. If an individual is exposed to the flu virus shortly after receiving the vaccine they may still develop the flu because their immune system has not had time to "get ready."

Just about anybody can get the flu vac-

cine. The vaccine is not only safe, but strongly recommended in people with heart disease, kidney disease, the elderly and pregnant women after the first trimester. However, if you have an egg allergy or have a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, then you should not receive the vaccine.

We are planning to have the flu vaccines ready at the hospital in the early part of November. When the vaccines arrive and are ready for use, a message will be posted on the marquee between the hospital and the exchange. Keep an eye out for this message. For Trawing-4 student pilots and instructor pilots, there will be a massive immunization session held at the next safety stand-down in the Wings Auditorium in mid-November.

The flu can be devastating in terms of lost work time and quality of life. People do die from the flu. Stay safe and keep those around you "flu-free" by getting your flu shot when it becomes available.

Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi
"Exceeding Expectations Through Pride In Performance"

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From the Skipper continued from page 1



ment - be it bird watching or partaking in world class fishing – and should welcome the opportunity to give something back, and the Aspect Analysis can help.

The Aspect Analysis is really nothing more than a five-step process that employs the proven concepts of Operational Risk Management (ORM), except the focus is on the world we live in. Let's take a look:

Step 1: Here we identify different activities, or practices, required to accomplish our different missions. For example, at the base level, we must conduct fueling operations to support CNATRA's flight

training programs. It is an important activity and we have direct control over that activity. At your level, it may be something as mundane as doing the dishes. Although it isn't as complex as refueling a T-44, it is still necessary and you control how and when it is accomplished.

Step 2: Next we identify the aspects. An aspect is anything that can arise from doing the activity you identified in Step 1. These can be positive or negative. An obvious aspect of fueling operations on NAS Corpus Christi, and something we are very concerned about, is a potential fuel spill. At home, there are lots of aspects that arise from doing the dishes including disposing of waste like food and grease, the use of hot water and the how long you let the water run while you are doing the dishes.

Step 3: Armed with different activities and the things (aspects) that can arise from these activities, it is time to look at the impact. An impact from a fuel spill on base may be polluting the Laguna Madre as the substance runs into the storm water system and is flushed into the bay. This could lead to further impacts such as loss of wildlife, legal issues and costs to remedy the situation. This could very quickly become an expensive problem and from an environmental stewardship viewpoint, a real disaster. Your impacts at home will include increased energy usage (one of the major domestic impacts for everyone), natural resource depletion and increased demand on water purification facilities.

Step 4: With the potential impacts identified, it is time to determine if the impact is significant or not. For this, we use metrics that examine a host of different factors including the cost to remedy, bad press, damage to the environment and so on. When the potential impact meets a predetermined number of these factors it is deemed significant and different forms of control are instituted. It is important that some system is in place to make decisions on which impacts to manage because of the sheer volume of activities required to accomplish our missions. Now on the home front, you won't see impacts to the same scale. However, you can definitely see that when you combine your energy usage, natural resource usage and waste creation with everyone else's on base, the impact becomes significant.

Step 5: After we identify the significant aspects that we must control, we can use several different means to manage or mitigate their impact. These include Environmental Standard Operating Procedures (ESOPs), operator training, and emergency response plans. All of these are elements of the EMS that help us to act as good stewards of the environment. At home, you may decide to turn off the tap frequently or use cold water. Not as easy, but still something you can do to reduce your impact on the environment.

You now know a lot more about Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and why they are needed. Did you take my challenge and think about something that you do that impacts the environment? If so, try applying the five basic steps of the Aspect Analysis to that activity to reduce or control the environmental impact. Although it may seem insignificant for one household, when combined with the efforts of everyone on base it will make a difference. You will become a steward of our environment and help to ensure that those unique natural resources I reminded you about earlier are around for our children to enjoy. I'll be publishing the base's Environmental Policy soon – look for it here in the Wingspan.

From the Chaplain continued from page 2

the shoulder, the Lord began to remind me that there are many people in the world that need a lift up every day. People who have been hurt and need help getting up; people who need someone to take notice and lend a hand or maybe an ear or possibly a shoulder to cry on.

Two minutes, 10 seconds and we are back on our way. The disciples of Jesus asked him, "When did we see you thirsty, or naked, or in prison (or laying on the ground with a bike on top of you)?" Jesus' response was that when you stopped for any of these to help lift them up, you have stopped to help me. Two minutes and 10 seconds that might last an eternity.



YN2(SW) Ulloa explains HM-15's mission to new recruits, who recently visited the squadron to get a glimpse of what Navy life is really like.

Future Sailors get a taste of "The Big Iron"

Story and photos by Lt. j.g. Jim Shwarze
HM-15 PAO

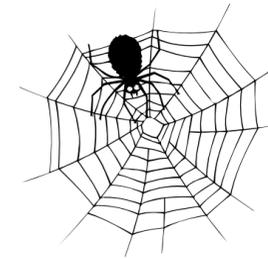
Twenty-five of the Navy's newest recruits from the San Antonio and Corpus Christi recruiting districts, who enlisted under the Navy's Delayed Entry Program (DEP), got a firsthand look at one of the largest aviation squadrons in the Navy recently when they took a tour of Helicopter Mine Counter Measures Squadron FIFTEEN (HM-15).

In addition to touring a static display of the MH-53E Sea Stallion helicopter the recruits had the chance to talk to some of HM-15's finest Sailors, from senior petty officers to junior seamen, representing a wide range of Navy ratings.

The Sailors provided invaluable information and guidance to their future shipmates. AM3(NAC) Brad Johnson shared his vast knowledge of the Airborne Mine Countermeasures weapons systems, while YN2(AW) Jorge Ulloa explained to the recruits how the reserve elements in the squadron work with active duty personnel to accomplish the squadron's mission. AN Cora Estrella gave the recruits her perspective on "striking" for a rating, and also relieved some of the females' anxieties about boot camp by sharing her personal experiences.

The recruits also received words of encouragement from Cmdr. Paul Lluy, HM-15 commanding officer, who explained the importance of the Navy's vital mission in the ongoing war against terrorism. He set high expectations for the future Sailors and also thanked them for making the courageous and honorable decision to serve their country.

The Navy's DEP is designed to prepare new recruits for the demands of boot camp. Each recruit who arrives at boot camp does so with the goal of becoming a Sailor, but each company of recruits has a certain percentage that fail. Some are disqualified for medical reasons, others fail to meet academic requirements and some are unable to adjust to military life. The DEP enhances the readiness of recruits by providing these future shipmates with essential information about the Navy to ease their transition into the military. One of the program's goals is to provide the fleet with better informed Sailors and this tour of HM-15 provided an excellent opportunity for the recruiters to show, rather than just tell, their recruits about the Navy.



Trick or Treat by NASCC Safety Dept.

Most people think of Halloween as a time for fun and treats. However, roughly four times as many children ages 5 through 14 are killed while walking on Halloween evening compared to other evenings throughout the year. Halloween poses special risks to young pedestrians. Many parents overestimate children's street crossing skills. Children are limited by several factors related to their physical size and developmental stages. Young children may lack the physical ability to cross a street quickly, and their small size limits their visibility to drivers. Children are likely to choose the shortest, not the safest, route to cross a street, often darting out between parked cars. In addition, children do not evaluate potential traffic threats effectively and cannot anticipate driver behavior. Parents can help prevent children from getting injured on Halloween by following these safety tips:

- Parents or adults should accompany children to ensure their safety.
- Carry bright flashlight to illuminate sidewalks, steps and paths. Chemical glow-in-the-dark light sticks can be used for lighting.
- Children should stay on sidewalks. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the street. Walk single file, facing traffic.
- Remain on well-lit streets. Trick or treat only in well-known neighborhoods and only go to homes that have a porch light on.
- Stop at all street corners and stay together in a group before crossing. Communicate where you are going. Remember to look left, right and left again before crossing.
- Use crosswalks; walk, don't run. Do not cross between parked cars.
- Obey all local traffic signals. Do not assume you have the right of way.
- Do not cut across yards, driveways, or alleys.
- Wear clothing that is bright, reflective, and flame retardant. Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes or bags for greater visibility.
- Remove any mask or item that will limit eyesight before crossing. Consider using face paint instead of masks.
- Parents DO NOT allow children to wear roller blades to go out trick or treating.
- Parents should notify law enforcement authorities immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

To keep your little goblins safe, take a few minutes to consider these simple safety rules to avert any and all injuries this Halloween season. Have a great and safe Halloween. Boo!

MWR News and Events

Civilian Morale, Welfare and Recreation Activity:

Hear ye, Hear ye! By order of the Queen, all Lords and Ladies are invited to join CMWRA for a day of feasting, adventure, romance and merriment! Get a princely discount and spend the day sampling the finest foods, costumes, shoppes, craftsmen, shows, and music in Plantersville, Texas, at the Renaissance Festival on Oct. 25, 2003. Ye royal ticket prices are:

Adults: \$25
Children ages 5-12: \$15
Children 4 and under: \$5

Price includes transportation and ticket. Tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. There is no age limit for this trip, so come one, come all and enjoy this ultimate trip into history. Seats are limited so stop by the CMWRA office today (located in Bldg. 249). For more information call CMWRA at 961-3476.

Corpus Christi Bay Club:

Pizza Sub Pub: Stop by and visit the new *Pizza Sub Pub* located across from the Navy Exchange parking lot. The *Pizza Sub Pub* will operate Monday thru Saturday and will offer an array of delicious menu items including pizzas, subs, Italian specialties, soft drinks and beer. Start your day off with flavored coffees, cinnamon rolls and danishes! Deliveries will be available on base. Call 961-2249.

Catering: Don't forget our catering department is available for all your holiday parties that are just around the corner. Deliveries for home and office are available on base and full catering at The Club and the Gulf Stream Recreation Center. For more information, please call The Pizza Sub Pub at 961-2249.

"Pilot for a Day" program still going strong...



Photo by Maj. John Henry

William David "Daredevil" Luis, left, and Lt. Chris Orlowski, Training Squadron 35 (VT-35) sponsor pilot, take time to pose inside the TC-12 simulator. September marked the second anniversary of the Pilot for a Day (PFAD) program. Sponsored by VT-35, the PFAD program improves the lives of seriously ill pediatric patients from Driscoll Children's Hospital. One "little pilot" each month gets the opportunity to be a pilot for an entire day, permitting them to forget their problems for a day and be a kid again. "Daredevil" is the 25th PFAD since the program began in August 2001.

"Spooktober" Youth Halloween Carnival

Join The Zone Youth Activities Center, MWR and CMWRA at the "Spooktober" Youth Halloween Carnival. The carnival will be held on Friday, Oct. 31 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Kid Zone Park (across from the Youth Activities Center and CDC). Fun and exciting activities are planned for this event, including:

- Games such as Plinko, Moon Dust Pond, Pumpkin Patch, Football Toss and much more
- Pony rides, petting zoo, tricycle relays, NASCC mini fire truck, photos
- Contests like the Mummy Wrap, Dueling Donuts, Buddy Walker, Monster Musical Spots, Monster Mash Dance Contest
- Costume Contest

There will also be FREE FOOD & DRINKS, prizes galore and much, much more. Come out and enjoy a "Spooktacular" night of food, fun and games for the whole family! For more information on this event, please call the Youth Activities Center at 961-2355.

Marriage Enrichment Retreat

Navy Region South's next Marriage Enrichment Retreat (MER) will take place Nov. 7-9, 2003 at Sephyr Baptism Encampment on Lake Corpus Christi.

The retreat begins with dinner on Friday evening and ends with lunch on Sunday.

Couples discover ways to:

- keep their marriage growing.
- handle the inevitable conflicts.
- establish roles and boundaries.
- build intimacy and communication.
- become closer by strengthening the emotional, physical and spiritual aspects of their marriage.

Who should attend? Couples seeking greater satisfaction, closeness, and genuineness in their marriage.



British look to VT-35 for training excellence

by Lt. Robert Lyon
CNATRA PAO

Training Squadron THIRTY-FIVE (VT-35) is one of two advanced multi-engine training squadrons in the Navy. Its tried and proven method of training aviators recently gained the interest of the Royal Air Force whose plans of modernization included the Raytheon King Air B200, which is virtually the same aircraft as VT-35's C-12 Huron.

"Currently the Jet stream T MK1 provides multi-engine training, but is scheduled for replacement and the King Air B200 its likely successor," said Cmdr. Bob Price, commanding officer of No 45 (Reserve) Squadron based at Royal Air Force Cranwell in Lincolnshire, United Kingdom. "I believed it to be extremely beneficial for myself and for two members of my Standards Flight (equivalent to NATOPS Department) to visit and discuss the operation of the TC-12 as a multi-engine training aircraft and the difficulties in bringing this aircraft into Navy service," he explained.

The King air should be introduced into service in April 2004, which doesn't give much time to the Royal Air Force to create a training regimen and begin training the roughly 60 students who are winged annually, nearly half of the production of VT-35.

No 45(R) Squadron provides training for navigators, air engineers, weapons systems operators, air loadmasters and air signalers using the Squadron's Dominie aircraft and the Tutor aircraft from CFS Tutor Squadron. The Squadron also provides initial training for all airman aircrew.

Their visit included a round table discussion of the advanced multi-engine training syllabus related to the TC-12. The briefs, discussion, and question and answer sessions were conducted by VT-35 stage managers and reviewed the Instrument, Contact and Formation syllabi.

At the end of their three-day visit, VT-35 provided a comprehensive look at the workings of the TC-12 training program that the officers of the RAF will be able to build a successful bridge into their future aircraft.

Current plans are to ferry the aircraft back from Wichita, Kan., beginning in January. No 45 (R) is the leading edge and will be the first to fly this aircraft; an exciting addition and bridge to an already stellar relationship building the future of maritime aviation on both sides of the ocean.



Official Navy Photo

Statement from Gordon R. England on second term as SECNAV

From Secretary of the Navy Public
Affairs

Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England released the following message:

When I left our department in January, I said that I would "marvel at your achievements" and "gain strength from your example." Over the last seven months, in Iraq and around the world, you have fought the enemies of freedom and prevailed. Your courage and hardened resolve is the shield Americans rely on for their security and way of life.

The success of the Navy Marine Corps team results from that daily dedication to America. It also results from the strong leadership of servants like President Bush, Secretary Rumsfeld and Hansford T. Johnson. H.T. guided our department through a significant battle in our global war on terrorism and through our continuing transformation. He and Linda deserve our deepest gratitude. With leaders like Adm. Clark, Gen. Hagee, MCPON Scott and Sgt. Maj. Estrada, our team is indeed blessed.

Dotty and I are pleased, proud and delighted to return to the Navy Marine Corps team. The success of our naval family is due to the quality of your work and depth of your devotion. We pledge our equal dedication to you and to your families.

In my confirmation hearing, I committed to strengthening our combat capability, improving your quality of service, recapitalizing our forces and improving business practices. Naval power 21 will continue to guide our transformation as we project persistent power, around the world and around the clock.

Working together, we will prevail in this global war on terror. Semper Fi and sail proud.

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FOR SALE-4401 River Valley #1202. 3 balconies overlooking the Nueces Bay. Great Opportunity! Please call Brandy Benson with Christi Properties at 361-945-2775.

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MISCELLANEOUS

1996 Ford Winstar GL, Minivan, excellent condition. 78,850 miles, cold A/C, power windows/locks; AM/FM cassette V-6 split port 3.8 engine. American racing rims/matching tires. Garage kept. Can see on NAS car lot. \$4,095 firm. Call 937-5794.

Divorce - Must Sell 98 Yamaha FZR 600. Low miles, Blk, extras \$3950. (361) 688-8339.

1991 Ford Bronco 4x4, V8, auto, A/C \$3500 OBO 947-1474. Ask for David.

Washer & Dryer set \$75. 46" RCA large screen \$150. 1 set table lamps, \$50. Call 937-6942.

For Sale 2002 Kawasaki Vulcan 750 with windshield. Only 4,300 miles. Asking \$4,900.00. Phone #939-8004; please call after 4:00 p.m.

For Sale: King's Crossing, 6406 Bellac St. Approx 2400sf, 2-story 3/2.5/2 on cul-de-sac lot. Fenced back yard has in-ground heated pool w/hot tub & backs to park. Master suite down opens on approx 300sf tiled patio. Tiled foyer to formal dining and LR w/French doors to patio. Den w/wetbar. LR/den w/cathedral ceilings divided by see-through stone wood-burning fireplace. Eat-in kitchen w/island. 2 bdrms & full bath w/w/balcony overlooking LR. Laundry room & powder room down. Garage w/built-in work table and shelves. Attic decked for storage. \$214,900. Call 994-4940.

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Credit fraud: The fastest growing crime in America



by Lt. David H. Lee
NLSO Central

In the fall of 2001, I received a letter from Voicestream Wireless explaining that someone had fraudulently opened up 10 cell phone lines in my name. Luckily for me, the company's fraud department had already resolved the problem and had deleted any negative credit notations from my file. However, most examples of identity theft result in much more serious consequences.

How does identity theft happen? First, there is the old fashioned way. A person will obtain another's credit or debit card number and begin ordering goods from a merchant, usually via telephone or the internet. Most victims will find out about this theft within a few weeks, such as when they receive the next bill on their account. The more recent trend in identity theft is far more damaging. In this case, a thief will obtain information such as a person's date of birth and social security number in order to open up entirely new accounts in someone else's name. While many major businesses have established safeguards to make these crimes more difficult, smaller merchants will often sell goods without asking any questions.

How can you protect yourself from these crimes? First, make sure that you properly dispose of credit and debit card receipts. The unfortunate fact is that many merchants and restaurants have old credit card processing machines that still list a customer's entire card number. New machines that list only the last four are becoming more common, but are not yet universal. In addition, you should use only one credit card for purchases and check the balance as frequently as is convenient for you. In fact, checking it 3-4 times a week is not unreasonable if you use your card frequently. Finally, credit cards issued by major companies have better fraud protection than most debit cards, so they are a better choice in that regard.

Protection against full-fledged identity theft also requires a good amount of vigilance. First, everyone should check their credit report at least once per year. In addition, you can request to have a fraud alert placed on your file. This requires that anyone who wants to grant credit in your name must first contact a telephone number that you specify. This will usually cut off most attempts to open up fraudulent accounts. Personally, I would recommend that everyone have a fraud alert placed on their file, whether or not they have actually been victims. A fraud alert lasts for up to seven years and must be made in writing.

What should you do if you find out that you are a victim? First, you should call the fraud department at all three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, Trans Union) and have a temporary fraud alert placed on your account. Each credit bureau will place a 90-day fraud alert on your account and mail you a complimentary credit report. Once you have the credit reports, you can see exactly which accounts are fraudulent and request investigations of them. These investigations must be requested in writing and must include a copy of your social security card, driver's license, and some other proof of address, such as a utility bill or bank statement. Finally, there is a National Identity Theft hotline that victims can call. You could also call the local police department. However, because of jurisdictional issues, their assistance in ID theft issues is likely to be limited. The police will often get involved only when the suspect is local.

Finally, patience in this process is very important. Even the process of clearing up only one or two fraudulent accounts will take 2-3 months to complete. Also keep in mind that not all cases can be resolved. If you have any further questions about this topic, or are yourself a victim, feel free to contact the Naval Legal Service Office at (361) 961-3765 to obtain additional information and assistance.

How to obtain your credit report

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Online | 2. By phone/mail |
| a. http://www.equifax.com | a. Equifax: 1-800-685-1111 |
| b. http://www.experian.com | b. Experian: 1-866-200-6020 |
| c. http://www.transunion.com | c. Trans Union: 1-800-888-4213 |

News Briefs

DFAS myPay customers cautioned against 'look-alike' sites

The two million military and civilian users of myPay are being cautioned to use only the official myPay site (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>) when seeking to access pay account information. "Personal information is valuable and should be safeguarded," said Claudia L. Bogard, director of Corporate Communications for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. "Don't provide your personal information to any Web site unless you know it can be trusted." Look-alike sites have recently frustrated myPay customers who have been confused by accidentally finding their way to a commercial site that is in no way affiliated with DFAS or the Department of Defense.

DFAS' myPay is a secure, DFAS-operated web site that lets active duty, National Guard and Reserve military members, civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay accounts online. The DFAS myPay Web site is found at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>.

Navy recruiting successful in FY03

Sept. 30 marked the end of another successful recruiting year for the U.S. Navy, and the 26th consecutive month that the sea service's recruiting force attained its national mission goals for accessions and new contracts.

Navy Recruiting Command accessed 41,076 recruits in fiscal year 2003, with a national enlisted goal of 41,165, which allowed a range of +25/-100.

"Navy Recruiting's success over the past year can be attributed directly to the hard work and dedication of the entire Navy Recruiting team," said Rear Adm. Jeffrey L. Fowler, commander, Navy Recruiting Command. "I am proud to lead such an energetic, professional group of men and women who work daily to find the highly skilled recruits needed to man the Navy's ever-evolving, high-tech platforms. Recruiters truly are shaping the Navy of the future, as they recruit the best and brightest young men and women to serve in the world's greatest Navy," he said.

The buzz of Navy Recruiting's success echoes through its ranks, even to some of its newest recruiters in the field. Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SS) Jason Rubenstein of Overland Park, Kan., has been in recruiting for only six months, but is excited about his opportunity to be part of its success.

"I think it's great. It's been great so far to see what we do in the field," said Rubenstein. "It's good to be a part of something so big. I look forward to returning to the fleet and seeing firsthand the product that I helped to create."

The Navy began FY03 with a national enlisted accession goal of 48,000. This goal was cut by nearly 7,000 throughout the year due to unprecedented retention rates of active-duty Sailors, reductions in attrition and sustained achievement of monthly recruiting goals. Navy Recruiting took advantage of this goal cut to concentrate on specific needs of the fleet and increasing the quality of Sailors in the fleet, by implementing tactics that would bring a more well-rounded Sailor to its ranks.

Earlier this year, Navy Recruiting Command raised the minimum Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery from 31 to 35. During FY03, the Navy implemented a policy requiring 94 percent of new recruits be high school diploma graduates (HSDG), and Navy recruiters succeeded by recruiting 94.3 percent HSDG; the Department of Defense requirement is 90 percent. Navy

Recruiting continued to seek the best and brightest young men and women by requiring that 62 percent of recruits score above 50 on the AFQT; Navy recruiters excelled with a rate of 65.7 percent for FY03, while the DoD goal was 60 percent.

Navy recruiting also sought to increase the number of recruits with college experience in FY03, recruiting more than 3,200 applicants with at least 12 semester hours of college. Navy recruiters continued to fill jobs that have experienced manning shortfalls in the fleet, by dramatically reducing the number of priority ratings from 39 to just six by the end of the fiscal year.

Although the changes make the job more challenging to recruiters, it helps to focus on specific needs of the Navy and ensure that recruits are the best qualified to succeed in today's highly technical Navy. "It's a bit easier when we have in mind what the Navy needs," said Navy Counselor 1st Class Susan Smith of Navy Recruiting Station Savannah, Ga., a recruiter for five years.

Navy Recruiting Command was also successful in Naval Reserve recruiting by exceeding the enlisted goal of 12,000 recruits for FY03.

Navy Recruiting enters FY04 with a national active-duty enlisted goal of 41,200. Fowler emphasized the need to continue the fundamentals in order to be successful over the next year. "We are performing serious business for our country, recruiting a professional force to fight the global war on terrorism. We must constantly look at how to achieve our mission more efficiently while maintaining the fundamentals that have given us unprecedented success," he said.

Awards & Achievements

Ensign Rolando Ayala, NASCC security officer, presented awards to Security Dept. personnel during a ceremony on Oct. 7:



MA2 Mike Therkidsen, Letter of Commendation.

Photo by NASCC Security Department



PC2 Marcus Williams, Good Conduct Medal.

Photo by NASCC Security Department

Housing Office Retirements



Photo by JOC Rita Chadrick

Capt. Paula Hinger, NASCC commanding officer, presented a Letter of Appreciation to Frank Longoria upon his retirement from the civil service.



Photo by JOC Rita Chadrick

Louise Tanksley (L), housing director, presented Vi Moore with a plaque as a token of appreciation upon her retirement from the civil service.



Photo by JOC Rita Chadrick

Promotion

Lt. Alan Snyder was recently promoted to his present rank by Capt. Paula Hinger, NASCC commanding officer. Here, his fiancée, Brittany Sauer, pins on his lieutenant bars.



Photo by JOC Rita Chadrick

Staying Navy

AMC(AW/SW) David Scott, left, reenlisted for four more years in the Navy on Oct. 10. Lt. Robert Merrill, right, administered the Oath of Reenlistment. Scott's next duty station will be HSL-46 in Jacksonville, Fla.



Photo by Steve Prue

CMWC Civilian of the Year

Grace M. McCluskey, Mine Warfare Command security officer, was recently honored by Rear Adm. Paul J. Ryan (former CMWC) and the staff of CMWC as Civilian of the Year for FY03. She began working at CMWC in August 1993 and has been in her current position since May 1995.



Photo by Bob Torres

50 years of service

Cmdr. Joy Guevara presented Johnnie Reyes with a Retirement Letter thanking him for his 50 years of faithful service in the Civil Service sector.