

Wingspan

Vol. 10, No. 16

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • July 22, 2004

NAS youth discover the sky is the limit DEFY graduates develop positive self-esteem, leadership skills

By JO2 Jeffrey Fretland

Twenty youngsters learned the meaning of discipline, hard work and making responsible choices in life when they completed the first phase of the DEFY (Drug Education for Youth) program. The eight-day course culminated with a special graduation ceremony held in the Naval Hospital Corpus Christi auditorium June 25.

NAS Commanding Officer Capt. Paula Hinger shared advice and bits of wisdom with the kids and their folks during the ceremony.

“By participating in the DEFY program, you have all shown you want a life free of drugs and alcohol,” said Hinger. “You have made an important choice—a big choice—and a positive one, which tells us you want to excel at whatever you want to do in life.”

Each child received a certificate of completion during the ceremony. The kids will begin the second training phase in early September.

The DEFY program is designed to develop the skills and tools in adolescents to resist peer pressure to indulge in alcohol, tobacco and drug usage, and to avoid affiliating with gang activity. The DEFY program primarily targets the nine to twelve-year-old age bracket, long considered the age group when youth are especially vulnerable and impressionable.

The DEFY program objectives are accomplished by focusing on the development of the whole individual mentally and physically. DEFY activities and instruction center on helping the child grown and learn by achieving their self-potential.

DEFY staff counselors work to improve a child's outlook on life by enhancing their self-esteem, confidence and sense of responsibility. The counselors also emphasize strengthening positive social skills through the development of healthy relationships and successful interaction with peers, parents, guardians and authority figures. Adolescents interact in and contribute to positive focal groups, including youth organizations.

In addition, children learn self-management skills, setting and achieving goals, accepting challenges and resisting peer pressure. Adolescents enhance their lifestyle by participating in sports, physical fitness training, educational and vocational information.

The NAS DEFY staff counselors, who acted as mentors and served as positive role models, attended a weeklong training session to familiarize themselves with the goals and objectives of the program. Parents also attended an orientation workshop to discover what their children would be exposed to during the program endeavors.

During their camp, the kids participated in several activities, including visits to the Nueces County Courthouse and the Juvenile Detention Center, the base gym and bowling alley.

The camp counselors were pleased with the results.

“The first day of camp, the kids were very uncomfortable and didn't know each other,” explained Legal man First Class Marlene Hodges, camp counselor from the NAS Legal office.

Here's mud in your eye-literally!

Photo by PH1 Charlo Whorton



Officer Robert Punch from NAS Security “exposes” AE2 Mark Deltoro to the painful realities of capsicum spray during the Non-Lethal Control techniques course. Sponsored jointly by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the NAS Security Department, the training provided military and civilian police officers with the opportunity to learn and assess different strategies for handling potential prisoners without injuring or killing them.

Happy campers



Photo by Lt. J.g. Daniel Harmon

Twenty relieved and happy NASCC children received their graduation certificates June 25 at the Naval Hospital Corpus Christi auditorium after successfully completing the week long Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) Phase I Course. In alphabetical order the graduates are Blake Arden, Corey Arden, Devon Broddus, Ashley Caven, Genna Caven, Gabriel Diaz, Natalie Dunnells, Ron Flores, Stephen Fowler, Marcus Gayden, Jennifer Howeth, Teira Knerr, Kaylee Malone, Weston Malone, Rachel Myers, Esai Olivas, Bobby Ray, Chase Rudolph, Amanda Spendlove, and Jade Swain. The kids are pictured here with their guidance counselors.

“By the time graduation day arrived, they had united together as a group, and were helping each other with various tasks. We noticed they had retained what we were teaching them.”

For more information on the program, please contact the DEFY program coordinator AZ1 Christopher Brown at 961-2246, or 533-0156.

NAS Security Department teaches non-lethal techniques Training emphasizes more subdued restraint controls

By JO2 Jeffrey Fretland

Military and civilian police officers from the NAS Security Department recently exposed Auxiliary Security Force (ASF) members to everything from capsicum spray to maintaining crowd control when they engaged in a non-lethal combat training techniques course. Co-sponsored by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service Mobile Training Team in conjunction with NAS Security, the weeklong training course June 14-18 introduced knowledge and skills necessary to maintain the safety of security personnel and the general public.

Several different classes were taught in conjunction with the course, according to NAS Patrol Supervisor MA1 (AW) David Paoletti.

“We try to expose the ASF personnel to different scenarios,” explained Paoletti. “We run the whole gamut—ASP expandable baton training, unarmed self defense, basic patrol techniques, handling domestic disturbances, and standing gate watch. We train these individuals so they come up to par and can perform the responsibilities of a full-fledged master-at-arms. They have to be able to support us no matter what the circumstances.”

Course members normally class up every other month. Classes range in size from seven to ten Sailors and Marines. They spend part of the time training with Marine Corps cadre, and the rest with NAS Security personnel. Auxiliary Force training strongly emphasizes self-defense, as many people who are apprehended often fight and become non-compliant, particularly during protests and other disturbances.

Paoletti finds a deep satisfaction in training Sailors to become proficient in their occupations as Auxiliary Security Force members.

“We're lucky to have them augmenting us,” said Paoletti. “I hope they realize how important their job is, and that they take pride in protecting base personnel. We have better base perimeter security with them working along side us. I hope they obtain an understanding of what it means to work as a team and be responsible to themselves and the people we protect.”

Wingspan

From the Skipper

Back to school safety major concern on board NAS

By Capt. Hinger



Hinger

With August on the horizon, it is time to remind everyone that our youngsters will be returning to their classrooms. Safety is at the top of my priorities and that includes our children's protection, health and well-being.

First of all, children are abducted and molested by predators and strangers every year at an alarming rate. Always have a

designated parent or other individual walk children to and from the designated bus stops or walk or drive them to school. This greatly reduces the chance of predators taking advantage of innocent, unsuspecting children. Be certain to have your children fingerprinted and their photos taken, and have them registered with the local respective police department.

Caution your children to always remember to look both directions before crossing the street, or at a major intersection, especially when preparing to board or exit a school bus. Make sure they use designated crosswalks.

Children should never run behind a school bus parked at a designated stop, as the bus itself becomes a major barrier for drivers. Contact your local school to find out

if there are school crossing guards available during peak hours. In addition, purchase a knapsack or backpack with yellow reflectors on the straps, so your children can be seen more easily, especially just after sunrise or near twilight. School buses often pick up early in the morning and drop off later in the evening.

Likewise, motorists need to exercise great caution, especially if driving through on base housing areas, particularly if children are playing in front yards. The posted speed limit is 20 mph and in some areas even less. The NAS police will be especially vigilant in monitoring speeders through designated government quarters. Anyone caught driving in excess of the posted speed limits can expect to pay hefty fines, in addition to

From the Skipper continued on page 6

Chaplain's Corner

What does it mean to be an American?

By Chaplain Jaime Moreno

What constitutes an American? Which American—North or South? Or is geography even a consideration?

With a few notes and questions for this intended article in my hand, I stood one day some time ago, looking straight into the eyes of a charming three-year-old. In the innocence of a childhood he was playing hide-and-seek with my wife. What that little boy did not know was that he had a valuable treasure which his parents could not buy—American citizenship. His parents were illegal immigrants who had met and married in the United States. Their child is automatically an American citizen if he chooses to declare such at age 21. Meanwhile, the parents risk deportation.

Working with immigrants before had taught me that being an American citizen

is highly coveted. While South America and Latin America have many positive points, it is the America of the United States that the world's masses look to as paradise on earth.

There is a degree of logic to their coveting. America has about six percent of the world's population, with 60 percent of the world's wealth. America has electricity available for the rich and poor. Its transportation system is among the world's best.

Churches dot the landscape. Colleges and universities are within the reach of every citizen.

Every day there are people in the world who risk their life trying to reach the United States. For the dream of living in America, men, women, and families swim dangerous waters, set sail in un-seaworthy vessels, drive cars through enemy territory, hike mountains, fly airplanes, and dig tunnels, all in hopes of freedom and a better way of life. Many of them, an unknown number, die before ever seeing America.

What is an American? Perhaps it is the elderly lady who faces open-heart surgery.

Her doctors said that she could be home from the hospital in as little as six days after having a quadruple bypass.

Her doctors and medical staff were people of various cultures, colors and ethnic backgrounds, with accents to match this diversity. This is the American way.

At the present time even Europe is suffering from what experts call a “brain drain,” as some of the finest intellects are coming to America. Intellectual pursuits are favored in a setting where finances and technology afford resources for experimenting and developing theories and research.

Chaplain's Corner continued on page 6



Moreno

Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi

“Exceeding Expectations Through
Pride In Performance”

Commanding Officer

Capt. Paula Hinger

Public Affairs Officer

Lt. j.g. Daniel Harmon

Editor/Writer

JO2 Jeffrey Fretland

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Wingspan is published every other week by D.J. Young Publishing, 145 Naples St., Corpus Christi, Texas 78404, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas.

The editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas. Stories and photos not otherwise attributed are written by the Wingspan staff. The address is: Commanding Officer, NAS Corpus Christi, Attn: Wingspan, 11001 D St. Suite 143, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78419-5021. All news releases should be sent to the above address. Please call (361) 961-2674 for deadline information.

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Islamic Society of South Texas

(7341 McArdle Rd.)

Jumah Service - 1:30 p.m.

For other worship service times,

call 992-8550.

July 22, 2004

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Station Spotlight



AO1 (AW) Hector Hernandez

Leading Petty Officer, NAS Weapons Dept.

A native of San Antonio, Hernandez has been on board NASCC for one year. His prior duty station was Naval Air Station Sigonella at Gicilly, Italy.

Hernandez loves his occupation because he uses his talents in service to his country. Hernandez's future goals are to attain the rank of Chief Petty Officer and transfer to an aircraft carrier.

Hernandez's hobbies include fishing and serving in his church. Married for 16 years, Hernandez has two daughters, Tiffany 10, and Brianna, 2..



Estella Jiminez

Security Assistant, NAS Administration Dept.

Born and raised in Corpus Christi, Jiminez has been working on board NASCC since 1984. She has been working at her present position for three months.

Jiminez enjoys her job because she comes into contact with many different kinds of people. Her future plans include retirement, in addition to spending more time with her family and traveling.

In addition to being an avid bowler, Jiminez also enjoys reading and taking long walks. Jiminez has been married for 33 years. She has four daughters, Julie, Sara, Betty, and Emily. She has nine grandchildren, two of whom she and her husband Emilio are helping to raise.

How badly do you want to be a Command Master Chief?

By FLTCM (SW/AW) "Buck" Heffernan

Here is a quick quiz. If two master chiefs are walking down the street in dress blues, both wearing the command master chief pin, but one has a silver star where his or her rating badge used to be and one has a gold star, what is the difference?

If you say seniority, you might be right, but that's not totally correct. The real difference is in the jobs they hold. Command Master Chiefs and CNO-Directed Command Master Chiefs wear a rating badge with a silver star in place of a rating designator and have two silver stars above the eagle. Fleet and Force Master Chiefs wear a rating badge with a gold star in place of a rating designator and have two gold stars. The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy wears a rating badge with a gold star in place of a rating designator and has three gold stars.

I share this with you because I am not sure all of our Sailors are aware of the differences and also not convinced they look up the chain of command and wonder how far they will go in the Navy.

I often ask Sailors what their goals are and I am somewhat surprised how few say they aspire to become command master chiefs. I suppose they do not mention it because they know that it is not an option until they make master chief. While it is true you cannot become a Command Master Chief (CMDM) until you make master chief in your rating, I wonder if everyone knows how early you should start planning to be a command master chief? The best CMDMs knew they wanted to serve in that role early on in their career and worked very hard to acquire the necessary skills along the way.

I've been in the program for quite a while and I cringe when I hear Chiefs say, "If I ever make master chief I might consider putting in a package to become a CMDM." To me, that's not a plan. Rather, it is leaving everything to chance. While a person may indeed be selected into one of the 700 CMDM billets, how good will they become?

Recent feedback from the CMDM selection board reads, "Board members consistently looked for evidence of what candidates were doing to prepare for CMDM positions, such as leadership, CMDM backup, etc. For the most part, the board members were disappointed."

To be selected as a CMDM, and more importantly to succeed as such, you should possess certain inner strengths that make you want to stand in front and lead, none of which as anything to do with a person's ego. Whatever rewards there are for serving as a CMDM, they pale in comparison to the burdens. To be a good CMDM, you have to passionately embrace the job!

As you ponder your future in the Navy, and wonder if someday you would maybe like to serve as a command master chief, I would challenge you to understand the following

dynamics of this job:

- Possess a tremendous desire to serve Sailors and not to expect anything in return.
- Expect long hours of work and a 24-hour tether to your communication devices.
- Be ready to tell the truth always and be ready to lead with your chin! The skipper always needs to know the down and dirty.
- Be ready to take an unpopular stance when the stance is right. Forget what is 'popular' or 'fair' -- do what is right and demand nothing less of leadership.
- Understand that you owe no one anything. Do not lend your name to anything unless you totally believe in it. Don't endorse anyone for an assignment unless they are truly the best and their heart is in the game.
- When you believe in someone or some cause, fight for him, her or it with compassion and zeal.
- Never forget that you are the Sailors' advocate. You speak for those who cannot be heard. Be prepared to defend all your Sailors and be their champion—and this hold doubly true for their families.
- Understand that you, the CO and XO form the triumvirate, the big three, and you must be able to come to compromise for the good of the crew -- never compromising the mission.

I know this is quite a list. There is not any particular order to this list since each item is significant. Clearly, the things I listed are not easily taught. It takes an incredible amount of intestinal fortitude to serve as a CMDM and lead others to collective success.

I'll offer a couple more quick tips to help you along the way. First, read often and read everything, and start now. To lead the Navy, you have to know the Navy. If you are comfortable with others coming to you for information, then you already realize the wealth of information you have.

Second, improve your communication skills. You must be able to speak and write with eloquence. If you can't communicate your ideas, they die on the vine, and your Sailors lose.

Third, get in shape and stay in shape, because being a CMDM is demanding enough. Don't let excess body weight slow you down.

Lastly, get to know your command master chief and pay attention to what he or she does. Most of us grow up seeing good and bad examples of leadership. If you are one of the fortunate Sailors to serve with a superb CMDM, take notes and don't let the moment pass without you taking notice of what makes him or her great.

Shipmates, the CMDM program is for everyone. No one is going to come and beg you to learn the ropes early in your career. It is up to you to look to the future and envision your place. If you yearn to someday serve as a CMDM, don't let anyone take that away from you. If one day you are a CMDM, you will realize the magnitude of the job and appreciate all the early work you did to prepare. See you around the Fleet!

Espinal welcomed home after deployment

By Lt. Jason Uhrina

Information Technician Second Class Veronica Espinal, U.S. Navy, a member of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15, had been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Baghdad, Iraq since November 2, 2003. After serving almost six months in Iraq, Espinal returned to Helicopter Maintenance Squadron (HM)-15.

Assigned as the Information Assurance Security Officer to Coalition Joint Task Force 7 (CJTF7) located at Camp Victory in Baghdad, she experienced the harsh realities of an operational environment and the unique opportunity to work with both coalition personnel and Coalition Joint Forces. While serving her country in Iraq, Espinal reenlisted for six more years in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces.

After serving almost six months in Iraq, Espinal returned to HM-15. The "Blackhawks" of HM-15 congratulated Espinal for her exceptional professionalism and unyielding support during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Are you too busy to pay respects to our flag?

By ATC (AW/NAC) Humberto Lucero

By the time you have a chance to read this article, we will have celebrated the 228th anniversary of our independence from Great Britain. This gives me an opportunity to reflect and think of the things that I am grateful about living in this wonderful country of ours. I know that we in the United States of America live life in the fast lane, because of the freedoms that we have come to accept and demand as our right by virtue of being born a United States citizen. We have meetings to attend, deadlines to meeting, budgets to create, children to raise and still attempt to unwind to avoid burn out from our hectic world. We do all things and more to improve the quality of our children's lives and our lives as well.

We have become immune to the fact that all these freedoms that we enjoy today were given to us by our parents, grandparents, and all those selfless individuals who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the United States of America. We pay homage to all those that have come before us by saluting, placing the hand over the heart, removing ball caps, and by *stopping our vehicles* to the Flag during the playing of the National Anthem at Morning or Evening Colors.

It has become apparent to me while serving as NAS Command Duty Officer (CDO) that too many people in and out of the Military service just do not care or think about those that have sacrificed so much for by stopping and showing more respect to the FLAG. This flag that we call "OLD GLORY" represents so much to so many people around the world. I know it is not too much to ask that you stop what you are doing and show respect to the Flag and in turn demonstrate to others that you in fact know the meaning of freedom and not just a slogan that you see on bumper stickers.

We are in a time when we are having our way of life threatened by people who do not understand or care what the true meaning of freedom means. We should be standing a little taller and prouder of our flag and nation. We need to slow down and show the respect that is due to them and all that those that have come before us.

DAPS Online now available worldwide

New program provides improves customer service, production capabilities

By Lupe Alvarado

The Document Automation and Production Service (DAPS) has now implemented its DAPS Online service throughout its 11 office groups in the continental United States, the Pacific region and Europe. Formerly known as Doc Access Online, the service was already a hit with customers as a fast, easy and efficient way to conduct business with DAPS. The implementation of a new program version heralded the change of the name to DAPS Online as part of a marketing strategy to further encourage the use of doing business electronically. DAPS Online can be reached at www.daps.dla.mil for the corporate website and <https://www.okc.daps.dla.mil> for your local support.

The DAPS Online service promises to vastly improve the online experience for both customers and production personnel. The visibility to check the status during demand fulfillment is much easier. The customer receives an email confirming the order. A link is also included to allow the customer to check the status of a job. Cost estimates are available online and even the final bill arrives via email. The most important capability in the new version will be the interface with the Defense Working Capital Fund Accounting System. Accounting information will now be captured as the customer enters the order instead of having the entry done by DAPS personnel. This saves valuable time and improves the billing process, the most requested improvement asked for by customers.

DAPS accepts various forms of customer funding including Military Interdepartmental Purchase Requests, lines of accounting and government credit cards to pay for an order through DAPS Online. During the registration process, the customer notes which funding source will be used. This flexibility helps to get the project completed quickly and accurately.

Customers can be at their desktops and submit their requests online. Document files can be submitted electronically to the customer's local DAPS facility for printing, reproduction, conversion to other digital format or storage of multiple documents on a Compact Disc (CD) for easier distribution and retrieval. If the customer requests it, DAPS production managers can send documents to other DAPS locations worldwide and have the finished job available for pickup or local delivery.

DAPS production managers will use the system to manage the workflow throughout their entire multi-state Office Group area or to interface with other Office Groups worldwide. DAPS Online contains reporting capabilities to look at all the jobs in progress, forecast production times and redistribute the workload to other facilities as required to meet customer requirements.

The DAPS Corpus Christi office is located at 240 5th St. SE, Corpus Christi TX 78419. For information please contact Betty Briseno in Corpus Christi at (361) 961-3469 or DSN 861-3469.

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Vacation Bible School

**Lava Lava Island
Where Jesus'
Love Flows**
NAS Corpus Christi
Chapel Community
August 2-6 from
9 a.m. to Noon
Information and
Registration: 961-3751

MWR News and Events

Aquatics

Start planning your summer fun at the Bayside Pool. Don't stay inside and be bored, come on out to the pools and have some fun in the sun! The Bayside Pool is a family recreation pool with a slide and baby pool. New Bayside pool hours of operation are:

Wednesday through Sunday:

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday: Closed. The Bayside Pool is open for lap swim. The hours of operation are as follows:

Lap Swim:

Tuesday through Friday: 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. **Saturday:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday and Monday: Closed

The Bayside Pool will also host **water aerobics** classes. The hours are as follows:

Tuesdays: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Pool Party: Bayside Pool

Wednesday-Sunday

7 p.m. to 10 p.m., rentals \$40 per hour, (3- hour maximum). Baby Pool \$10 per hour.

The Oasis Pool will be CLOSED until August 10, 2004.

Pool Fees: Active Duty **military and active reserve personnel** are free with valid military I.D. card, and military dependents are \$1, Department of Defense employees are \$1.50, and guests \$2. Children under two years of age are free, but must wear a swim diaper. Monthly passes are available at Bayside Pool. The passes are valid from June to August. All lap swimmers are free with valid military I.D. card. Pass prices are as follows:

Dependents (E-1 to E-6): \$15 monthly pass; \$45 season pass

Dependents (E-7 and Above Retired Military): \$20 monthly pass; \$60 monthly.

DoD Civilians and Dependents: \$30 monthly pass; \$90 season pass. ***For more information, please call Earl Olsen at 961-3260.***

Auto Skills Center

The intense South Texas summer heat is just around the corner. Is your vehicle cooling as good as it should be? If not, stop by the Auto Skills Center to have one of our certified technicians examine your car's air-conditioning system.

Just come in and ask for an AC Service and we will check all of the following:

- Proper high and low side pressure readings
- Ensure refrigerant flow through all components
- Check all AC hoses and belts
- Check for proper operation of fans
- Check for signs of leakage

The Auto Skills Center is offering this service for only \$15. Service is delivered on a first-come, first-serve basis, so come in early and take advantage of the top notch expertise of the Auto Skills Center technicians. You don't even have to wait around while the work is performed on your vehicle. You can simply drop off your vehicle and pick it up once the work is done.

Hours of operation:

Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday and Monday: Closed

The service does not stop there! Does the price of R-12 air-conditioning freon scare you? Our technicians have the experience to show you how to convert to the new R-134a freon. The Auto Skills Center is located to the west side of the Navy Army Credit Union in buildings 1713 and 1737. The Auto Skills Center has most of the tools you will need to make repairs to your vehicle. ***For more information on this and other services provided by the Auto Skills Center, call 961-3470.***

Corpus Christi Bay Club

Join the Corpus Christi Bay Club for some terrific specials during the month of July. They have their menu filled with lots of delicious entrees during the entire month, so stop by and enjoy some tasty food at the Bay Club.

Specials for July:

July 31: Stuffed Salmon \$13.95

All the above specials are served along with the A La Carte from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Prices are for club members. An additional \$1 per person is added for non-members. Salad, ice tea or coffee is included with all the meals. Reservations are required for the specials in order to serve you better.

Special Events for July:

July 23: Winging designation ceremonies will be held in the main ballroom at 3:30 p.m.

July 24: Annual Navy Regatta Dinner and Dance (more information announced at a later date)

July 30: Mongolian Barbecue Night

For more information, please call the Corpus Christi Bay Club at 961-2541.

E-Street Gym

Stop by the E-Street Gym and sign up for the coming sports events:

Event: Flag Football

Registration Date: Aug. 6

Event Date: Sep.-Oct.

Event: Softball

Registration Date: Aug. 13

Event Date: Sep-Nov.

Event: NAS 5K Run

Registration Date: Aug. 18

Event Date: Aug. 21

Event: Sports Day

Registration Deadline: Aug. 30-Sep. 17

Event Date: Oct. 15

Intramural Sports Program: All Captain's cup sports are unit competition. Participants must complete with their unit. Military, military dependents 18 years of age and older and DoD/NAF employees working at NASCC are eligible to participate. Civilians from other bases will be assessed an entry fee. Women are encourage to participate in all sports. Please register on time and show up to **mandatory** coaching meetings.

Don't forget! You can issue gear for various sports from the E-Street Gym. Plan your summer outings now. ***For more information, call the E-Street Gym at 961-2401.***

Fitness Express

Towel Coins: You may purchase a towel coin for one dollar. This coin may be traded for a towel when you arrive. When you bring the towel back to the front counter, your coin will be returned.

Water Aerobics Cards Now On Sale: Water aerobics cards may be purchased at the Fitness Express for \$5 per month. A daily pass may be purchased for \$3. Water aerobic classes begin on Tuesday, June 1, 2004, and will be held on Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Wednesday and Friday from 9:45 a.m. to10:45 a.m.

Weight Training: The Fitness Center has variable weight and plate loaded equipment in addition to dumbbells and barbells. We have personal trainers and recreation specialists to guide you in accomplishing your fitness goals. ***For more information, please call the Fitness Express at 961-3164.***

Information, Tickets and Tours (ITT)

Stop by ITT today to get your tickets to the best summertime fun around. There is something for everyone, including food, music, sports, and a whole lot more. In addition, the month of July is filled with great music concerts, so there is something to fit everyone's taste.

Intense Football League: Get your tickets to watch the Corpus Christi Hammerheads take on other semi-pro indoor football teams at the Memorial Coliseum.

Aviator Baseball Tickets: ITT also has Aviator Baseball tickets available. Ticket prices for these tickets at ITT are only \$5.50. The Aviator games are held at the Nueces County Fairgrounds in Robstown, Texas.

Summer Concert Series:

July 30: The 1980's Music Fest with Rick Springfield, The FIXX, and Tone Loc

July 31: Texas Throwdown Two Country Concert

August 6: Pure American Metal Tour Rock and Roll Concert

August 8: Evanescence with Seether, Three Days Grace and Breaking Benjamin

ITT also has tickets to local and surrounding theme parks and attractions. You can purchase tickets to the following vacation spots:

Corpus Christi:

- Texas State Aquarium
- USS Lexington Museum
- Texas Treasure Casino Cruises

San Antonio:

- Six Flags Fiesta Texas
- Sea World
- Schlitterbahn
- San Antonio Zoological Park

Dallas/Houston/Galveston

- Six Flags Over Texas
- Houston Space Center
- Hurricane Harbor
- Moody Garden's Island Aquarium

For more information on schedules, ticket prices and other services available, please call ITT at 961-3961 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Outdoor Recreation Center (ORAC)

ORAC will be hosting a huge fishing tournament coming this fall. Get ready and take out your tackle boxes and fishing rods and dust them off for this exciting event. The tournament will be held at the Paradise Cove Marina and will be ongoing for one week. The date and time will be announced at a later date, so mark your calendars once the date is set. There will be different categories to participate in, including Redfish, Trout, and Flounder competitions. This event is open to all MWR patrons. A minimal fee will be processed at the time of registration. Various prizes and awards will be presented at an awards ceremony at the end of the tournament week.**ORAC** is ready for summer and wants to get you ready too! Take advantage of all the super summer classes that ORAC is offering. There is something for everyone, so just take a look.

Sailing and Motor Boat Classes: These classes will be offered on a day-to-day basis in order to meet the needs of our customers. Please call the marina to find out specific time and dates for these "must take" summer classes. Group and/or private classes will also be available.

Scuba Classes: ORAC will also be offering scuba classes. These classes cover all levels from beginner to advanced.

Windsurfing Classes: Don't stop with motor boats and scuba classes. Go for the gusto and take the windsurfing classes also. You will be the talk of the beach with all your skills in these fun summertime activities.

Also Available: ORAC not only offers classes but meets all your fishing, camping and fun time needs. You can stop in and get all the gear you need for fishing, camping and kayaking excursions. Don't wait any longer, so stop by today and take advantage of all the awesome opportunities offered to you by the ORAC marina.

The hours of operation for the Outdoor Adventure Recreation Center are as follows:

Thursday to Monday: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, please contact the friendly ORAC staff at 961-1293.



Photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland

United States Coast Guard Detachment Public Affairs Officer Lt. Michael Danish explains some of the finer points of the Coast Guard HU- 25 Falcon Jet to Boy Scouts from Troop 440 of Garland, Texas. In addition to the Coast Guard station, the scouts also visited the Training Wing Four simulator modules, the HM-15 "Blackhawks" Squadron and the NAS Radar and Control Tower during a base wide tour Friday, July 9.

From the Skipper *continued from page 2*

non-judicial punishment and appearing in a military court.

If your children are biking to and from school, ensure their bicycles are properly maintained. Check the tires for proper inflation, make certain the sprockets and chain are properly greased, and be sure the seat is adjusted to a comfortable level. Teach your child the importance of riding with a helmet that fits comfortably. A trip to the hospital emergency room, intensive care unit or funeral home can be avoided.

Take the time and prepare for your children's safety. Our children are our most precious resource.

Chaplain's Corner *continued from page 2*

Maybe the question should be asked, "Who are Americans?" The young and old, rich and poor, married and single, working and nonworking, God-fearing and God-hating, law-abiding and criminal, educated and ignorant, healthy and handicap, honorable, and dishonorable, sheltered and homeless-all these are among America's approximately 270 million citizens.

America's infants have excellent odds of living and being healthy. America's children are required to go to school until age 16. America's adults enjoy the singular privilege of an open-door college program. Every person who wants to go to college may do so. America's poor have welfare and charity programs. Social Security, insurance, investment and shareholder's plans build better hopes for the sick, disabled and elderly. Medicare and Medicaid programs bring medical care within reach for thousands.

I am happy to be a citizen of the country that sponsors 80 percent of the world's Christian missionaries. I am thrilled that in the United States there are over 1,500 radio stations and 300 TV stations with religious programming.

America has internal difficulties. It is not a utopia. There are deep and sensitive needs that beg for help. Social ills are conspicuous. We need to turn to God.

However, America is still the hub of the earth. America is still the model. America is still the greatest resource of help, even to her enemies. America is forgiving, hasty to pour oil into wounds. America is generous, rushing in quickly to rebuild lands and peoples who have been enemies in time of war.

What is an American? If you say that an American is a teacher, a carpenter, an executive, a lawyer, a mechanic, a nurse, a preacher, a farmer, a judge, a technician, a clerk, a truck driver, an engineer, an author, you have but begun your list. The real definition is not in the job title or lack of it. An American is that person whose back stiffens and whose head is held high when the flag unfurls.

Finally, America has been blessed because it was founded on biblical principles. If we as Americans deny that the Lord is our God then we will gradually continue losing our God-given freedoms and blessings.

July-August Calendar of Events

- **There are less than three months** until the 2004 General Election for the President of the United States, 34 U.S. Senators, and 435 U.S House of Representatives. You and your family members are encouraged to take the time to ensure you are all registered to vote in your state of residence and to request a Federal Absentee Ballot for the general Election if necessary. Every vote counts! There are a number of ways in which to vote. In Texas, if you are registered at the Department of Motor Vehicles you are also registered to vote at the same time. If not, there is a postage-paid Texas voter registration card that can be acquired at the NAS Post Office or through the NASCC Voting Assistance Officer (Lt. Heather Coats, at 961-4960/4961, or contact her by e-mail at heathercoats@navy.mil.) For Nueces County voter registration, call the voting office at 888-0404. You can also check out the following websites for voter registration: http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/online_fPCA.pdf, <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/vagchapter3.html>, or <http://www.tvap.gov/pups/vag/vagchapter3.html>.

- **July 29:** There will be a NAS Safety Committee meeting at 1 p.m. in Headquarters Building 2 at the Conference Room. Attendance is mandatory for all Safety Petty Officers.

- **July 29:** A Disaster Preparedness Officer Meeting will be held at 9 a.m. in the Naval Hospital Corpus Christi Auditorium. Attendance is mandatory. For more information, contact the DC1 (SW) Randy Molina at the NAS Disaster Preparedness Office, 961-2385.

- **The NAS running track**, located next to the gym, will be closed for resurfacing from July 6 to August 31. For more information, contact MWR Athletic Director Mike McClure at 961-2401.

- **Motorcycle riding classes** are being held **July 31 to Aug. 1, Aug. 13 to 14** and **Sep. 16 and 17**. For more information, contact Jennifer Garrett at the NAS Safety Office, at 961-3673, or [Jennifer.sgarrett@navy.mil](mailto:Jsgarrett@navy.mil).

- **August 3:** An open house will be held at the NAS Education Center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Representatives from ECPI College of Technology, Emory Riddle Aeronautical University, Park University and University of Phoenix will be available to provide information about on base education and degree programs that will be offered this fall. All on base programs are eligible for military Tuition Assistance and GI Bill benefits. For more information call 961-3236.



Current Events Sponsored by Christine H. Young, Independent Sales Director

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AWARDS AND

ACHIEVEMENTS

NHCC Awards presented

Capt. Alton Stocks, Naval Hospital Corpus Christi commanding officer, presented the following individuals with their respective awards during ceremonies held at the hospital auditorium July 2 and 8. (Photos by Bill W. Love)



Ms. Mary J. Weier (left) received the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service award July 2, for exemplary service in the superior performance as the Performance Management and Risk Analysis Program Coordinator and Patient Safety Manager at NHCC from June 18, 2001 to July 2, 2004.



Capt. Evan A. Applequist, Dental Corps (right) received the Meritorious Service Medal July 8th for outstanding meritorious service as Director, Branch Dental Clinic, NAS Corpus Christi, Texas from July 2000 to July 2004. Applequist's implementation of the multi-chair expanded functions dentistry concept set the foundation for other clinics to follow. The team building programs he fostered and goal-setting concepts employed, empowered his staff to peak performance. Despite a 55 percent reduction in dentists, he initiated new technologies to maximize available resources, resulting in a dental health increase of 70 percent while maintaining dental readiness above 96 percent.



Hospital Corpsman Second Class (FMF) Curtiss D. Stapleton was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal July 8th for professional achievement while serving as Leading Petty Officer, Education and Training Department (EDTRA), Naval Hospital Corpus Christi, Texas from July 2000 to June 2004. Stapleton greatly contributed to the management of all EDTRA staff programs. He centralized training and documenting of continuing education programs for over 300 staff members. He coordinated the development of a comprehensive database that documented and tracked all training throughout the command and Branch Medical Clinics. This system documented all training throughout respective departments to produce reports tailored to specific training and competency reporting needs.



Chief Hull Technician (Surface Warfare) Fred L. Thomas, (right) received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal July 8th for meritorious service while serving as 3M coordinator, navigation and administrative department leading chief petty officer in USS Howard (DDG 83) from November 2000 to April 2004. Thomas excelled in all positions of responsibility, greatly enhancing Howard's readiness. His outstanding management of the 3M program and Planned Maintenance System ensured the successful completion of two afloat training group Pacific 3M inspections. This is Thomas's third award.

Aviators soar to new heights



Photo by Ensign Walter Williams

The following individuals received their "wings" designating them as aviators, during a "winging ceremony" at the Corpus Christi Bay Club July 2. In alphabetical order: Ensign Erin Baker, USN; Ensign Robert Bichan, USN; Lt. j.g. Sarah Campbell, USN; 1st Lt. Thomas Cisar, USAF; 1st Lt. Ryan Deis, USAF; Ensign Ricardo Ferri, Italian Navy; 1st Lt. Paul Fowler, USAF; 1st Lt. Jonas Freel, USAF; Lt. j.g. Laura Freeman, USN; 1st Lt. Caine Goyette, USMC; 2nd Lt. Scott Gregory, USAF; 1st Lt. Robert Hurst, USMC; Ensign Riccardo Mangio, Italian Navy; Ensign Salvatore Marchese, Italian Navy; Ensign Sabino Sorrenti, Italian Navy; Lt. j.g. Brain Steckroth, USN; Lt. j.g. Stephen Troy, USN; Lt. j.g. John Walden III, USN; 1st Lt. Nicholas Weber, USAF, and Ensign Blake Whetstone, USN.

Air Operations Department Awards

NAS Commanding Officer Capt. Paula Hinger presented the following Sailor and civilian awards during a ceremony held at Hangar 58 on board NAS July 1. (Photos by Lt. j.g. Daniel Harmon)



NAS Air Traffic Control Facility Officer Lt. Michael Nielsen (right) is congratulated by Capt. Hinger after receiving the Navy Commendation Medal. This is Nielsen's third award.



Mr. Roberto Torres (right) of the NAS Weapons Department is named NAS Civilian Employee of the Quarter for the period January to March 2004. Seventeen other Sailors and civilians were awarded Navy Achievement Medals, Good Conduct Medals, Flag Letters of Commendation, Command Letters of Commendation and Letters of Appreciation. More Air Operations Department photos and a listing of the other awardees will appear in the Aug. 5 issue of the Wingspan.

