

Wingspan

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A Winter Wonderland—after 107 years! NAS, Corpus Christi revel in rare 4.4 inch snowfall



Naval Air Station and Corpus Christi savored a rare Christmas Eve/Day snowfall that blanketed the region in a dazzling array of white. Corpus Christi had not received a measurable Christmas snowfall since Dec. 24, 1887. (Above, left) A snow angel glistens in the front yard of a Corpus Christi home. (Above, right) The snowfall was not lost on NAS Security Department personnel, who took time out from their busy work schedule Christmas Eve to construct a snowman behind the NAS Pass and Decal Office located adjacent to the main south gate on Lexington Boulevard. From left to right, the Force Protection officers are Watch Commander MA1 (SW) Michael Brown, DC3 Stephen Marquez (to the right of the snowman, standing), AC3 Kurt Lilja, (front, kneeling) and MA2 Keith Knight. (Photo courtesy of NAS Security Department). (right) These three young ladies are all smiles after sharing the Christmas spirit by building a snowman on Pyle Drive in Corpus Christi. The Coastal Bend storm began as a mixed ice pellet and rain that progressively turned into a heavy, wet snow that made for a white Christmas. (Photo by Richard Stewart, Navy Region South Photo Studio)



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Happy New Year from the staff of The Wingspan and NAS Public Affairs

Just a reminder... registration for college classes begins soon at the Navy College Center! Prepare your tuition assistance and registration paperwork! For more info, call 961-3236.

From the Skipper

Welcome back in 2005!
By Capt. Paula Hinger



Hinger

The New Year is always a time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. In the remaining seven months of my tour I have some unfinished business, like an official plan for the Senior Officer Quarters and a replacement for the Bay Club; however, there are a lot of great things going on of which you should be aware. As always nothing is perfect or easy, but the end result is well worth the pain and inconvenience. For those of you who live or are on a waiting list to get on-base housing, there is a lot of good things happening. Laguna Shores, all 100 units, is under major renovation. These units will essentially be brand new

houses. Unfortunately, the renovation is inconveniencing the current residents who have to vacate to another unit. Because we have to move them, along with personnel in the FY66 housing targeted for demolition, have priority for the new housing. This short-term problem is exacerbating the time on the waiting list. We have worked with the owner – builder to add new houses to the south end of Laguna Shores housing vice waiting for demolition of old ones, which should move up the phasing schedule by four months once we get started. Overall the end result will be a new better quality home. If you haven't been over to the RV Park lately, you may want to go over and greet our new neighbors. We increased our number of sites last year and they are full. Many retirees come to visit us each year and become part of our community from four to six months. Although this year hasn't been that warm, I am certain it is still better than the northern climates. We have been undergoing renovation of Bldg 1281, Combined Bachelor Quarters,

since before I arrived in June 2002. We are approaching our last phase, renovation of F Wing, and will be executing a plan to get all single sailors in renovated BQ rooms that meet CNO criteria. The BQ staff has created a plan that will begin execution this month. The older buildings will be demolished. If you hadn't noticed we have a new Navy Lodge open for business. It is already booked solid, so if you are anticipating needing a room please plan ahead. It has all of the amenities and is the Navy's newest addition. Another new construction project is the Public Safety building, which will house fire, safety and security forces, to include renovation of the old Fire House as well and the ongoing housing utilities project. I am certain that you have run over a few bumps in the road, but the inconvenience now will help us gain more consistent utilities in the future. For those who are not familiar with NASCC's history, the base was built in 1941 and the infrastructure is almost as old. Out with the old and in with the new.

From the Skipper continued on page 4

Chaplain's Corner

May God grant you a Happy New Year!

By Chaplain Alan Snyder

The New Year is here, 2005 has arrived and we can all look forward to turning one year older. What a great thought. We all grow older, hopefully wiser and better able to make decisions about the direction that our life is to take. We like to think of life as something that we have control over. The decisions that we make each and every day that direct this life. We move in one direction or the other seeking a way to make life easier or more pleasurable. In this pursuit of happiness, sometimes, it is easy to forget what will make you truly happy in this life. The saying by Sir Edwin Landseer, "Man Proposes, God Disposes" takes on a special

meaning for Christians in James 4:13-15: *Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."* This is the Biblical version of the song "Dust in the Wind" by Kansas. We have no idea how long our life will be so we had best live it in seeking God's Kingdom. What are we chasing in this life? Are we seeking to meet our own needs or are we seeking to do God's will with what he has given us? Of the great gifts that God has given us I would say that the most important

is time. Everyday is a gift to be used to spread hope, show faith and to love our neighbor as ourselves. The world would teach us that we must seek first to fulfill our own needs. The Bible teaches us otherwise. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, teaches us to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and then God will give us what we need to live and thrive on this earth. Sin is a great distorter of priorities. Seek to give of yourself in this New Year. Seek to help others in this New Year. Seek God's will in your life for this New Year.



Snyder

Healthwatch

Do you hear what I hear?

By Lt. Nate Ruttig



Ruttig

Maybe you do not hear so well if you haven't been protecting your ears! Naturally, as we get older, everyone suffers from some hearing loss due to the eardrum losing its elasticity and the bones of the middle ear becoming stiffer. This is termed "presbycusis" and effects mainly the higher frequencies. In fact, one in three persons age 65 or older have some hearing loss and by age 75 it's one person in two. Hearing loss happens for many reasons, such

as viral or bacterial infections, autoimmune processes, trauma to the ear, tumors, etc. The most common cause of hearing loss, however, is exposure to loud noises. Sound intensities are typically measure in decibels (dB). A decibel is defined as 10 times the logarithm of the power ratio (power ratio is the ratio of the intensity of the sound to the intensity of an arbitrary standard point). Basically, sound is power- too much power and damage occurs. Your ears can withstand sound up to approximately 85dB without suffering permanent damage. A noisy office, electric shaver, and an alarm clock are all examples of sounds around 85dB. A wood saw, passing truck, or home lawnmower, home vacuum cleaner all have about a 100db level reading and can cause hearing loss. When around loud noises, there

are several things that you can do to prevent hearing loss. Give your ears a break. If you work in a noisy environment, choose leisure activities that are quiet. Develop a habit of wearing earplugs. They are cheap and can offer up to 25dB of protection. When operating firearms, always wear earplugs and earmuffs. Keep television sets, radios, and headsets low in volume. Loudness is a habit that can be broken. Lastly, don't drown out other unwanted noise with more noise. For example, turning up the television set while vacuuming. If you have hearing loss concerns and/or ringing in your ears, it may be time to consult your healthcare professional. The ability to hear allows you to be more involved in the world around you, so be sure to protect it.

Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi
"Exceeding Expectations Through
Pride In Performance"

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Worship Services

CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICE
Base Catholic Chapel
Sunday Mass - 8:30 a.m.
Daily Mass:
Monday - Friday - 11:40 a.m.
Religious Education: Sunday - 9:45 a.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE
Base Protestant Chapel
Protestant Worship Service:
Sunday - 10 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study - 8:45 a.m.

JEWISH WORSHIP SERVICE
*Temple Beth El (4402 Saratoga Blvd.)
Friday at 7:30 p.m.
(with dinner to follow)
For further information call
Temple Beth El at 857-8181.

ISLAMIC WORSHIP SERVICE
Islamic Society of South Texas
(7341 McArdle Rd.)
Jumah Service - 1:30 p.m.
For other worship service times,
call 992-8550.

Station Spotlight



Sharon Arnold, Reception and Hospitality Chairman, Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society

A native of Baltimore, Md., Arnold has been on board NASCC since 1981. Arnold began her career as the first NASCC Ombudsman in 1983. Besides her busy occupation as the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Reception, Hospitality Chairman and (Baby) Layette Coordinator, Arnold enjoys reading, writing and crocheting in her spare time (which isn't much). Arnold has so far accrued an impressive 4,500 hours of volunteering time. She worked as the NMCRS bookkeeper from 1994 to 2001.

"My favorite part of working for

NMCRS is assisting service members who need help," explained Arnold. "I also get to work with other volunteers who donate their time to solve other people's problems. Giving back to the military community is what it is all about."

Arnold is a retired Navy spouse who was previously stationed with her husband Herman, a submariner, in Groton, Conn., and Rota, Spain.

"I was an active duty Navy wife for 28 years," said Arnold.

Married for 40 years, Arnold has four children—Patti, Terry, Marty and Steven.



AMT3 Joshua Wigley Aviation Maintenance Technician, Coast Guard Air Station

Originally from Galveston, Texas, Wigley has been on board NASCC for two years, and has served in the United States Coast Guard five years. His previous duty station was Coast Guard Station Calumett Harbor in Chicago, Ill.

"Since we're a Search and Rescue Unit, my favorite part of my job is being able to help stranded people in need, in addition to fixing planes," said Wigley.

Wigley's future goals include making Master Chief Petty Officer and retiring from the Coast Guard, and studying to become a chiropractor.

Wigley's hobbies include rock climbing, woodworking and weightlifting.

Wigley and his wife Emilianna have one child, Joshua, who is four.

From the Skipper continued from page 2

The newest edition to the base will be an air traffic control tower. This project has been fast tracked and will start in February with an end of the year completion. This not only improves our capability but accomplishes something much more important: it improves our ability to operate safely.

Speaking of safety, please don't lose sight of the need to be vigilant. Keeping everyone alive and healthy into the future still remains

at the top of my priority list. I need you to look after your family, friends and shipmates. Keep your eyes open for people who may have gotten in a hurry or forgot to put their safety equipment on. If you see something that makes you uncomfortable please contact the Duty Office at 961-2383. We will get someone to check it out right away. Have a safe, fun and rewarding year!

January Calendar of Events

- **Motorcycle Safety Classes:** The next motorcycle safety courses are scheduled for **January 8-9, 2005** aboard NAS Corpus Christi. The course is mandatory to acquire a permanent DOD decal for motorcycle. Seating is limited. For enrollment, call Petty Officer Ramirez, NAS Safety, 961-3673/2489 or e-mail: Ramirez.Robert@navy.mil.
- **The Fleet and Family Support Center,** NAS Corpus Christi, has begun a 10 set series of workshops, to be rotated every 10 weeks, which commenced October 14, at the NAS Family Housing Office, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The workshops are designed to ease the stressors (children, financial, emotional, etc.) and difficulties affecting the military family lifestyle. For registration and additional information, please contact Cristoval Perales, Relocation Program Manager for NAS Corpus Christi's Fleet & Family Support Center, at 961-2372.
- **The Chief Petty Officer Examination** will be administered on Jan. 20 at 7 a.m. in the Gulf Stream Recreation Center ballroom, Building 1740 located near the NAS South Gate on Lexington Boulevard. Military uniform of the day and ID card are required. No cell phones and beepers or wristwatches are permitted. **Questions can be directed to Mr. Braden, Educational Services Officer at the Personnel Support Detachment NASCC by calling (361)-961-1289/3849.**
- **The NAS Ceramic Shop** is changing owners. Lorraine Hettich closed the shop Dec. 18, and Clarice Bookmar, the new contractor, will re-open the store on Jan. 18. Watch for new hours of operation soon!
- **Help feed the Flour Bluff School Children!** Donations of food must be in single serving plastic containers, need no refrigeration, and the first ingredient on the package cannot be sugar! Items such as pudding cups and breakfast bars are needed. Donations can be left at the NAS Chaplain's Office, the shopping cart at the NAS Commissary, or the box in the Navy Exchange. For more information contact the Religious Ministries Department at 961-3751.

Base library offers more than just books, magazines

Institution provides Internet, microfiche, other services

Photo and story by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland



Four-year-old Byron Monaghan, son of Army Reserve Capt. Tim and Minda Monaghan of Corpus Christi, enjoys one of the many games available in the children's section of the NAS Library. The library provides many services free of charge, including Intranet and photocopying, as well as a Children's Summer Reading Program.

Are you wondering what to do with your fidgety kids? Need a break from the stresses of every day life? Don't fret. Help is as close as the Naval Air Station Library.

Despite their often-stereotypical reputations as havens for staid academics and disheveled students, libraries are an integral part of any military or civilian community, according to Sharon Scott, NAS librarian.

"Libraries are the university for the people," explained Scott. "Libraries provide information and knowledge on most any subject one could imagine. A library is designed to promote a lifelong interest in and appreciation for learning. This library is often one of the most unknown yet valuable assets on the base."

The NAS library, appropriately titled Books and More, provides many support services many base residents and their families are not even aware of, added Scott.

"Our most commonly used research tools are the computers," said Scott. "They are particularly popular with the Winter Texans who live at the Base RV Park. They love to e-mail family members. We also have ink jet and laser color printers, a photocopier, a microfiche reader, audio/visual books on tape, and video movies. Of course, we have plenty of books, periodicals and records, including a Job Hunter's Reference Guide, too."

The base library also acts as a historical repository, and several photos and documents relating to the evolution of the Naval Air Station are also available for review as reference materials. In addition, Scott can resource documents to answer any request for historical information.

The library boasts over 33,000 volumes. Although the library's contents

are geared toward adults, a popular Children's Summer Reading program is also available from May to August. Students from the DEFY (Drug Education for Youth) program are frequent visitors.

Scott has been base librarian for the last 15 years, and has worked in libraries in Arizona and Texas since 1965. "I love hearing all the war stories from the active duty, retirees and veterans who come in regularly," said Scott.

The library is funded through the Morale, Recreation, and Welfare Department. Due to budget cuts, the library has received many donations of books from patrons, local colleges and universities. Volunteers are needed and welcome to assist with cataloging and shelving books and supplies.

"We gratefully accept any book donations," said Scott. "In addition, we're always looking for volunteers. For example, Lucille and John Totin help out whenever they can. They are so dedicated, they are real gems." One of her favorite aspects of the library is its relaxed atmosphere.

"This library began operating on July 16, 1941," said Scott. "It's been around so long, it's like having a member of the family close by. It has lots of big windows and comfortable chairs for catnaps! The computer card catalogue is great, but the manual card catalogue works even better when the electricity is off!"

The Naval Station Library (Books and More) is located in Building 5 across from the Wings Auditorium/Theatre adjacent to the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society.

It is Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and is closed weekends and holidays.

For more information, contact Scott at the library, 961-3574.

Youth Center searching for Volunteers

Director shares program with NAS Community

Story and Photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland



Boekenkamp Children's Treatment Center Director Brayde McClure explains the services the Lutheran Social Services of the South supported facility provides to a receptive audience at the NAS Conference Room. The center is looking for volunteer members to help with its after school programs.

Perhaps no better role models can exist than military personnel, who provide the wisdom and guidance to turn troubled teens' lives around. NASCC recently hosted an information brief with representatives from the Boekenkamp Children's Treatment Center, which also operates a charter school on its premises. The meeting, held in the NAS Conference Room Dec. 21, provided valuable information to Sailors and other military personnel interested in becoming mentors.

Owned and operated by Lutheran Social Services of the South, the Boekenkamp Center houses 57 residents. It has one guidance counselor/therapist for every five patients

designed to treat serious emotional problems, according to Brayde McClure, center director.

"We have an innovative program, in that our support services include adoption, foster care, residential treatment and education," explained McClure. "Most of our clientele consists of kids referred from Child Protective Services, Juvenile Probation or by private family referrals. Most of these kids come from broken, dysfunctional homes. They have a lot of pent up frustration and anger."

The treatment regimen consists of early intervention to diagnose emotional symptoms and identify maladaptive behaviors, and reduce them. The program seeks to increase socially acceptable behavior through positive goal orientation.

The client population ranges in age from sixth to twelfth grade. The average stay is five months, although stays from three to nine months or longer are possible.

Volunteers are needed as tutors, primarily in math and science. Coaches/mentors in basketball/football are also required. Military personnel interested in mentoring must pass a criminal background check, have a current driver's license, attend an orientation course, and undergo a tuberculosis test. For more information, contact the Boekenkamp Children's Center at (361)-994-1214, or fax (361)-994-0555, or visit online at www.lsss.org.

Naval Hospital to close for one weekend

All health care services to be affected

By Bill Love, Naval Hospital Public Affairs Office



up to a 30-day supply. You will pay a co-payment of \$3 for generic drugs and \$9 for brand-name drugs. Most chain pharmacies in the Corpus Christi area are part of the TRICARE network. The closest network pharmacies to the Navy Hospital include:

CVS #0747, 10309 South Padre Island Dr., Suite B, (361) 939-8178. H-E-B #204, 10241 South Padre Island Dr., (361) 937-1497. WAL-MART #0490, 10241 South Padre Island Dr., (361) 937-2626.

Naval Hospital Corpus Christi (NHCC) will close Saturday and Sunday, January 22 and 23, to complete building-wide, entomological extirpation and to replace the main power switch. The weekend long procedure will affect all health care services, including pharmacy refill. Your healthcare is a top priority, and the completed processes will enhance the facility's environment.

All emergencies will be responded to at 911.

The hospital will resume normal hours of operation on Monday, January 24.

Pharmacy beneficiaries who are unable to wait until that time to receive their prescription may bring their new prescription to the pharmacy of their choice. Patrons are advised that TRICARE provides for a comprehensive network of civilian pharmacies. Simply give the network pharmacist your written prescription, your pharmacy information card, and your uniformed services identification (ID) card. The pharmacist will fill your prescription for

Having other health insurance (OHI) does not prevent you from using the TRRx Program. TRICARE typically becomes the second payer in these situations. To get reimbursed for a portion of your out-of-pocket expenses, you can submit a claim form and medication receipts showing OHI payment to the previous address.

Practicing good hunting etiquette is no accident

By Mike Bogdanowicz, International Hunter Education Association

The recent hunting tragedy at Rice Lake, Wis. on Nov. 22 in which six people were killed in a dispute over a tree stand has generated interest in how hunters resolve disputes when they are in the field. Discussions are taking place where hunters gather as they ask themselves and their friends: What would I do if I were faced with a dispute when I'm hunting?

While the events that occurred in Wisconsin-one hunter going on a rampage-are an anomaly, if you hunt long enough and often enough, you will most likely observe or become involved in some type of hunting conflict. The majority of the time, it is a minor conflict that is politely handled between parties who treat one another respectfully and fairly. According to Eric Nuse, Executive Vice President of the International Hunter Education Association, the most frequently mentioned conflict discussed during hunter education classes is when "Two hunters shoot at and hit the same deer. Each hunter thinks his was the killing shot and both want to tag the deer. What do you do?"

Dealing with conflict when hunting is something a hunter may not be ready for. The first question you may want to ask yourself is: Am I mentally prepared to deal with conflict? Accept the fact that a dispute could happen any day you are in the field. Then, when it happens, you have the proper mindset. For this I would make these modest suggestions:

- **Be courteous.**
- **Don't make any assumptions about the other party.**
- **Don't, under any circumstances, lose your cool.**
- **Be prepared to walk away and let law**

enforcement authorities handle the situation...even if you are in the right.

Walking away might not be an easy thing to do. Many hunters pay to lease or even purchase land for hunting. This does not mean that conflicts won't occur. Trespassing may still occur, and lost hunters and non-hunters may come along to "spoil your hunt." Farmers may come along to work; landowners or their relatives might show up, surveyors, utility service workers and a whole host of folks could come along while you hunt. Prepare yourself by assuming that a certain percentage of your hunt is going to be disturbed by others. Ultimately, you will have to decide if that particular area and the activity there is acceptable to you. You may need to locate another place to hunt. Don't ever compromise yourself or your dignity over a day's hunt.

One might ask the question: Does that mean that I have to back down when I have the absolute right to be there? The bottom line is, when we can't work these things out politely, we all lose. Sometimes you have to be the bigger person. Maintaining your own dignity and setting a good example will pay off in the end! Conflicts occur where all parties have an equal right to hunt the same location. Sometimes it's a battle of wills, and sometimes it's a compromise. Generally, the person who gets there first claims the spot. This is especially true when hunting public land.

Agencies that control public land and large land-owning corporations attempt to limit or eliminate conflicts by enacting rules and regulations. These rules work well to minimize conflicts, but none of them, however, can replace the Golden Rule.



MA1 Jeff Lanaville, NAS Security Department recently landed a 41.5 inch long red fish at the fishing pavilion adjacent to the NAS Marina. It required 30 minutes for Lanaville to land the huge fish. In addition, he also caught several speckled trout. Lanaville is shown here with his daughter, Bailey. (Photo by Bob Torres)

Religious Ministries Department sponsor child raising, positive parenting seminar

By Chaplain (Lt.) Bob Christian



"Growing Kids God's Way", a new video curriculum designed to foster better child raising, is designed to assist parents in teaching their children to be sound, responsible individuals. This class helps lay the groundwork for parenting, no matter where you are in the process.

Topics to be discussed include how to raise a morally responsible child, how to avoid legalism in parenting, and solving sibling conflict. Other topics include the dangers of permissive and authoritarian parenting, negative influences on a child's security, and what to do when children lie, steal, or cheat.

The program emphasizes building moral character, parenting without manipulation, and the concept of true biblical discipline. Logical and natural consequences will be explained for achieving true repentance. The concept of discipline by encouragement toward building trust in family relationships will be emphasized. The program also focuses on how to make teen years great, and learning how to say "I Love You!" The course begins Wed., Jan. 12 and meets weekly every Wednesday for 20 weeks. The class runs from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the NAS Corpus Christi Protestant Chapel Fellowship Hall, so please be prompt.

Registration materials are free of charge. Contact the Religious Ministries Department, Fourth Floor, Naval Hospital Corpus Christi at 961-3751, or e-mail/call the course facilitators, Bert & Bing Howard at e-mail: ahoward3@yahoo.com, and phone or fax: 906-2231.

Taylor Avalos becomes a Pilot-for-the Day

Story and photo by Bob Torres



Eleven-year-old Taylor Avalos (left) beams proudly as he shows off his new flight suit to Marine Corps Maj. Larry Brown (right). Avalos participated in the "Pilot for a Day" program, designed to expose special needs children to the different types of training aircraft on board NASCC, and to help improve their self-esteem. The program is a joint venture between NAS and Driscoll Children's Hospital.

The young boy's face creased with a smile when he saw the flight suit. This was another evolution of the Air Stations' "Pilot for the Day" program, and it was going to be Taylor Avalos' day!

When Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Mark "Sparks" Allcott, Commanding Officer for VT-35 brought Taylor, his Mom, and assorted guests into Allcott's conference room, there was a myriad of badges, stickers and items there for Avalos.

"This is totally AWESOME," said Taylor as Allcott began loading him down with the paraphernalia. Stickers, writing pens for the flight suit, the VT-35 logo, all there like a treasure chest for Taylor. It was only the beginning!

The Pilot for the Day program is an agreement between the Naval Air Station and Driscoll Children's Hospital where one selected child each month, gets to meet with and even become a "pilot" for one day. The child and his family are welcomed to the Naval Air Station and for many, it is a dream come true.

"We almost lost Taylor in September," explained Janie Avalos, Taylor's mother. "His lungs began to harden and he was having respiratory failure."

This, as well as a form of dwarfism, a blood disorder and a myriad of other problems has made Taylor's life a struggle.

"He was born on New Year's Day 1994, and we've been blessed with his smile every day since then, because he almost didn't make it," said his mom. "He's been my 'miracle baby' and this is simply wonderful."

After the initial introductions, Taylor met two of his escorts, Navy Lt. Chris Orlowski and Marine Corps Maj. Larry Brown. Both were in flight suits and soon they were off to

the "Paraloft" where Taylor would be issued his own flight suit. His mother had phoned the measurements in, and hopefully all would fit properly. Because of Taylor's size and dimensions, the initial flight suit was too tight. But quickly, another suit was pulled out, so as not to disappoint Taylor, and with some on-the-body modifications, Taylor accepted the changes and his smile grew wider when he saw himself in the mirror.

"We'll take the suit back at the end of the day, make the modifications and get it back to Taylor by this weekend," said Rob Jackson, from the Paraloft facility.

Taylor was fitted with a helmet, and Brown helped him put his name and military insignias and squadron patches on his suit. Brown also put the writing pens in the proper pockets and overall, fitted him - for flying.

Next came a trip to the squadron maintenance office, where Brown went over the routines for checking out an aircraft, and after ensuring it was flight-worthy, had Taylor "sign out" his first airplane.

Taylor then proceeded to the airplane, did a pre-flight check, even kicking the tires, and then boarded the aircraft. He sat in the left seat so that he'd be able to see the instrumentation panel. At first it was bewildering, but Brown showed him what controls he needed to know, and what he had to do. That wasn't enough.

Taylor then went to another aircraft on the flight line and was given further instructions on egress and flight preparation. Now he was more comfortable, but all this was taking time. Now it was time for lunch - at the Bay Club in his flight suit for everyone that was eating there to see.

Taylor marched into the club, shook hands with people he met and then, trailed by Brown, made his way to his seat in a long guest-filled table. After lunch - he would be "flying" in a simulator.

Things progressed through the afternoon with Taylor meeting people, becoming more involved in the flight operation and just plain being involved.

"This is just so wonderful for him," expressed his Mom. "He is so happy and this means so much for him. Look at him, he's tired but he's not going to stop until we make him stop. Look at all the stuff he's got on his flight suit. He's not going to want to take it off."

Taylor didn't just become a pilot, in the afternoon he also visited the NAS Fire Department and in minutes was in a fire truck being driven to a "crash site." When directed, he pointed a nozzle turret at the top of the vehicle and another turret coming from the front of the truck and began spraying water all over the place. He wanted to ensure he got all the flames out. In seconds he had emptied the truck's water reservoir in a gush of spray. Taylor looked around and seemed satisfied that he'd put out the imaginary fire. Finally, it was back to VT-35's conference room where Taylor debriefed with the commanding officer.

"It was awesome, just awesome," said Taylor.

"What part of the day did you like best?" asked Allcott.

"All of it," Taylor replied with no hesitation. "The whole thing was awesome."

The beaming smile on his face told the story. What more could Allcott ask?

It was with barely concealed reluctance at the end of the afternoon, that Taylor changed from his flight suit to his civilian clothes. There was no doubt in his Mom's mind that Taylor would fall asleep on his way home to George West. What dreams he would have - as he flew through the air in his very own flight suit.

Naval Hospital Corpus Christi signs new contract agreement



Capt. Alton Stocks, commanding officer of Naval Hospital Corpus Christi (NHCC), and Ms. Epifania Irigoyen, vice president of the National Federation of Federal Employees/International Association of Machinists (NFFE/IAM), Local 797, sign the new Collective Bargaining Agreement between NHCC and the union establishing most of the working conditions' rules, policies and procedures covering the majority of the command's civil service employees. The three-year contract, signed in a brief ceremony in the hospital conference room, will become effective January 22, 2005. (Photo by Bill Love, NHCC Public Affairs)

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

FOR LEASE 3-2-2, 1,613 sq.ft, large Mstr w/ walk in closet 2 full baths, Lvng Rm w/cathedral ceiling, washer/dryer, refrigerator. \$1,100 mo. Call 857-8457.

Jet boat: 1999 Seadoo Challenger 1800. 220 hp with low hours, trailer with new tires & rims, bimini top, boat cover, ski rope and two life jackets. \$9500.00. Call 643-4027.

FOR SALE: Black SONY Stereo Receiver: \$150. Black TECHNIQUES 3-piece surround sound speakers: \$100 and Black RCA Color TV: \$100. All excellent Condition. Call 949-1395.

HOUSE FOR LEASE/SALE, 3/2/2, 1680 sf, Mstr BR w/ walk in closet, split floor plan, family room, Lvng Rm w/ cathedral ceiling & fan, washer/dryer & refrigerator, quiet neighborhood. Call 906-2399. 2/2.

Basketball League looking for volunteer coaches

The North Bay Basketball League is looking for some NAVY coaches. League play begins Jan. 15. All games will take place at Solomon Coles Gym, located at 924 Winnebago St. Each team is allowed to practice once a week at the gymnasium. There will be only one game per week (Saturdays only), with each game usually lasting one hour-unless two teams tie.

There is a need of coaches in the following age divisions:

- 3 coaches for 10-13 year-old boys**
- 1 coach for 10-13 year-old girls**
- 4 coaches for 6-9 year-old boys**
- 1 maybe 2 coaches for 6-9 year old girls**

There will be 10 games played each

Free DON/DOD Courses Offered at NAS Ingleside Mine Warfare Training Center

The following free classes are being offered at the Mine Warfare Training Center's Video Tele-Trainer (MWTC-VTT). These Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) (formally CNET) courses are open to all applicable Active Duty personnel, DOD civilians and Contractors (on a case-by-case basis). Contact your command's training officer for scheduling quotas.

For more information and additional course offerings, contact Don Larson at 776-4709, or e-mail don.larson@navy.mil. Arrangements can be made with other VTT/VTC sites for conferences, seminars, cross training, gatherings, reenlistments, and award ceremonies. Save time, travel and money, by holding a Video Tele-Conference. It is a great way to enhance your Quality of Life! The following courses are being offered at the dates and times listed below:

Information System Security Manager (ISSM)
Jan. 3 to Jan. 14,
7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Enlisted Tactical Application course (ETAC)
Jan. 3 to Jan. 14,
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
SK Weekend Refresher (CIN: A-8B-0075)
Jan. 8 to Jan. 9,
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Heat Stress Afloat/Hearing Conservation
Jan 25,
7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

New Year to start out foggy, windy

By AG3 (SW) Christina Leighty
Naval Training Meteorology and Oceanography Command



Winter is now upon us as we enter 2005. The average maximum temperature for January is 65 degrees Fahrenheit with a minimum temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Although January is our coldest month, we usually reach freezing temperatures only once during the month. Cold fronts move through the area every five to six days. Rain showers associated with frontal passages provide the majority of our precipitation, about two inches for the month on average.

January is the month for morning fog. Fog, on the average, occurs approximately 17 days during the month. Drizzle and light rain often accompany fog, which affects flight operations as well as the morning drive to work. Although thunderstorms do occur, they are not the dominant weather factor. The predominant wind direction is from the north at approximately 11 knots.

Point your browsers to <https://web.nlmof.navy.mil/cc/default.htm> or call 961-4500 for the latest weather updates as well as other useful weather information.

Travers Scholarships restored for dependents of active duty and retired Sailors, Marines

The Society's President, Adm. Steve Abbot (*Ret.*), announced that effective with the academic year beginning in August 2005, the Vice Admiral E. P. Travers Scholarship and Loan Program would once again be opened to children of retired Sailors and Marines and spouses of active duty Naval Service personnel.

Named after the Society's 11th President, the Vice Adm. E.P. Travers Scholarship and Loan Program was initially established to provide scholarships and interest free loans to the dependents of active duty Sailors and Marines on the basis of financial need. In 1997, children of retirees and spouses of active duty personnel joined the children of active duty as eligible participants. In 2003, however, due to the disappointing performance of the investment markets, the Society had to once again limit Travers Program eligibility to children of active duty personnel.

Since its inception in 1992, the Travers Program has provided more than \$26 million dollars in education assistance to more than 13,000 eligible family members. Funds to support the Society's education programs come from the organization's Reserve Fund – NOT from contributions resulting from the Active Duty Fund Drive or the Secretary of the Navy's Direct Mail Campaign to Retirees.

Admiral Abbot stated that although funds available for education are not yet sufficient to entirely restore education programs to



The Adm. E. P. Travers Scholarship Program provides college financial aid for children and spouses of active duty and retired Sailors and Marines.

pre-2003 levels, it is important to re-open the Travers Scholarship program to children of retirees and spouses of active duty personnel, even if funding available for the program remains, at least temporarily, somewhat less than in past years.

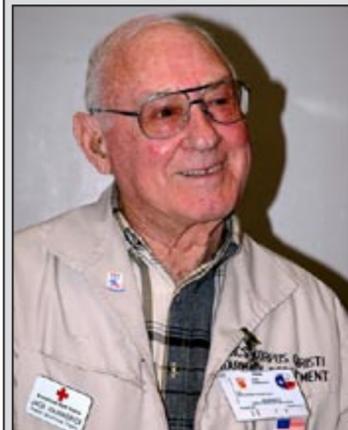
A new Travers Scholarship and Loan Program application that reflects this change is available on the Society's Web site, www.nmcrs.org. The deadline to apply for the 2005-2006 academic year programs is March 1, 2005.

Applicants that do not have access to a computer to download the application may obtain one by contacting the Society's Education Division. For more information, phone (703)-696-4960 or DSN 426-4960, or fax (703)-696-0144 or DSC at 426-0144.

AROUND THE STATION

Naval Hospital Celebrates Volunteer's 94th Birthday

Story and photo by Bill Love, Naval Hospital Corps Christi Public Affairs



John Hammerick has been a volunteer at the Naval Hospital Corps Christi Pharmacy for the past 13 years.

Mr. John "Jack" Hammerick, a Red Cross volunteer at the Naval Hospital Corps Christi (NHCC) Pharmacy since 1991, celebrated his 94th birthday Dec. 17 saying that "I don't feel a day past 60, and I'm ready for my 100th birthday!" Staff and well-wishers gathered at the pharmacy as Capt. Alton Stocks, the commanding officer at NHCC, wished him Happy Birthday and presented him a Letter of Appreciation and a command coin.

"You may be justifiably proud on this special day," stated Stocks. "This is not just because you have reached a significant milestone in your life that few can say they

have achieved, but also because you have continued to serve your country with pride and distinction."

Jack, a native of Springfield, Mass. enlisted in the U.S. Army Dec. 1, 1940. After 20 years of service that included duty in the European theatre during WW II, he retired at Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Texas where he and his family remained for the next 15 years while he pursued a second career with the Department of the Army as a civil service employee. He retired again in 1975.

"Although many people who have retired from two careers as you have might feel as though they have contributed enough, you have continued to serve through your selfless and tireless efforts," said Stocks, referring to Jack's volunteer "career" that has already spanned 29 years.

Ms. Edna Everett, his supervisor, remarked about Jack's dedication and love for others, explaining his interest in young people's well being.

"He continues to be a role model for my sons after working side by side with them during Bring Your Child to Work Day here. The experience shared was about getting a good education and creating goals. Now [her son Josh] is a pre-law student and vows that Jack just makes him want to do his best."

Jack has been married to his high school sweetheart, Lillie, 90, for 62 years and they still drive to El Paso, Texas more than 900 miles away, taking turns at the wheel on Interstates 37 and 10. Jack says that he will continue to work at the NHCC pharmacy for, "the rest of his life."

Ten Naval Air Station personnel volunteered as Science Fair Judges, Dec. 13 at Montclair Elementary School with Corpus Christi ISD. This is the second year that some of these same sailors have participated in the project, that rates class projects from First Grade through Fifth Grade. "The judges yesterday were so AWESOME!" said Ms. Shelley Veit, a science teacher at the school. (Photo by Bob Torres)

New housing construction, barracks renovation on course



Replacement of old housing units on board the Naval Air Station is moving at a rapid pace with the last of the old housing units in the Fiscal Year 1966 Housing Area being razed. (Far Left) Construction workers from Eberle Materials, Inc. prepare to load cement and other refuse from a recently demolished duplex home near the intersection of King's Row Road and Ocean Drive. (Middle) A recently constructed town home located adjacent to

Caring for the Bay, Beaches



Sailors and civilians from NASCC pick up garbage along Ocean Drive just outside the northwest installation gate Dec. 17. The various tenant commands volunteer their time and efforts quarterly to beautify the area between the northwest gate and the Oso Bay Bridge on Ocean Drive, in addition to regular maintenance of on-base grounds. (Photo by Bob Torres)

Encouraging the work of future Einsteins



the new NAS Navy Lodge. (Right) Carlos Gutierrez, an electrician with Magna Electric, installs new wiring on the third deck of the F Wing, Bachelor Officer's Quarters, building 1281. The F Wing is presently being renovated, and is scheduled to be completed and operational by April. The D Wing is the last of the barracks buildings to be renovated, and is expected to be completed by December. (Photos by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland)

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

NAS celebrates multiple reenlistments

Garcia extends for six years



NAS Police Watch Commander MA1 (SW/FMF) Juan Garcia (right) receives his certificate of reenlistment from NAS Commanding Officer Capt. Paula Hinger (left) during a ceremony Dec. 23 at the NAS Security Department. (Photo by Bob Torres)

Bennick re-ups for six



AC2 David Bennick, NAS Air Operations Department, (right) receives congratulations and his certificate of reenlistment from NAS Traffic Control Facility Officer Lt. j.g. Joe Heuser (left) during a ceremony held Dec. 17 at Building 60 on board NASCC. (Photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland)

Hitching up for four more



NAS Assistant Security Officer AOCs (AW/SW) Heriberto (Tony) Pineda (right) receives the oath of reenlistment from Lt. j.g. Daniel Harmon (left) during a ceremony held Dec. 10 at the NAS Security Dept, building 104 on board NAS. Pineda reenlisted for four years. (Photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland)

Barron for six more



AC2(SW/AW) Orlando Barron from NAS Air Operations Department is also congratulated by Lt. j.g. Heuser as he receives his reenlistment certificate. Bennick and Barron reenlisted at the same time during the Dec. 17 ceremony. (Photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland)

NHCC honors Wilson-Escobar



Naval Hospital Corps Christi Commanding Officer Capt. Alton Stocks (left) congratulates Lt. Henrietta Wilbon-Escobar on her retirement from the Navy Nurse Corps. Wilson-Escobar retired after 23 years of service. (Photo by Richard Stewart, Navy Region South Photo Studio)

Walters recognized



Corpsman 2nd Class (FMF) Scott Walters received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for meritorious services while serving as Leading Petty Officer, Immunization Clinic and Customer Relations, Capt. Alton Stocks, the commanding officer at Naval Hospital Corps Christi, made the presentation during a brief ceremony Dec. 21 in the NHCC conference room. (Photo by Bill Love, NHCC Public Affairs)

Pilots receive aviator wings

Congratulations to the following individuals who received their "wings" designating them as aviators, during a graduation ceremony Fri., Dec. 17 at the Corpus Christi Bay Club on board NASCC:

- 1st Lt. Christopher Adams, USAF
- 2nd Lt. James Archer, USAF
- Ensign Mark Baham, USN
- Ensign Kevin Buszta, USN
- Ensign Clint Campbell, USN
- Ensign Brian Carruth, USN
- 2nd Lt. Thomas Guillebeau, USAF
- 2nd Lt. Kenneth Hoekman, USAF
- 2nd Lt. James Knaack, USAF
- 2nd Lt. Brian Korzen, USAF
- 2nd Lt. Bryan Lucas, USAF
- 1st Lt. Lee Mahlstedt, USMC
- 2nd Lt. Eric McEwen, USAF
- Ensign Christopher Murphy, USN
- Ensign Richard Parella, USN
- 2nd Lt. Michael Shahan III, USAF
- Ensign Eric Smith, USN
- Ensign Lauren Stavelly, USN
- Ensign John Walcutt, USN
- Ensign Sarah Woollard, USN
- 2nd Lt. Albert Wright, Jr., USAF

Simmons recognized



Lt. j.g. Brent Simmons, (right) NAS Supply Customer Service Officer, is congratulated by NAS Fleet and Industrial Supply Command (FISC) Supply Officer, Cmdr. Tom Tharp (left) after he presented Simmons with a Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal during a ceremony Dec. 17. Simmons received the award for outstanding service as supply officer on board USS Devestator (MCM 6) during their deployment to the Mediterranean Sea in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Devestator is home ported at Naval Station Ingleside. (Photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland)

Parker receives Safety Award



Grace Saenz, Supervisory Human Resources Specialist, (right) presents Kimberly Parker (left), with a Letter of Appreciation, as Ms. Diane Millas (far right) and Jeff Carpenter, (far left) who were visiting, look on. Parker was recognized for her actions in preventing a serious fire and possible loss of life in Bldg. 1730 Oct. 30. Parker found a smoldering break room coffee pot, and immediately removed it and shut off the electrical source. (Photo by Bob Torres)