



**Earth Day - April 22  
(NASCC - April 30)**

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**CNATRA Garden  
Party for Community**

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## STARBASE Atlantis opens enrollment for Summer Academy

### Academy runs June 14-18; NASCC folks get priority through April 30

Story & photo by Rod Hafemeister

STARBASE Atlantis is offering first priority for its one-week summer academy to children of those who work aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

The summer academy is open to current and rising 5th graders who have not attended STARBASE Atlantis before.

“As a way to say thank you for your support of our program and for the work you do each day in support of our country’s freedom, we will give priority placement through 30 April to children (and grandchildren) of those who work aboard NAS Corpus Christi,” said Crystal Trujillo, program director.

“Children of deployed military members are also eligible for priority placement.”

The academy runs June 14-18; the application deadline is May 14, but the academy historically fills early.

“It’s the same curriculum as the year around academies, but runs Monday through Friday instead of over the course of several weeks,” Trujillo said.

“There are no fees to attend. Parents/guardians need to provide prompt and reliable transportation. Students must bring sack lunch with beverage each day.”

STARBASE Atlantis is the Navy’s part of the Department of Defense’s STARBASE program, designed to get elementary school students interested in science, technology, engineering and math through hands-on projects, such as building and launching model rockets.

Students are immersed in a hands-on, minds-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum concentrated in: Newton’s Laws of Motion; *STARBASE continued on page 6*



**In hands-on science, students in Starbase Atlantis study inertia and force launching ‘rockets’ with different amounts of ‘fuel.’**

## NASCC, City Police train on response to gunman on base

by Rod Hafemeister and Bob Torres

As shots echoed through the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi headquarters, people ran from the building.

Some didn’t make it out, dropped in the sudden burst of gunfire. Others huddled in their offices, hoping not to be found.

“Ricky” was an angry man, and he was going to hurt people.

His wife had divorced him 18 months earlier, taking his two young children away. Financially and emotionally, he was a wreck.

Then a few weeks earlier, a female coworker had filed a sexual harassment complaint against him.

Now, he’d been fired and he came back shooting.

But it was only blanks.

It was all a carefully choreographed exercise on April 7 to help NASCC Security, base leadership and City of Corpus

Christi Police practice how to deal with an “active shooter” on NASCC.

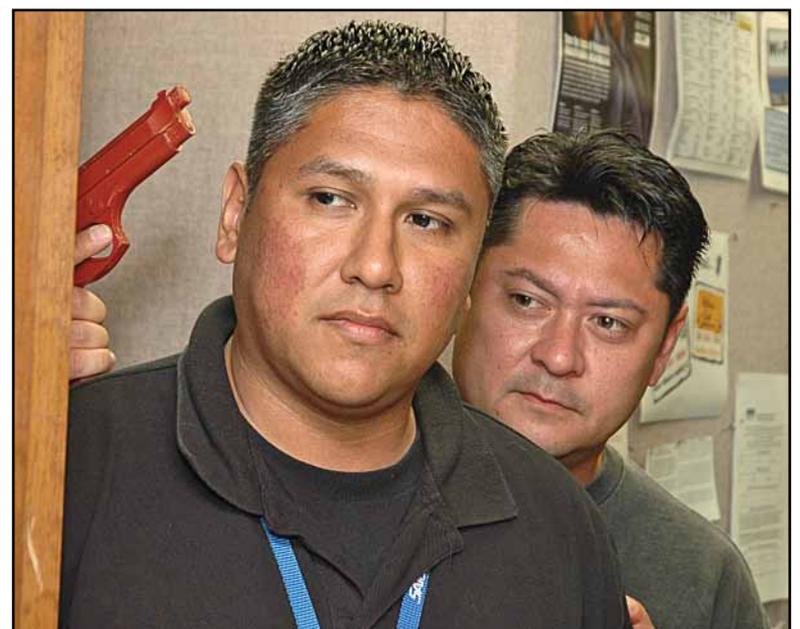
“We’re preparing ourselves for something we hope never happens,” said Capt. Randy Pierson, NASCC Commanding Officer, in a pre-exercise briefing.

Evaluators from NASCC and observers Navy Region Southeast were everywhere – in the building, outside where evacuees were debriefed and in the Emergency Operations Center activated for the exercise.

“Ricky” was Chief Petty Officer Rick Pettis; after firing a starter pistol to begin the exercise, he switched his weapon to a “red gun,” a rubber simulated weapon.

Hostages and wounded were volunteers from the NASCC military civilian and contractor employees.

But take away the live *Gunman continued on page 10*



**Chief Rick Pettis holds Eddie Garza ‘hostage’ during a joint NASCC/Corpus Christi Police training exercise April 7.**

*More photos on page 12*

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

## Skipper's Column

by Capt. Randy Pierson



Pierson

On April 7, we hosted a mass casualty exercise, a joint exercise of the City of Corpus Christi, NAS Corpus Christi and the Naval Health Clinic.

My personal observation was that this training was invaluable to the Base.

And reports from the City participants were that they too experienced great benefit from coming aboard the installation in an "extremis" scenario to render immediate emergency services – in this case, especially City Police SWAT, Fire and Command and

Control elements.

The scenario was tragic, simple and realistic: A distraught and unstable former employee sought and obtained retaliation through shooting several people in the workplace.

His actions stemmed from losing his job due to his own misconduct.

NAS Corpus Christi Security, Fire, Emergency Services, and Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi were the first responders as City initiated their response with specialized assets (SWAT, negotiators, etc.).

While the City equipment and personnel were impressive, the success of the training was not in the visuals but more what happened behind the scenes.

First, the City set the tone for success through unconditional support in elimination of the threat, working beside our own responders to take expeditious action to

## Preparing for what we hope never happens

neutralize the portrayed gunman.

Secondly, the City team and the NASCC team ensured all possible seams and likely incompatibilities in operations were addressed ahead of time through coordination and tabletop exercises, ensuring optimization of limited training dollars on both sides.

Finally, NASCC Fire, Security, and NHCC fully committed themselves to the exercise with activation of the Installation Emergency Operations Center and the NHCC Field Hospital.

The key take-away is, should any threat engage the installation or those who work or live here, I can assure you we are prepared.

As proven in the exercise, we will use our own forces to the fullest extent possible and, if necessary, leverage a very dedicated and capable City force to guarantee we accomplish the mission.

## Chaplain's Message

by Lt. Cmdr. Gabriel Mensah, Chaplain

Since reporting on board NAS Corpus Christi in March, I've been busy. It's the middle of April and I'm still moving into my house.

I've met some of you, but for those who I have not, here's a brief background about me.

I was born and raised in Ghana, West Africa, and did high school and college studies in Ghana.

Subsequently, I studied theology at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, N.Y., and at St. Anthony-on-Hudson seminary in Rensselaer, N.Y.

After being ordained as a priest, I served in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria, Texas for 11 years, until I was commissioned as a U.S. Navy Chaplain in 1994.

My first assignment after basic training was at Camp Kinser at Marine Corps Base,

Okinawa, Japan, from September 1994 to February 1996.

My next tour of duty was on the USS Nimitz (CVN-68) from February 1996 to May 1998. From the great ship Nimitz, I was assigned to Second Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

I deployed twice from Lejeune – with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit in 1999 and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit in 2000.

After Lejeune, I had the following assignments:

- Naval Station, Rota Spain – 2001 to 2003;
- Assistant Fleet Chaplain, COMSIXTHFLT, Gaeta, Italy - 2003 to 2005;
- Regimental Chaplain, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC - 2005 to 2007;

## Meet the new Chaplain

- Personnel Exchange Program with the Canadian Forces, Halifax, Nova Scotia - 2007 to 2009.

My last assignment before coming to NASCC was

as Command Chaplain, Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from February 2009 to February 2010.

So now I've returned to Texas.

Thank you to those who have already welcomed me – and I hope to meet the rest of you soon.



Mensah

## Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

Every few weeks, someone comes in the office or calls me and asks some variation on "Why do you do it that way?"

"It" is the things we do in the paper that are different than Navy style. Most often, the question is about ranks – why is it Lt. Cmdr. and not LCDR, or Rear Adm. instead of RDML?

Or why don't use postal abbreviations for states?

It's because of a blue, spiral-bound book on almost every editor's desk: The Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual – otherwise known as AP Style.

You may not know it, but the "associated" in AP refers to the fact it is an association of news agencies.

Originally, it was a way for newspapers to share articles – and a consistent style book was needed so that when a Texas article was picked up by a Maine newspaper, it needed minimal editing. AP grew to include radio and television and, because almost everyone used it, AP Style became the de facto standard for news. Sort of.

See, each newspaper still had its own peculiarities. You'll notice we capitalize a lot more words, like Sailor or Commanding

Officer, than the stylebook demands.

But for ranks we follow AP Style, in large part because anything we might send to an outside publication follows AP Style. And we do use rates for enlisted, most of the time.

But AP recently caused a furor when they proposed replacing the state abbreviations that have been used for more than a century – not with postal abbreviations, but by spelling out the name of each state no matter how it is used.

Biloxi, Miss., would become Biloxi, Mississippi.

That plan's on hold for now – but one change was just announced: Web site now is website.

Which is what almost everyone has been doing already.

## Wingspan

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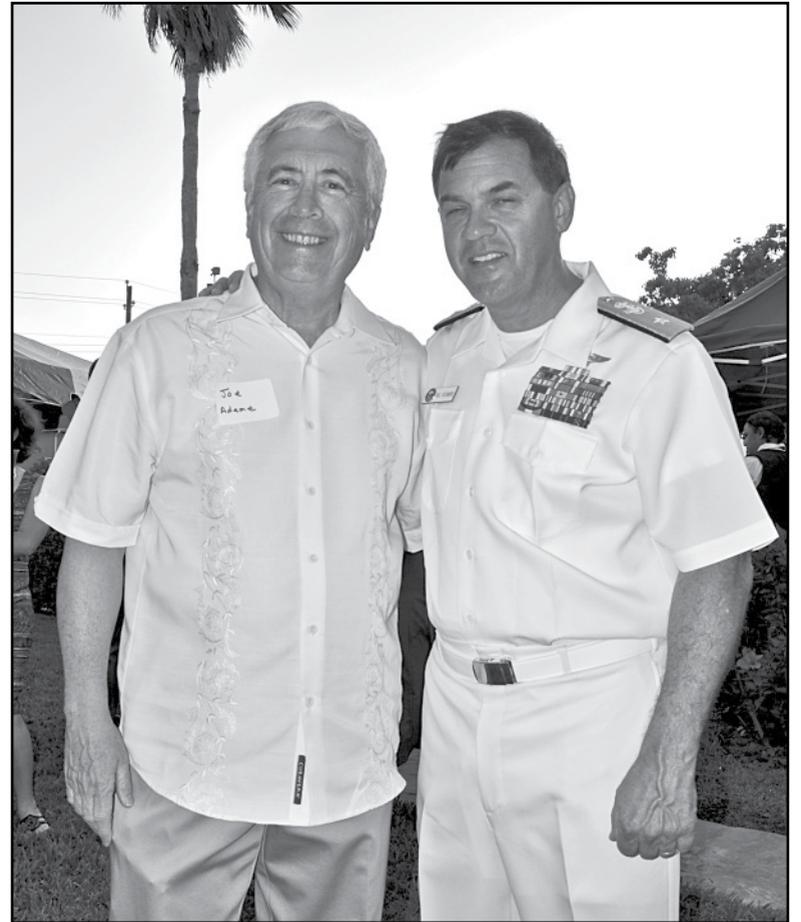
Islamic Society of South Texas  
(7341 McArdle Rd.)  
Jumah Service – 1:30 p.m.  
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## CNATRA hosts area dignitaries at annual garden party



Rear Adm. Bill Sizemore, Chief of Naval Air Training, hosted the annual garden party at his home April 10, with approximately 50 community leaders in attendance. The garden party is an important event that fosters and builds relationships between military and the community in South Texas. Distinguished visitors included Corpus Christi Mayor Joe Adame, pictured at right with Sizemore, and area commanding officers. Beautiful weather, food and drinks, along with performance from the New Orleans Navy Jazz ensemble made for a wonderful afternoon.

Photos by Bob Torres



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## Naval Branch Health Clinic Ingleside disestablishes

Story & photo by Bill W. Love, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Public Affairs Office

Naval Branch Health Clinic Ingleside held a disestablishment ceremony March 30 at the Naval Station Ingleside auditorium.

Naval Station Ingleside is being shutdown because of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005.

The clinic's 47 military and civilians transferred on permanent change of station (PCS) orders, found other work, were administratively shifted to Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi (NHCCC), or in the case of one of the 13 civilians, retired.

The ceremony marked the end of the clinic's 18-year presence at Ingleside, where the base population of various commands was once abundant.

"We have provided comprehensive health care to 3,900 Active Duty. We ensured mission readiness for 24 deployable commands and 20 tenant commands. We saw numerous dependents and numerous retirees," said Cmdr. Darrel G. Vaughn, NBHCI officer in charge.

"As a matter of fact, we provided well over 20,000 appointments per year, providing comprehensive health care to all beneficiaries who came to us."

Vaughn, the clinic's seventh OIC in its history, took charge in June 2008.

Capt. Randy G. Kelley, NHCCC commanding officer and former senior medical officer at NBHCI during the mid 90s, served as guest speaker.

"Over the past months, Cmdr. Vaughn and his tireless staff have gone above and beyond," Kelley said.

"They have prepared the buildings for turnover, removed and redistributed equipment all while continuing to provide outstanding patient care as the days of Naval Station Ingleside draw to a close.

"Today is the day to return the keys; the buildings are empty and just a skeleton of what was. It would appear that nothing is left, but I would suggest to you that there still is something left...it is the spirit of dedication, compassion and service of staff past and present that will always be here."

During the closing moments of the ceremony, Vaughn read his orders and turned to Kelley, requesting permission to disestablish the clinic.

He then faced Capt. Leland D. Taylor, NSI commanding officer, thanked him, and returned the keys.

"Though the mission has decreased, many of the people have moved on, and the base is preparing for reversion to the Port of Corpus Christi, there is one thing that always stays constant," Vaughn said.

"The beneficiaries who walked through the doors of building 109 across the courtyard here always knew that they were going to be met with that friendly smile and caring attitude, and embraced the best health care the Navy has to offer."



Capt. Leland D. Taylor, Naval Station Ingleside commanding officer (left) accepts the keys to Naval Branch Health Clinic Ingleside from Cmdr. Darrel G. Vaughn, during a disestablishment ceremony March 30 at NSI.

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**Bone Marrow Registration Drive – April 23 and May 14**

*Editor's Note: Many do not know how important giving "the gift of life" can affect people we don't even know. Our own legal counsel, Lt. Ron Lenert, has a first hand perspective of giving blood – and bone marrow – so that others may live. Below is his personal story.*

"My great sacrifice to donate bone marrow to a terminal patient actually turned into a blood donation on a five-day trip to (Washington) D.C., with per diem. I would have endured a lot more to save a life, but my experience in donating bone marrow was actually a thrill.

"I got in the national registry about 10 years ago, when a group of my friends registered together in the hopes of matching someone's relative who had leukemia.

"I was contacted out of the blue in October, quickly got transferred to the DoD program, and was flown to D.C. for the donation in December.

"Donating bone marrow was not what I expected. I expected that they would ask to drill into my hip, that it would be painful, and that I would be out of commission for a

month.

"But when I got matched, I learned that a lot (in collection procedure) had changed.

"First, more than 90 percent of donations are done with a dialysis machine, where your blood is cycled back to you except for the special cells that can implant and grow new marrow for the recipient.

"The process was like a long blood donation but in front of my own TV as I watched DVDs.

"Also, I learned that the DoD has its own program for donors, specifically addressing military issues and creating a primary resource in the event that servicemembers suffer a chemical or nuclear attack and need marrow donations fast.

"Since the only location the DoD allows marrow donation is D.C., that means an expenses-paid trip to sightsee and relax. To this day I am commended by friends for my sacrifice, but to be truthful, it was more of an inconvenience.

"The odds of being selected off the registry are slim, but I have my fingers crossed that I will be given the opportunity to do it again."



Entry in the DoD Bone Marrow Registry requires only a swab from your cheek and a little paperwork. DoD photo

*On Friday, April 23, we will have the base's first ever Bone Marrow Registration drive at the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Then on May 14, a second Bone Marrow Registration will take place from 9*

*a.m. to 2 p.m. between the Navy Exchange and Commissary. Registration is simple; it only requires an oral swab and consent and contact information. Please consider taking a small step towards saving a life.*

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## STARBASE continued from page 1

fluid and aerodynamics; nanotechnology; navigation and mapping using both GIA (Geospatial Intelligence Agency) maps and GPS hand-held units; metric measurement; coordinate geometry using circuit boards; data collection and analysis; toy model rocketry; flight simulators; engineering design; 3D CAD construction and assembly; and tour to the flight line.

"Our program is designed to raise the interest and improve the knowledge and skills of at-risk youth in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), which will provide for a highly educated and skilled American workforce," Trujillo said.

"We want the students to leave our program understanding that learning is fun and that they CAN pursue study in STEM, so we do our best to provide each student with exciting opportunities for success."

For further information or to apply contact Amanda Rivero, [amanda.rivero@navy.mil](mailto:amanda.rivero@navy.mil), or Crystal Trujillo, [crystal.trujillo@navy.mil](mailto:crystal.trujillo@navy.mil), or call 961-5318.

## Major changes to Personally Procured (do-it-yourself) Moves

by Cmdr. Liz Beaty, NASCC Supply Officer

Effective immediately, all Personally Procured Moves (PPM), formerly known as DITY moves, **must** be processed through the Defense Personal Property System (DPS) at the website, [www.move.mil](http://www.move.mil).

Personnel initiate all PPMs by establishing an account on [www.move.mil](http://www.move.mil) and processing them as directed with any other move requirements.

The Personal Property Office contact will assist after the information is submitted in the system.

**You will not be able to process any advance or payment outside of the DPS system for PPMs after April 15, 2010.**

Additionally for Navy personnel, all empty weight tickets (empty vehicle) must be obtained at the shipment origin (or pick up point of PPM) and all full weight tickets (loaded vehicle) must be obtained at the destination.

If this is not done correctly, members will run the risk of being reimbursed for actual costs only, with no incentive pay.

It should be noted that Smart Web Move is being phased out of operation completely and all household goods moves should be coordinated through [www.move.mil](http://www.move.mil).

Questions may be addressed to the FISC Jacksonville Detachment NAS Corpus Christi Personal Property Office, on the third floor of Building 10, or via email at [corpuschristippty@navy.mil](mailto:corpuschristippty@navy.mil) or by telephone at (361) 961-3727/3728/3729 (DSN 861).

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## Ask Dr. Garcia



Garcia

**Q:** My boyfriend and I will be getting married this fall. My boyfriend seems to be the emotional avoidant type. Before I tie the knot, what do I need to know about this "avoidant" type of personality?

**A:** I'm happy to know that you're taking the initiative to better understand your future mate before you make that lifetime commitment.

Spouses who are avoidant, who fear being hurt by others, make absolutely sure they remain self-sufficient and in control.

Staying aloof, they avoid intense emotions and dodge any conversations that may elicit strong feelings or any emotional closeness.

Their relationship belief is simple: *Nearness means getting disappointed and hurt. It's best to stay disconnected, distant, and disengaged from emotional involvement. Loneliness is better than agony.*

With this belief guiding their thoughts and actions, they keep their hearts in neutral. At night they scan the channels to keep their minds occupied and their hearts unavailable to pain.

In an argument, they tend to be more avoidant, colder, and less supportive.

Afterward, they don't feel much anger and don't necessarily see their partners less positively.

Here is what you need to be alerted to: Usually, in order to experience closeness and affirmation, avoidants marry anxiously attached people who frequently search for and cling to their mates.

Not knowing what else to do, the avoidant spouses respond by remaining self-contained and regulating their partners' high emotional level.

**Q:** What can my husband and I do to keep our family strong?

**A:** Families today are often mix-and-match affairs with any number – and type – of parents, grandparents, children, and siblings.

In order for any family to work, no matter what its makeup, there has to be a conscious effort to instill positive feelings and a sense that every family member is equally important.

Marriage and family development experts David H. Olson and John DeFrain list 10 suggestions for keeping families strong:

1. Give at least one compliment to each family member each day.
2. Do a daily dialogue for 5 to 10 minutes each day about what is happening with each family member.
3. Try to have your family meal together with everyone present.
4. Have a weekly family meeting for about 30 to 45 minutes with all family members attending. Each member should say one thing they like about the family and one issue they have with their family that everyone will work on during the session.
5. Give top priority to your marriage (this is my favorite suggestion).
6. Be as assertive as your children are with you.
7. Remember to listen, listen, and listen.
8. Spend one hour of quality time each week with each child (one on one).
9. If a problem persists, bring it to the family meeting and follow suggestion #4.
10. If a parenting problem lasts for two to three months, seek out professional help.

Ruben G. Garcia, Ph.D., LMFT is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and co-founder of The Healing Institute. Submit your questions to Dr. Garcia via email at [troubadour55@hotmail.com](mailto:troubadour55@hotmail.com). You can also contact Dr. Garcia at (361) 814-4556.

## Small Business Administration Seminars

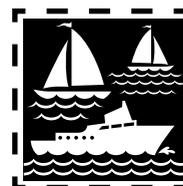
The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will conduct a free seminar April 23 for startup or existing small businesses to explain the SBA loan programs, counseling and training services and federal contracting assistance. The seminar is from 9-10:30 a.m. at the SBA Office, 3649 Leopard Street, Suite 411, Corpus Christi, TX 78408. Registration begins at 8:45 am; seating is limited. Call 361-879-0017, Ext 10 for reservations.

SBA will conduct a free seminar April 30 to explain the SBA Government Contracting Opportunities and Certification Programs. The seminar will also provide information on various loan programs and updates resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The seminar is from 9-10:30 a.m. at the SBA Office. Registration begins at 8:45 am; seating is limited. Call Elizabeth Soliz at 361-879-0017, Ext. 18 for reservations.



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Ana Porter will be retiring from NAFCU after 24 years of service on June 30, 2010. Mrs. Porter has been a great asset to the credit union and she will be greatly missed. We wish her the best and a happy retirement!

Help us welcome **Angela Hastings** to our NAS branch. Angela Hastings has 16 years with us. She looks forward to meeting and helping you with all your financial needs.

*Light refreshment will be served.*

# Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi gets new Executive Officer



In a humorous ceremony reminiscent of a change of command, Capt. Ed Perez-Lugo, (left) executive officer at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi since April 2008, passes the XO's Big Green Pen to his replacement, Capt. Kevin Kalanta, on April 15. Perez-Lugo will become the commanding officer April 30 at Naval Health Clinic Cherry Point, N.C. Kalanta, a dental corps officer, served as Executive Officer, Naval School of Health Sciences, Portsmouth, Va., since March 2008.

Photo by Bill Love, NHCCC PAO

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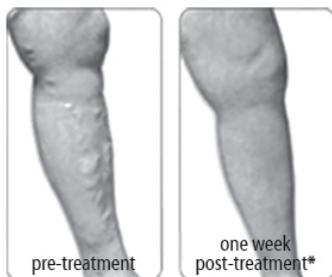
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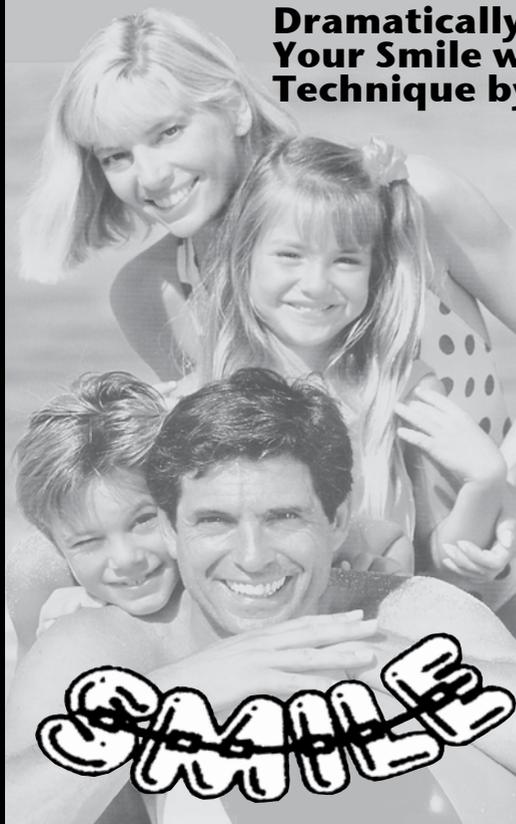
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## 'Rangers' golf tourney raises money – for the kids

Story and photo by Bob Torres

The VT-28 "Rangers" had a Memorial Golf Tournament on April 1, for the families of pilots Lt. Bret Miller and Lt. Joe Houston.

The two pilots died when their T-34C Turbomotor crashed into the Gulf during a training flight in October 2009.

The tournament was a fundraiser for the general welfare and education of their children, Chase and Travis Miller and Asher Houston.

The tournament, held at North Shore Golf Course drew 31 teams – 124 players who responded to the call.

"I thought as it was a great success in that a lot of people showed up and showed their support," said Lt. Ryan Henning, coordinator for the event.

"The community provided items for the Silent Auction and monetary sponsorships and altogether we raised \$17,000.

"All that money will be going directly to the kids. The goal had been \$15,000, so we're grateful that we surpassed that."

Along with the golf tournament a website has been set up that also

solicited donations for the families at: [remembertherangers.com](http://remembertherangers.com).

"Brienne Miller was there," Henning said, his voice lowering with compassion.

"Her reaction was special. She was overwhelmed. She teared-up.

"She was touched that we were doing that for her kids and that so many people showed up and had given to the event."

Bret's Dad, Rick Miller came in from East Troy, Wis..

"He told us afterwards that he really appreciated it and had a really good time," Henning said.

There is thought of maybe having a golf tournament in Wisconsin next year, he added.

"I'd like to thank everyone that was able to come and support the tournament and all the sponsors," Henning said.

"And I'd really like it if people would go to the website to sign the guest book or give a donation.

"The families really enjoy reading the memories people share about Bret and Joe on the website."

Again, the website is: [remembertherangers.com](http://remembertherangers.com).



Lt. Ryan Henning presents Brienne Miller with one of the pin flags used in the VT-28 Rangers fundraising golf tournament April 1. The special flags were used on every hole for the tournament, which raised \$17,000 for the children of Lt. Bret Miller and Lt. Joe Houston. Miller and Houston, Instructor Pilots with VT-28, were killed when their aircraft crashed off Matagorda Island on Oct. 28 during a routine training flight.

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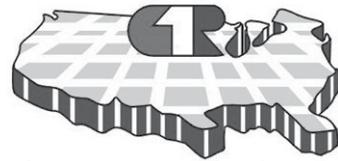
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*Gunman continued from page 1*

ammunition and certain factors included for training purposes, and the exercise was very real.

Navy cops stormed and cleared most of the building, except the second deck where the gunman had taken hostages.

Wounded were treated – but handcuffed, in case some of them were bad guys too.

Fire and Emergency Services followed, treating and evacuating the wounded.

About then, Corpus Christi's SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team started arriving, some in uniform, some rushing in from off-duty.

They moved in and took over the stand-off. And soon, police negotiator "Larry" was on the phone with "Ricky" – who was being coached on what to say by another negotiator working as a controller.

Gradually, over a couple hours, he released hostages, one at a time, in exchange for small things, like food.

Finally, he was talked down and surrendered – cuffed and hauled off by SWAT members, while other SWAT members cleared the office and rescued a person who had been "hiding" behind a locked door.

All the while, base leaders were getting at taste of the fire hose of information – good and bad – that affects their decision-making during a crisis.

When the emergency pop-up came up on individual computers, it was only moments before the Emergency Operations Center at Building 7 was inundated with Department Heads, Emergency Operations personnel, the Fire Chief and the Base Executive Officer.

Cmdr. Bo Lankford wore two hats for the exercise, one as the executive officer for the base and the other as an observer of the exercise.

There was a flurry of activity as information came in; Logistics, Operations, Emergency responders were setup and the Incident Commander took over his respective role.

Soon everyone was in place and responding to the ongoing flow of information received, absorbed and disseminated to the personnel in charge.

Correspondence ensued with the Corpus Christi Police Department that determined a SWAT team and a hostage negotiator would be involved in this event.

EOC personnel bore down, accessing the information coming.

CCPD Police personnel, not assigned to the ever-changing "shooter" situation in progress in Building 2, came to the EOC to assist in the problem.

Radios crackled, information was passed from Logistics to Operations, to Emergency Services and a hum of activity filled the area. Sometimes the background noise was loud as events ebbed and flowed throughout the morning.

Information was coming in through phone calls, on emails and radios.

The Incident Commander, Master at Arms Chief Chuck Kittle, received information, processed it and then reported to the XO, or PSO, Lt. Cmdr. Jason Greene, on the

*Gunman continued on page 11*

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**Gunman continued from page 10**

developments, and what was being done throughout the morning.

When word came that the “shooter” had been taken into custody; there was a short break before a debriefing took place.

Things that happened well, problems that had occurred and “lessons learned” were discussed.

“Overall, I think everyone was pleased with this exercise,” Lankford said.

“The CC Police Department came away with a positive image in what went down here and the Regional Training Unit that were here as observers will have a hard time finding another installation that had as much work put into this exercise and made it work as smoothly.

“Our people need to be proud of their accomplishments during this exercise.”

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If you had active duty service between January 1957 and December 31, 2001 and are planning for retirement, you may be eligible for an extra credit to your Social Security account.

This credit can increase your Social Security benefit or, in some cases, help you qualify for social Security.

According to the Social Security website, <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>, if your active military service occurred:

- From 1957 through 1967, they will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.

- From 1968 through 2001, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.

After 2001, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

How much credit depends on when you served – and the dates for amounts are different from the dates for how they are added.

- Service in 1957 Through 1977: You are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

- Service in 1978 through 2001: For every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security for details.

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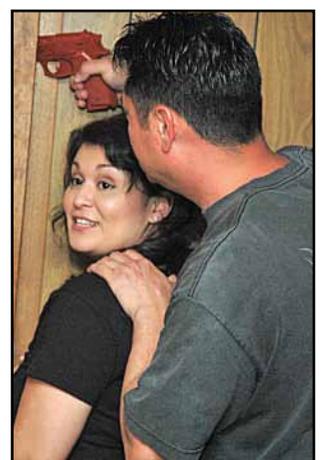
# NEUTRALIZING A GUNMAN

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NASCC and the Corpus Christi Police Dept. conducted a joint 'active shooter' training exercise April 7. The 'shooter' began it by firing blanks on the quarterdeck, then taking hostages. NASCC security secured the building and rescuers evacuated the 'wounded.' City SWAT arrived was briefed and safety checked, while base leaders manned the Emergency Operations Center. SWAT took control while the 'shooter' made demands using hostages as shields; police negotiators contacted him by phone and, eventually, talked him into surrendering. In the end, the 'shooter' and negotiator met and shook hands.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister and Bob Torres



# AWARDS and ACHIEVEMENTS



Pictured above are Naval Air Station Corpus Christi awardees from the April 6 ceremony. From left: EN1 Carol Winkler, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and NASCC Sailor of the Year; AC1 Terri Martin, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; ACC Tony Gooch, Navy and Marine Corps commendation Medal; AC2 Michael Murry, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; YN1 Calvin Hennegar, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; ITC Regina

White, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; AC3 Nathaniel Black, frocked to Third Class Petty Officer. Below left: EN1 Carol Winkler receives her 2009 Sailor of the Year plaque from Capt. Randy Pierson, NASCC Commanding Officer. Below right: Mrs. Black and ACCS Patricia Keeler display the new rank they pinned on newly frocked AC3 Nathaniel Black.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister



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## MA2 Garcia reenlists – with dog



MA2 (EXW) Mark Garcia reenlisted in an April 9 ceremony that included his Military Working Dog, Fergina, as well as other dog handlers. Garcia is pictured with Fergina, parents Kent and Rosie Caruthers, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jim Porter, who administered the Oath of Enlistment.

Photo by Bob Torres

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## HC2 Perez reenlists at NHCCC



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (Fleet Marine Force/Combat Air Crewman) Victor Perez (right) reenlisted for four years April 15. Cmdr. Darrel G. Vaughn, Dental Corps, administered the Oath of Enlistment. Perez, an El Paso native, joined the Branch Health Clinic Ingleside team in April 2008 and transferred to Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi in March when the Ingleside clinic disestablished. He is currently the Leading Petty Officer in the Wellness Center and has been in the Navy for eight years.

Photo by Bill Love, NHCCC PAO

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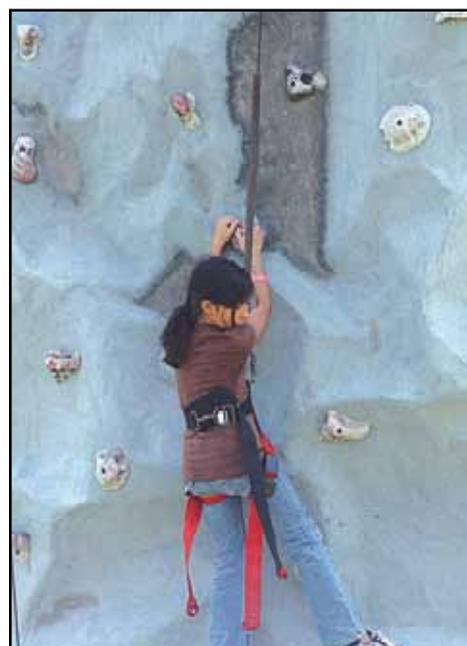
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## Eggstravaganza – April 3



Several hundred kids and families showed up for the MWR Spring Eggstravaganza, held on Saturday, April 3, at the park across from the Youth Activities Center. The free event included an egg hunt for ages 18 months to 8 years, an egg relay for ages 9 to 12 years, pictures with the Easter Bunny, family competitions, pony rides, carnival games and inflatables.

Photos by Laurie Garcia, MWR PAO



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## So you're saying there's a chance? Other than Honorable upgrade

by Lt. Corey Bean, JAGC, NLSO Central, NASCC

Mark Twain said, "A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes."

His quip aptly describes the rumor that persists in the fleet that upgrading an other than honorable (OTH) discharge to an honorable or general discharge is easy if not automatic.

In reality, discharge review boards approve *less than one percent* of applications to change a discharge characterization.

The source of the rumor that a recipient of an OTH can easily upgrade the discharge is a case from 1980, *Giles v. Secretary of the Army*.

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that the Army could not base an OTH solely on the results of compulsory urinalysis secured during the course of treatment in the Army's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Control Program.

But the court's ruling only applied to discharges under those circumstances and only before Jan. 1, 1975.

To successfully upgrade an OTH, the discharged service member must appeal to the discharge review board for his or her respective service and convince the board that the discharge characterization was either "improper" or "inequitable."

Improper means that the original characterization was erroneous because it violated regulations or the law.

For instance, if a service member is discharged with an OTH for a Physical Fitness Assessment failure and no other reason, the board would find the discharge is improper because the regulations do not allow an OTH in that case.

Inequitable means the characterization of discharge is unduly harsh given the traditions and policies of the service.

For instance, giving an OTH for a first-time drunk driver who had 16 years of honorable service and a bronze star with combat "V" may be inequitable.

Then again, it may not be.

Because there is a presumption of regularity in government affairs, anyone petitioning a board to change a discharge characterization has the burden of showing that the government committed error when it approved the OTH.

The discharge review board is careful not to substitute its own judgment for the

judgment of the board that granted the original OTH or the separation authority that approved it.

The discharge review board only upgrades discharges when it concludes that, given the facts presented to the original board, giving the OTH was clearly wrong.

Any person discharged may apply to his own service's discharge review board by submitting DD Form 293, *Application for the Review of Discharge or Dismissal from the Armed Forces of the United States*.

Navy and Marine Corps petitioners send their packages to the Naval Discharge Review Board:

[https://afis4.jag.af.mil/NAVY\\_DRB.htm](https://afis4.jag.af.mil/NAVY_DRB.htm).

Army petitioner send their packages to the Army Discharge Review Board:

<http://arba.army.pentagon.mil/>.

Air Force petitioners send their packages to the Air Force Discharge Review Board:

[http://boards.law.af.mil/AF\\_DRB.htm](http://boards.law.af.mil/AF_DRB.htm).

Coast Guard petitioners send their packages to the Coast Guard Discharge Review Board:

[http://boards.law.af.mil/CG\\_DRB.htm](http://boards.law.af.mil/CG_DRB.htm).

Supporting documentation must be filed with DD Form 293. Bare assertions that the discharge is improper or inequitable will not be successful.

A petitioner may appear in person in front of the board on his own behalf or through a legal representative.

Rod Powers, a former Air Force First Sergeant and 22-year veteran who blogs on military benefits wrote, "I wish I had a nickel for every young service member, who – when facing an involuntary discharge – told me 'I don't care. I'll just get it upgraded to honorable in six months.'

"Unfortunately, those individuals found out that getting a discharge upgraded is neither easy, nor is it 'automatic.'"

Rather than thinking it can easily be changed later, the best course of action and advice for service members facing an OTH is to elect to have an administrative board hear the case prior to separation.

If the service member waives the board, the separation authority can still approve an OTH.

If the service member elects the board, the board cannot recommend a harsher discharge than an OTH and facts may surface which cause the members of the board to recommend a more favorable outcome.

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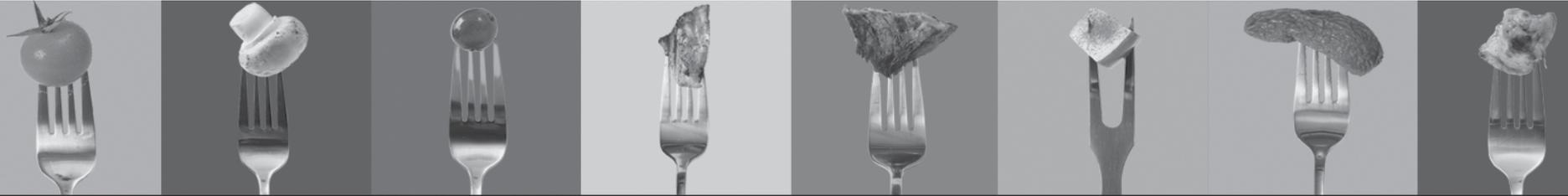
NLSO attorneys are available to help. Call them at NASCC at (361) 961-3765. This article is not intended to substitute for the personal advice of a licensed attorney.

## May Primary Elections

Indiana - May 4  
North Carolina - May 4  
Ohio - May 4  
Nebraska - May 11  
West Virginia - May 14

Arkansas - May 18  
Kentucky - May 18  
Oregon - May 18  
Pennsylvania - May 18  
Idaho - May 25

Information on specific registration requirements can be obtained at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).



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**Easy Corn and Bean Salad**

1 16-oz pkg frozen whole kernel corn  
1 15-oz can dark red kidney beans, drained & rinsed  
1/2 cup chopped sweet green pepper

1/2 cup salsa  
2 Tbls. snipped fresh cilantro  
1/4 teaspoon ground cumin  
1 clove garlic, minced  
Lettuce and/or purple kale leaves

Cook frozen corn according to package directions, except omit any salt and margarine or butter. Drain. Rinse with cold water. Drain.

In a mixing bowl stir together corn, kidney beans, sweet pepper, salsa, cilantro, cumin, and garlic. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or up to 8 hours. To serve, mound corn mixture on 4 lettuce-lined plates. Makes 4 servings.

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Does it break my heart when they leave me? To quote a fellow foster home friend, "They take a piece of your heart with them, but that's also a good thing, because your heart doesn't get smaller as a result, it gets bigger. With every foster dog you place, you learn more and can do more to help the next dog on its way to the forever home it deserves."

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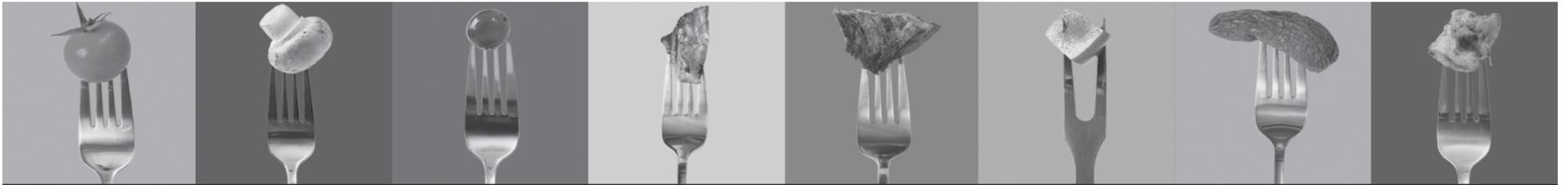


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# BEST BITES DINING GUIDE

## What's Happening

by Tina Konwerski

April 22 - 25, 2010 The Fourth Annual Texas International Boat Show, Corpus Christi Marina - \$3.00 OFF admission with Military I.D. Hundreds of boats from 10' to 100' will be on display, both in the water and onshore, many ready to demo! Bay boats, ski boats, sail boats, power boats, luxury yachts and the latest water toys, plenty of boating and boarding gear and much more. [www.TexasIntrnationalBoatShow.com](http://www.TexasIntrnationalBoatShow.com)

After 23 years with NavyArmy, Ana Porter has decided to hang up her credit union shoes and be a full-time grandmother! We are very happy for her and her announcement of retirement effective June 1, 2010. Please come by to wish her a "happy retirement" on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at the NAS branch, Building 125, Ave. D. Light refreshments will be served.

Coastal Bend Small Breed Rescue, a humane animal rescue center located in Flour Bluff needs your help! They need a concrete foundation poured as a pad for kennel pens. 50 yards of concrete, 20 kennel pens 10x10, 20 doghouses and 20 stall mats. THEY NEED A RELIABLE and REPUTABLE CONTRACTOR or someone who knows how to install the foundation. Your donations will help a homeless animal enjoy a better life. [www.coastalbendrescue.petfinder.com](http://www.coastalbendrescue.petfinder.com) - 2512 Laguna Shores Road, Corpus Christi 78418 361-939-9462 or 361-939-9171. A Dog is for Life - Adopt ONE until there are none!

Every Friday during May, 2010 (after sunset) SURFING SERIES features wind, wave, surf and skate flicks at Cole Park. All concerts and movies are FREE and everyone is invited, so come out and bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy the great entertainment with family and friends. All the films are closed captioned.

South Texas All Airborne Chapter, 82nd Airborne Association Inc., will host the 28th Annual Southwest Memorial Airborne Days Convention June 11-13, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Emerald Beach Hotel, 1102 S. Shoreline, Corpus Christi, TX 78401. All airborne qualified troopers from all branches of the service, veterans, and supporters are invited to attend. FMI: 361/443-4060. [www.southtexasairborne.com](http://www.southtexasairborne.com).

Cliff Eberhardt, Monday, May 3rd at 7:30 p.m.. BurningBush Coffeehouse at Parkway Presbyterian Church, Corpus Christi 852-7349, is bringing original singer/songwriters to the South Texas coast. Performers and loyal music lovers enjoy acoustic music in a relaxed, smokeless, alcohol-free environment, hosted by Parkway Presbyterian Church, 3707 Santa Fe, in their beautiful fellowship hall. Suggested donation \$10/ adults; \$5/children under 18. Coffee and refreshments available. fmi [www.burningbushconcerts.com](http://www.burningbushconcerts.com)

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## Inspection time at NHCCC



Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (Fleet Marine Force) Sergio Flores, a recorder for the semi-annual military personnel inspection at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi (NHCCC) April 8, points out to Capt. Randy Kelley, commanding officer, how impressive a Sailor's uniform creases are. Strong winds and cooler than normal temperature drove staff indoors where they mustered in the Family Practice Clinic waiting area instead of forming in front of the clinic's flagpole on the upper concourse.

Photo by Bill Love, NHCCC PAO



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# CNRSE signs Sexual Assault Awareness Month proclamation



On April 15, Commander Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Tim Alexander signed a proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month while the Region's Executive Director Bruce Cwalina and members of the Southeast Region's family readiness program looked on. Alexander's proclamation echoes the Department of Defense 2010 SAAM theme of 'Hurts one. Affects all.'



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## Earth Day 2010



April 22 is the 30th anniversary of the first Earth Day. NASCC has scheduled Earth Day activities for April 30.

Remember it's our earth. Save electricity. Save gas. Conserve on water. Recycle whenever possible.

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