

WINGSPAN

Current Issue (*click date to open - large file*)

October 18, 2012

WINGSPAN

Vol. 18, No. 21

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

October 18, 2012



Navy Birthday
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Breast Cancer fighter says, 'Thank You'
page 12



CCAD's First Female Test Pilot
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page 5

NASCC XO flew pass over closing ceremony, 20 years later pilots first plane in Return to Goliad: First flight reopens training airfield



Cmdr. Dave Dargan, NASCC executive officer, and Cmdr. Christian Schomaker, TW-4 FITU OIC, fly touch-and-goes on the rebuilt NALF Goliad while opening the field for training. Dargan was part of the fly-over for the closing ceremony in January 1992.

Story & photos by Rod Hafemeister

With a slight screech of tires, the TC-12 piloted by Cmdr. Dave Dargan touched down on Navy Auxiliary Landing Field Goliad on Oct. 3 – the first Navy aircraft to us the field in more than 20 years.

For Dargan, executive officer of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, it was like coming full circle.

In January, 1992, he was part of a three aircraft flyby over the ceremony closing the field as a result of Base Realignment and Closure Commission decisions.

"I had to look it up; best I can recall, it was Jan. 30, 1992," Dargan
Dargan continued on page 17

Asst. Sec. Navy Juan Garcia visits NASCC

Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Juan M. Garcia III greeted Sailors and Marines after an all-hands call at the Wings Auditorium about personnel issues and 21st Century Sailor and Marine, an initiative of the Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. It consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Photos by Richard Stewart, CNATRA PA



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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

October 4, 2012



Hispanic American Heritage
page 10



CNATRA's Lt. Cmdr. Ray promoted
page 5



Coast Guard Remembers Fallen Crew
page 4

Navy Surgeon General visits South Texas



Vice Adm. Matt L. Nathan, the U.S. Navy surgeon general and chief for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, during Admiral's Call at Wings Auditorium, addresses Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Sailors and civilian staff about Navy Medicine's mission of keeping the nation's naval forces medically ready to operate around the world in support of U.S. national objectives.

Story & photos by Bill Love, NHCPC PAO

Vice Adm. Matt L. Nathan, U.S. Navy Surgeon General (SG) and chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), visited South Texas Sept. 12-13.

During Admiral's Call at Wings Auditorium Sept. 12, the Navy and Marine Corps' top doctor spoke with Sailors and civilian staff about Navy Medicine's mission of keeping the nation's naval forces medically ready to operate around the world in support of U.S. national objectives.

"We are all part of the military, we are particularly part of the Navy, we are a service that prides itself in readiness and we are, with our partnership to the Marine Corps, the World's 911, it is what we do," Nathan said. "It is the hallmark of naval service."

As the Navy SG and chief, BUMED, Nathan leads a global

SG continued on page 7

Chaplain Gabriel Mensah promoted to Commander



Chaplain Gabriel Mensah, was promoted to Commander on Oct. 1 in a ceremony in the office of NASCC commanding officer Capt. Dave Edgecomb. Left, Mensah receives the Oath of Office



from Edgecomb. Right, NASCC executive officer Cmdr. Dave Dargan and Edgecomb install Commander's shoulder boards on Mensah.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister

WINGSPAN

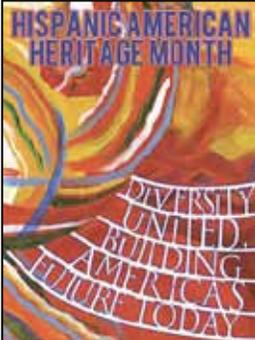
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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

September 20, 2012



Fall begins Sept. 22



Celebration Sept. 24
Bay Club - 11 a.m.

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New Chief Petty Officers

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Request your
Absentee Ballot

Chaplain's Column, page 2

Firefighters, Sailors commemorate events of 9/11

by Rod Hafemeister

The chime of a fire bell at 8:46 a.m. recalled that day in 2001 when the first of four hijacked airliners crashed – and 9/11 became this generation's equivalent of Pearl Harbor.

On the ground, a firefighter's uniform, boots and helmet stood for those lost trying to save others that day.

As they have each year, NASCC firefighters held a memorial service for those killed in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

This year, Sailors also participated, including newly selected Chief Petty Officers, who read parts of the timeline of events.

Fire Chief John Morris talked about why, 11 years later, it is still important to remember that day and honor the fallen.

"There are young men and women still serving in combat who are barely old enough to remember that day," he said. "We owe it to them, we owe it to those who initially responded to the attacks, and those who worked tirelessly for weeks..."



A firefighter's uniform – the '343' on the helmet representing the 343 firefighters killed that day – yellow ribbons held IDs of some of the emergency personnel lost on 9/11. *More photos on page 10.*

Photos by Rod Hafemeister and Bob Torres



Gen. Via finds unmatched capabilities, empowered workforce at CCAD

by Brigitte Rox, CCAD Public Affairs

Corpus Christi Army Depot offered a warm welcome to the new commander of the United States Army Materiel Command, Gen. Dennis L. Via, during his inaugural tour, Sept.

Via assumed command of AMC, Aug. 7 and has been circulating throughout the AMC depots under his command to introduce himself and to learn more about those critical pieces of the Army.

"This is one of the places I really wanted to get to early on," Via said. "I'm in my third week, so we're in the seat now. I know I'm on the ground for only a short amount of time and it's only a snapshot but this is an opportunity to tour some of

the facilities and, most importantly, to meet some of the folks who do the work.

"You have a tremendous reputation for what you do here. It's a single point for aviation sustainment for the Army. You do that in a first-class way every day."

CCAD is the only facility capable of recapitalization, overhaul, repair and modification of all rotary-wing platforms and components for Department of Defense and foreign militaries.

The programs available at CCAD increase capabilities and life span of critical aircraft that would have been grounded indefinitely.

CCAD continued on page 9



Gen. Dennis L. Via, Commander of Army Materiel Command discusses Black Hawk recapitalization with Corpus Christi Army Depot commander Col. Christopher B. Carlile during his first visit to CCAD.

Photos by Ervey Martinez, CCAD PA

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

September 6, 2012

Life Counts!
Navy Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
Chaplain's Column
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USMC Ospreys drop into NASCC
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End of Summer Beach Bash
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'A Shot of Reality' about Alcohol abuse
page 3

"Moments In History"
U.S. Navy's 237th Birthday
NAS Corpus Christi

Skipper's Column
page 2

American Airlines pilot Scheibner: 'Two people died for me'

Story and photos by Bob Torres

Did you ever plan on doing something, then someone took your place – and that someone *died* in your place?

That's the story that Navy Reserve Commander Steve Scheibner told as guest speaker at the NAS Corpus Christi Prayer Breakfast Aug. 24.

Scheibner, an American Airlines pilot since 1991, checked on Sept. 10, 2001, to see what his flight schedule would be coming up.

He was available to fly the next day and put his name in to fly American Airlines Flight 11 from Logan Airport in Boston to Los Angeles, scheduled to leave the next morning at approximately 7:45 a.m.

He went home, took care of the laundry and told his wife Megan that he was flying to L.A. the next day.

"Everything was packed, and I'd ironed his clothes for the trip," said Megan, who made the trip to Corpus Christi with her husband.

They had enjoyed their time when he was stationed here while on active duty in the Navy.

"There's a routine we did when he was in the Navy to prepare for a trip. And it's a similar routine when he was going to go flying for the airlines," she said.

"I made sure that everything was ready. Sept. 10 was a beautiful day in New England. It was not quite fall and it was cool and was real nice – as I drank coffee, I was thanking the Lord because it was so nice. I felt so safe."

Scheibner's name was logged in to fly the aircraft on the next day.

Unbeknownst to Scheibner, another pilot, Tom McGuinness, was celebrating his birthday with his family.

McGuinness, who was senior to Scheibner at American Airlines, also checked in on his computer for flights the next day.

Pilot continued on page 7



Navy Reserve Commander Steve Scheibner talks about how he barely missed flying one of the aircraft hijacked on 9/11.

USCG XO Cmdr. Billburg becomes Capt. Billburg



Family members install Captain's shoulder boards on David Billburg, Executive Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi and Sector Corpus Christi Logistics Department Head, during his promotion ceremony Sept. 4, then pose with Sector CO Capt. Samuel R. Creech, Jr.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister



WINGSPAN

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

August 23, 2012



End of Summer Beach Bash
Aug. 25

Skipper Column, page 2



Preparing for Marine Boot Camp

page 8



Request your Absentee Ballot

page 3



Marina Boat Ramp to open soon

page 5

NHCCC 'Fights the Bite' against mosquito-borne illnesses



Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (FMF) Taylor Boynton, preventive medicine (PREVMED) representative at the Naval Health Clinic aboard NAS Corpus Christi, collects pond water for mosquito traps located in family housing. Clinic PREVMED staff monitor the on base mosquito population year-round, focusing on the summer months when the insects are more abundant and there is an increased chance of acquiring mosquito-borne illnesses.

Story and photos by Bill W. Love, NHCCC PAO

Mosquitoes can be more than annoying pests who leave itchy bites – they also can spread diseases.

One of the jobs of the Public Health Services (PHS) officers at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi is to reduce or prevent such the spread of such diseases, including the West Nile virus (WNV) currently wreaking havoc in North Texas, through actively monitoring mosquito populations and the diseases they may carry.

"Our 'Fight the Bite' approach to the prevention of mosquito-borne illnesses begins with a vigilant surveillance program conducted by our staff in Preventive Medicine (PREVMED)," said Dr. M. Rony Francois, NHCCC director, PHS and public health emergency officer.

"This basic surveillance consists of trapping mosquitoes around the base in order to identify the number, species, and gender of the local mosquito population."

PREVMED performs year-round inspections on base.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reports a higher than usual number of human West

Skeeters continued on page 6

Taylor Garcia, a special Pilot for a Day

Story and photo by Bob Torres

The Pilot for a Day (PFAD) program is collaboration between Training Air Wing 4 and Driscoll Children's Hospital.

It provides a child, selected by Driscoll, with an opportunity to visit the Air Station and be "A Pilot for a Day."

On Aug. 8, Taylor Garcia, an oncology patient, visited VT-35 with her Mom Jennifer, Dad Vince and friend Serafine Pena as PFAD.

"Somebody from the hospital called me, and told me about the program," Jennifer said. "When I asked Taylor, she said it sounded really fun and wanted to do it."

"My Mom told me about the program. Then she texted me, I

PFAD continued on page 6



August Pilot for a Day Taylor Garcia waves from the front seat of a T-34 Turboprop training aircraft while her friend Serafine Pena checks out the back seat.

WINGSPAN

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

August 9, 2012



Cmdr. 'Bo' Lankford retires Aug. 17
page 4



Cleaning up a broken CFL
page 15



Marine Sergeants take flight
page 5

Titanic Win and Titanic Wreck in 50th Navy Regatta



U.S. Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi's 'Rum Runner' easily won the Titanic Cup Race of homemade boats Aug. 4 – but seconds after crossing the finish line, its bow filled with water,

capsizing it. A dozen boats entered the Titanic Cup, about half made it to the finish line. For more photos of the Navy Regatta, see pages 10 and 11.

Photos by Bob Torres

First two T-6B Texan IIs greeted by VIPs and Media



Lt. Cmdr. Ray 'BPR' McBride is interviewed by a local television news crew on July 26 after flying a T-6B Texan II into NAS Corpus Christi. The T-6Bs eventually will replace the T-34C.

Story & photo by Rod Hafemeister

With a low pitched growl, two of the Navy's newest training aircraft flew over the waiting crowd July 26 before coming in for a landing.

The two T-6B Texan II aircraft taxied in through a celebratory arc of water from two fire trucks, then came to a stop outside Hanger 58 as several hundred people cheered.

The two are the first of an expected 98 that will arrive over the next several months, beginning the transition to replace the 35-year-old primary flight trainer, the T-34C Turbomentor, with Training Air Wing Four.

The T-6B has more power and better performance, state-of-the-art avionics and enhanced safety systems.

"It's just all around a better aircraft," said Cmdr. Ray "BPR" McBride, one of the four aviators who delivered the T-6Bs. "It's a joy to fly."

T-6B continued on page 6

WINGSPAN

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

July 26, 2012



T-6B Texan II coming to NASCC
Skipper's Column, page 2



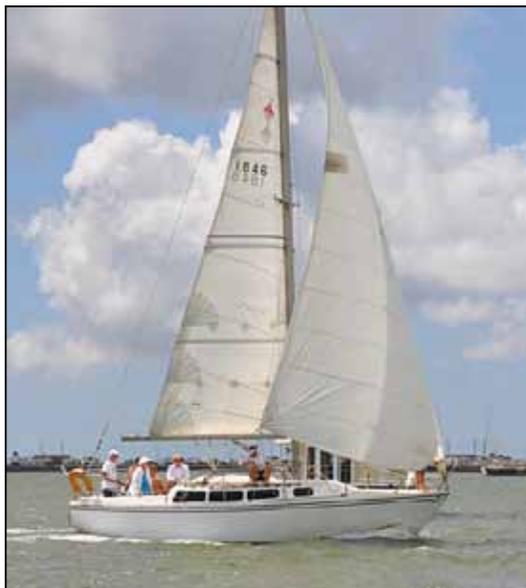
Saving Lives by Giving Blood
page 4



Gone Fishin'
page 8



Bringing a non-citizen spouse to the U.S.
page 14



Yachtsmen race from downtown to NAS Corpus Christi on Saturday, then turn their helms over to military members on Sunday during the annual Navy Regatta. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Regatta.
Photo by Bob Torres

It's Regatta Time! Aug. 4-5

by Rod Hafemeister

Time is running short, if you want to participate in the 50th Annual Navy Regatta.

But there's still time – in fact, Senior Chief Ed Bennet put out another notice July 17 that there are still openings for all events.

"I am still looking for riders for the Military Challenge Race, as well as the Titanic Cup Race on Saturday," he said.

The Military Challenge, on Sunday, requires a military member be at the helm of each racing yacht.

The Titanic Cup, on the other hand, is a Saturday afternoon race of homemade boats that frequently have no one in actual control.

The theme for this event is "A Salute to Our Heroes," in honor of the service of active duty service members.

More than 40 yachts are expected to participate.

A Pre-Race Sail and Social is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 1st, with a sail at 5:30 p.m. and social by pool at 7:30 p.m. at the CCYC.

Boat and team sign-ups are at the Bay Yacht Club in the Corpus Christi Marina from 6 to 8 p.m. on

Aug. 3.

On Saturday morning, the boats race to the breakwater on Sunfish Beach, then anchor for the afternoon's highlight: the Titanic Cup.

The evening includes a luau and awards ceremony – this year, at the Corpus Christi Yacht Club, with shuttle service between the base and downtown.

Sunday marks the military challenge, when military members are required to helm each boat, followed by a buffet and awards at the CC Yacht Club.

"The Military Challenge is open to active duty military only; spouses can ride, but cannot take the helm during the race," Bennet said.

"The Titanic Cup is open to any organization, military or civilian, who desires to enter."

Registration forms and rules for the Titanic Cup are online on the NAS Corpus Christi website at: www.enic.navy.mil/corpuschristi/CNICP_A292152.

For more information, contact Bennet at 361-961-3719 or email at edward.bennet@navy.mil.

Farewell, Velma Siler



Commissary and NASCC personnel held a "farewell" luncheon July 18 for Commissary Director Velma Siler, who is leaving to take over a larger commissary in California. Siler has been at the NASCC Commissary since March 2010. During that time, she introduced an annual chili cook-off and numerous other events to engage the community.
Photos by Rod Hafemeister



WINGSPAN

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

July 12, 2012



50th Annual Navy Regatta coming up in August

Story & photo by Bob Torres

Grab the kids, some towels, sun screen and get ready for some fun in the sun on Aug. 4 and 5 for the 50th Annual Navy Regatta at the downtown marina and on Sunfish Beach.

The Corpus Christi Yacht Club (CCYC) will be providing all volunteers for the weekend, including courtesy van service to and from the base, as well as the shuttle service on the water to get the visiting sailors to shore.

This year, as in years past, the theme for this event is "A Salute to Our Heroes," in honor of the service of active duty servicemembers.

Several changes have been made to ensure that more military personnel can participate and enjoy the weekend activities.

A Pre-Race Sail and Social is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 1st, with a sail at 5:30 p.m. and social by pool at 7:30 p.m. at the CCYC.



Regatta continued on page 7 Yachts racing in the 2011 Navy Regatta. This year's Regatta is Aug. 4-5.

**PhD, Triathlete,
Navy Officer**

page 4



New SAPR Training

page 8

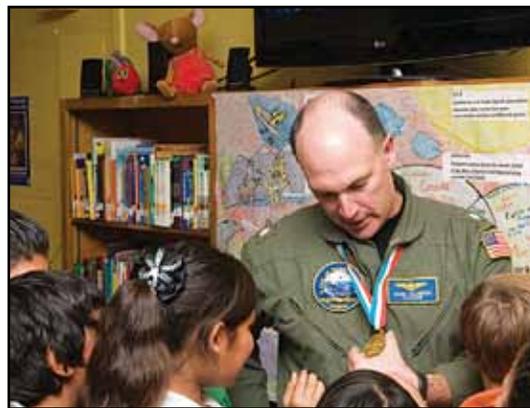


**Annual Drinking
Water Quality Report**

page 18

Calderon inducted into USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame

by Lt. John Supple, CNATRA PAO



Students from Culk Elementary gather around Cmdr. Mark Calderon to see his gold medal after he spoke with them May 7. Calderon, who represented the USA at four World Championships from 1980-86, won the 1982 World synchronized trampoline title with Stuart Ransom and on June 30 was inducted in the 2012 U.S. Gymnastics Hall Fame.

Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA PA

Cmdr. Mark Calderon was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame, during a ceremony and luncheon as part of the USA Gymnastics National Congress and Trade Show June 30, in San Jose, Calif.

Calderon, now the requirements officer for the Chief of Naval Air Training, represented the USA at four World Championships from 1980-86 and won the 1982 World synchronized trampoline title with Stuart Ransom.

He was serving in the U.S. Navy when he qualified for the U. S. Trampoline Team for a fourth time in 1986.

"I always appreciated the fact that I was allowed by the Navy to pursue qualifying for the U. S. Team back in 1986," Calderon said.

"They gave me time off to train and even paid for some of the travel expenses, all while I was a Third Class Petty Officer."

He earned a Bachelor of

Science in Kinesiology from the University of Texas at Austin and was commissioned as an Ensign in the Navy in August 1992. He received his "Wings of Gold" and was designated a naval aviator in September of 1995 and has flown the P-3 Orion. He went on to be an instructor pilot in both the P-3 and the T-44.

"If he brought half as much dedication to gymnastics as he has brought to his jobs in the Navy, it does not surprise me that he was the best in the world," said Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. William Sizemore.

"He is a superb naval officer and a great example of the type of talented people we have serving in the United States Navy."

Calderon has been using his celebrity to inspire local children and encourage them to focus and work hard. He spoke to several classrooms this spring about his experiences.

WINGSPAN



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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

June 28, 2012

CMC Ken McGlothlin riding into retirement June 29

Story & photo by Rod Hafemeister

When Ken McGlothlin enlisted in September 1982, he had one primary goal: getting out of West Virginia.

"I realized that no matter how much education I got, I was still going to be in the coal mines if I didn't get out of there," he said.

Thirty years later, he's about to retire from the Navy, with three tours as a Command Master Chief, including Naval Air Station Corpus Christi since October 2009.

Looking back on his two and a half years at NASCC, he said he has one major take-away.

"The Air side is a lot different from the Surface side," he said. "This is the first time I've touched the Air side.

"The mentalities run quite a bit different – it's been quite the adventure meshing the thought process together.

"This was my first and only shore installation, and I'll probably never do it again – not because this wasn't a good job, but I'm an old engineer. I like ships, I like being at sea."

At the same time, he isn't one of those "this isn't the Navy I CMC continued on page 7



Ken McGlothlin, NAS Corpus Christi's Command Master Chief, plans to spend a year 'seeing America' after 30 years in the Navy. He will be retiring and turning the job over to his replacement, CMC Rick Mathis, in a June 29 ceremony at 10 a.m. in the Wings Auditorium.



Independence Day
July 4



Don't Play with
Fireworks
page 6



Wounded in
Afghanistan
page 3



Beach Bash
page 8

Storms rock the Gulf – Are you prepared for a Big One?



NAS Corpus Christi got a reminder May 10 of just how quickly rain can overwhelm the storm sewers on the low-lying base – the street in front of Building 2 was one of many spots that became more lake than road. Tropical Storm Debby turned away from Texas, but proceeded to dump several feet of rain on parts of Florida. Hurricane season continues through November; for information on being prepared, see page 14.

Photo by Bob Torres

WINGSPAN

Vol. 18, No.12

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

June 14, 2012



2012 Food Drive
Chaplain's Column page 2



Pasch retires, Creech takes command of Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi
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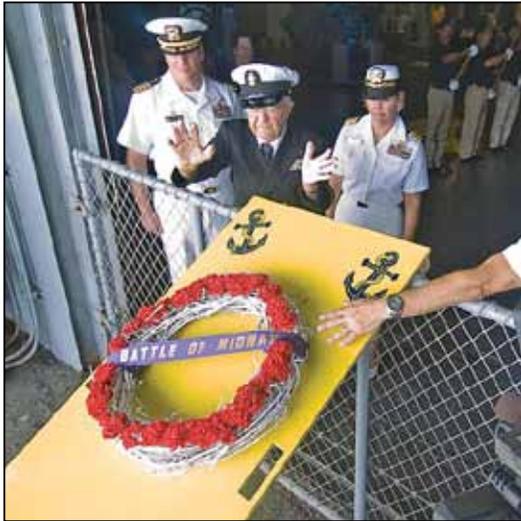
While Seabees work on boat ramp, Marina taking applications for boat slips
page 5



What is COR?
page 6

Remembering Midway – The Battle that Changed WWII

by Rod Hafemeister



Retired Chief Robert McKinley, a veteran of the 1942 Battle of Midway, helps release a wreath from the USS Lexington into Corpus Christi Bay on June 4 honoring those lost in the battle. The three-day Battle of Midway ended the Japanese Navy's dominance of the Pacific Theater.
Photo by Richard Stewart

A short speech, the remembrances of one who was there – a wreath floating away on the tide.

That's what marked the 70th Anniversary of one of the greatest battles in U.S. Navy history, the Battle of Midway, June 4-7, 1942.

For most of us, it is long-ago history, part of a war we only know from books and movies.

For the remaining veterans, like retired Chief Petty Officer Robert McKinley, the memory is as fresh as yesterday.

"I was on the (USS) Enterprise (CV-6); we weren't attacked, but our planes saw plenty of action," he said.

"We had stained the whole flight deck blue so it would blend in and they couldn't see our wake because we weren't going fast enough.

"But they found the Yorktown."

Although the U.S. lost the USS Yorktown (CV-5) and about 300 men, the Japanese fleet lost four carriers and 3,000 to 5,000 men, including the majority of their experienced carrier pilots and

aircraft crews.

It was, in the end, exactly what the head of Japan's navy had feared.

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander in chief of Japan's fleet, was one of the few Japanese military leaders who thought a war with the United States was a bad idea.

In September 1940, he warned his fellow officers of the dangers: "If I am told to fight regardless of the consequences, I shall run wild considerably for the first six months or a year; but I have utterly no confidence in the second and third years."

As it turned out, he had just over six months.

Yamamoto felt the only chance for Japan against the industrial might of the United States was quick, decisive victories.

That strategy led to the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and, within hours, the Philippines.

By early 1942, the Japanese navy was looking to land another major blow to the U.S. Navy.

The Battle of the Coral Sea, in early May, had resulted in the loss
Midway continued on page 8

New Commodore takes over Training Air Wing Four

by Lt. Sheila Baber, TW-4 PAO

Training Air Wing Four bid a fond farewell to Capt. Scott Coolegde and welcomed the new Commodore, Capt. Rex Curtin on at a joint winging and change of command ceremony June 8 at the NASCC Bay Club.

TW-4 staff and Commanding and Executive Officers from VT-27, VT-28, VT-31 and VT-35 joined the families and friends of Winging Class 1214 for the joint ceremony.

Rear Adm. Bill Sizemore, Chief of Naval Air Training, presided over the ceremony.

Coolegde's wish was to pass on the role of Wing Commander without frills or fanfare.

TW-4 honored his request by keeping the change of command portion modest and maintaining



Capt. Rex Curtin kisses his wife, Lisa, after she pinned on his command pin as Commodore, Training Air Wing Four. Curtin replaced Capt. Scott Coolegde.
Photo by Richard Stewart

the focus and bulk of the ceremony on the pinning of our 16 newest military pilots.

"It's been a real honor to be a part of this great organization and to be around all these highly motivated young men and women," Coolegde said.

"The chance to actually still get to strap into a plane every week makes being a TRACOM Commodore the best job in Naval Aviation for a Captain. I'll miss the flying and I'll definitely miss the folks of South Texas but it's time for the next adventure for me and I can't wait!

"My relief, Capt. Rex Curtin, is a good friend and a gifted officer with a wonderful family. He will bring a lot to the job and I'm

TW-4 continued on page 9

WINGSPAN

Vol. 18, No. 11

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

May 31, 2012



Cleaning up the Base

by Rod Hafemeister

With gloves and trash bags, volunteers swept across NAS Corpus Christi on May 25 for the annual base clean-up. Finally.

The clean-up is usually held around the date of Earth Day, April 22, but this year, scheduling conflicts pushed it into May – then the May 10 storm pushed it back even more.

Despite the delays, 156 volunteers showed up at the Sunfish Beach Pavilion at 8 a.m. to receive their pick-up routes, their reflective vests, gloves and water.

During the next three hours of the event, they collected 1,794 lbs of trash from all around NAS Corpus Christi.

Other volunteers placed 50 adhesive decals on storm water drains to serve as reminders that the drains lead directly to the waters surrounding us.

The clean-up is an annual project coordinated by the NAS Corpus Christi Public Works Department and the PW Environmental Division.

NAS Corpus Christi Storm Water Discharge Permits mandate that the base perform at least one annual clean-up of trash and debris

that might otherwise wind up being discharged to the waters that surround NASCC – Corpus Christi Bay, Laguna Madre, and Oso Bay.

Because the base storm drains exit to these bodies of water, anything picked up ashore will not go out and trash the marine environment.

A previous clean-up even uncovered a derelict boat hull.

The Navy Exchange provided water for the sweating volunteers, while the Commissary had chefs at the Pavilion, preparing gourmet hot dogs and hamburgers for the hungry returnees.

“Our thanks to all who coordinated, supported and participated in this great event,” said Arlan Andrews, Installation Environmental Program Manager.

A Marine picks up trash along Ocean Drive during the NAS Corpus Christi clean-up May 25. More than 150 volunteers ranged across the base, picking up trash and debris, preventing it from ending up polluting area waters.

Photo by Bob Torres



Summer Safety

Skipper column, page 2



Beach to Bay

page 8



USS Yorktown hit by dive bombers at the Battle of Midway

Chaplain's column, page 2
Commemoration, page 7

Navy Corpsman saves drowning victim at C.C. Beach

Story and photo by Bill W. Love, NHCCC PAO



HM1 Cordova, with family, accepts an award from Capt. Gina Jaeger, NHCCC CO, for his actions saving a child's life.

A Sailor assigned to Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi on May 17 was awarded a medal for saving a child's life during a May 6 family outing.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (Fleet Marine Force) Jesus A. Cordova, who thought two surfers where playing with their children coming out of the surf, realized that each of the two youngsters were lifeless.

“Once I noticed the children's situation and the anxiety on the surfers' faces,” he said, “I rushed out and carried on as I've been trained without any thoughts but to resuscitate the child successfully.”

Cordova continued cardiopulmonary resuscitation while simultaneously monitoring another adult's lifesaving efforts on

the second child.

“It's a state of mind for EMT's,” Cordova said, “a course I am well-versed in as I have taught it throughout my career.”

Capt. Gina M. Jaeger, commanding officer at NHCCC, praised the El Paso native for his heroic achievement by presenting him the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

“HM1 Cordova you had a lot of self-trust that day,” Jaeger said, referring to Ralph Waldo Emerson's quote about the essence of heroism.

“It is a wonderful thing that you did, saving someone's life, and we really appreciate it. And you are just a fine example of the Sailors we have here at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, so again, thank you.”

WINGSPAN



Vol. 18, No.10

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

May 17, 2012

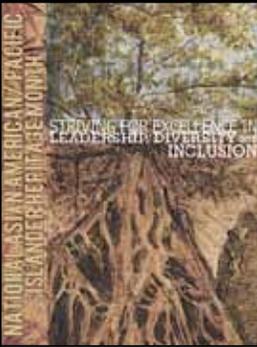
Beach to Bay runners to 'invade' NASCC - May 19



Runners in the 2011 Beach to Bay Relay Marathon enter NASCC through the Main Gate (left) and pass the baton to their teammate at the North Gate. About 2,500 runners are expected on base this year.

Story & photos by Rod Hafemeister
Saturday, May 19 is Armed Forces Day – and that means it's also it's time for the 37th Annual Beach to Bay Relay Marathon. Rain or shine, the race will be run; it's been run in both in recent years.

Back in 1976, the very first Beach to Bay Relay Marathon was held on Armed Forces Day to honor our nation's men and women serving in the United States of America's Military. This tradition was founded by Captain John
hand off the baton to the next runner on their team. While on the base, volunteers will man water stations, guides will man intersection checkpoints and, if the past is any indication, housing residents will be handy with hoses and encouragement.
Race continued on page 14



Asian-American Heritage Celebration
11:30a.m. May 23
Naval Reserve Center



Hurricane Season
Are you ready?
Skipper Column, page 2



Motorcycle Safety Month
page 4



PCS with Pets
page 5

Spring storm brings a lake to NAS Corpus Christi



Almost three inches of rain fell on NAS Corpus Christi during one hour May 10, overloading the storm drain system and resulting in large, temporary "lakes" that snarled traffic and, in at least one case, caused a car to stall. D Street in front of

Building 2 was all but impassable, the Ocean Drive gate was closed and standing water led to hour-long lines departing the Main Gate – but overall, damage to the base was minor.
More storm photos on page 10.
Photo by Bob Torres

WINGSPAN



Vol. 18, No. 9

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

May 3, 2012



We Love Mommy

Mothers Day
May 13
Chaplain's Column
page 2



Last Air Force Wings
at NASCC
page 3



Happy Birthday,
Chiefs
page 10



'The Silent Killer'
page 5

Flight Instructor Spouse wins big on 'Wheel of Fortune'



Sharon Adams reacts as 'Wheel of Fortune' host Pat Sajak reveals she won \$100,000 in the game's bonus round. Adams won a total of \$110,500 on the show. She is the wife of Marine Corp Maj. Samuel Adams, an instructor pilot with VT-31.

Photos courtesy of 'Wheel of Fortune'

by Rod Hafemeister

Sometimes, you manage to beat the odds.

That certainly was the case for Sharon Adams, the wife of Marine Corps Capt. Samuel Adams, an instructor pilot with VT-31 at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

On April 27, people across the country got to see her win \$110,500 on "Wheel of Fortune," the long-running syndicated television game show.

"They taped the show in January, and you can't tell people, so it's like all the excitement is happening all over again," Adams said.

What kind of odds did she beat?

According to the folks at "Wheel," more than 10,000 people try out for the show each year and fewer than 600 actually get on the show.

Of the three contestants each show, only one advances to the bonus round – and only those who solve the final puzzle win a bonus, which ranges from trips and vehicle to money.

For Adams, it all started last summer, when she and her husband were preparing to move to NAS Corpus Christi from San Diego.

"We returned from a post-deployment trip and I found an email from the show saying they were looking for military spouses," Adams said.

A long-time fan, Adams had joined the "Wheel Watchers Club" while at the University of Florida, where she also met her husband.

She emailed the show and applied, then proceeded with the move.

"We literally moved here and a week later I got a letter saying I needed to audition – in a week," she said.

So it was back to California in September, for a "cattle call" style audition, with a quick screening, a written puzzle test and a simulated game.

"Because there's 60 to 70 of us, they go through fast," she said.

"They send you a letter telling you whether you get on or not about three weeks later."

She made the cut; the letter told her she would be on a list of potential contestants for up to 18 months and would get at least two weeks' notice if they scheduled her to appear.

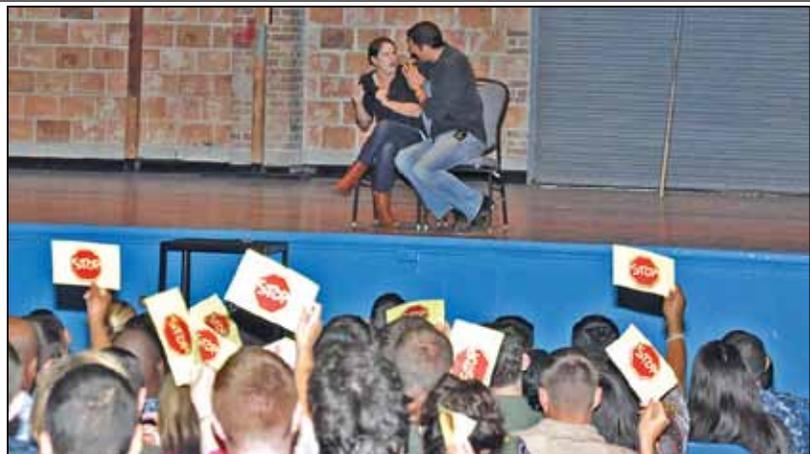
In mid-December, she got the call, asking if she would be available

'Wheel' continued on page 7

Using humor for a serious lesson

Audience members wave their 'Stop' signs indicating the actor's 'pick up' attempt had crossed the line to sexual assault. Catharsis Productions "Sex Signals," on April 26, used a series of an interactive plays using humor to empower personnel with knowledge that they can use to help prevent sexual assault.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister



WINGSPAN



Vol. 18, No.8

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

April 19, 2012

Vice Adm. French returns to NASCC after three decades

by Bob Torres

"I was expecting three or four people," said Commander Naval Installations Command, Vice Adm. William French as he looked out over the gathered audience, "Not two or three hundred."

French stood before and then among the gathering of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi servicemembers and civilians during a visit, April 11.

"I was here before in 1976," he continued. "I was a midshipman checking to see if I was going to make the Navy a career."

And then he went into why he was here for the visit.

"There are three things that I want to bring to your attention. They are, 'We are warfighters first.' We need to be ready to fight and win today, while building the ability to win tomorrow too.

"We expect to Operate Forward. That's to provide offshore options to deter, influence and win in an era of uncertainty. We expect to be a stabilizing force.

"And we need to be ready. We need to harness the teamwork, talent and imagination of our diverse force



Vice Adm. William French, Commander Naval Installations Command, speaks to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi personnel on April 11. Photo by Rod Hafemeister

to be ready to fight and responsibly employ our resources."

French went on to amplify his thoughts on how he expects to accomplish that. As he walked up and down the center aisle of the assembled audience, he held the microphone in his right hand and made hand gestures with this left hand that indicated the direction and intensity of his message.

And then he took a moment to talk about April being Sexual Abuse Awareness Month. "One sexual assault case is too much," he said. "If you see someone in trouble, or you know someone who might be in trouble, I expect you to assist him or her. That's my expectation. Take care of your shipmates.

"How many of you have heard of the 21st Century Sailor and

Marine," he asked. When not every hand in the audience was raised, he continued, "In March the Secretary of the Navy set forth a new vision for the Department of the Navy called the 21st Century Sailor and Marine. His vision is a set of objectives, policies and programs designed to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, to maintain the

CNIC continued on page 8



April 22 is Earth Day



VT-31 Civilian of the Year

page 11



Don't Bake Fido

page 16

Sexual Assault Awareness Month training



About 500 people attended a Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) class in the Wings Auditorium on April 16. The class was one of five scheduled for the month of April; Navy leaders have ordered all Sailors, Marines, Civilians and contract

employees to attend mandatory SAAM training this month as part of a Defense Department initiative to reduce sexual assaults through prevention and intervention.

See Skipper's Column, page 2.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

WINGSPAN



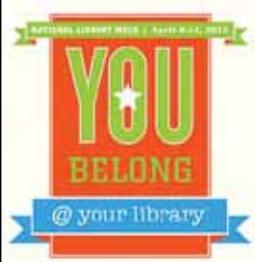
Vol. 18, No. 7

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

April 5, 2012



Sexual Assault Awareness Month
page 15



NASCC Library: A Hidden Treasure
page 4



Blood Donor Award
page 6

Navy's senior unrestricted line captain at time of retirement Capt. Thomas E. Broderick retires after 38 years service

by Lt. John Supple, CNATRA PAO



Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. William Sizemore presents CNATRA Chief of Staff Capt. Thomas Broderick the Legion of Merit Award during Broderick's March 20 retirement ceremony aboard the USS Lexington. Photo by Richard Stewart

Capt. Thomas E. Broderick, the Chief of Staff for Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) retired March 20 after 38 years of military service.

The retirement ceremony was held in front of friends and family on the historic USS Lexington, the World War II aircraft carrier turned museum located pier-side in the Corpus Christi Bay.

Promoted to the rank of captain in 1994, the 60-year-old Boston native was the most senior unrestricted line captain in the Navy.

Broderick graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1973.

He earned his wings as a helicopter pilot and completed deployments aboard USS Miller (FF-1091) and USS Bowen (FF-1079) while assigned to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 32.

He then resigned his regular commission and was commissioned into the reserve forces in 1979.

Twenty years later, Broderick reported for active duty as a reserve officer at the Bureau of Naval

Personnel.

In 2006 he was augmented to the regular forces while stationed in Washington D.C.

In 2010 he reported to his final assignment in the Navy, CNATRA Chief of Staff.

Guest speaker Rear Adm. William Sizemore, Chief of Naval Air Training, called Broderick "a leader who led from the front and by his personal example in everything he did on and off duty."

Sizemore detailed the parallel careers of Broderick and the Lexington. The warship was built just miles from where Broderick was born, and like Broderick, the Lexington left the service and was then brought back to active duty.

Both Broderick and the Lexington also finished their long careers shaping the future of Naval Aviation, Broderick as the CNATRA Chief of Staff, and the Lexington as the ship on which many young aviators would make their first carrier landing.

"He found answers to complex issues, introduced new processes and made enduring improvements.

Broderick continued on page 1

NASCC wins big in CNRSE Fire & Emergency Awards



See Skipper's Column, page 2, for more



Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's Fire and Emergency Services won big in the 2011 Navy Region Southeast F&ES Awards, capturing top honors in five of six categories. Left (l. to r.), Asst. Chief Mark Weil, EMS Battalion Chief Robert Bethea, NASCC CO Capt. Dave Edgecomb and Fire Instructor Curtis Hefner cut the celebratory cake. Above, fire fighters and NASCC leadership celebrate earning Fire Department of the Year. Photos by Rod Hafemeister

WINGSPAN

Vol. 18, No. 6

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

March 22, 2012



Solid Curtain - Citadel Shield 2012

Skipper's Column page 2
Closures page 6



VT-27 Change of Command

page 4



Eggstravaganza!

page 8

NASCC goes solar

Story & photo by Rod Hafemeister

With the cut of a scissors, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi on March 13 joined the Navy's move toward alternative energy, officially bringing online two large rooftop solar power arrays.

Commanding Officer Capt. Dave Edgecomb cut the ribbon on the roof of Building 1218.

It's one of two warehouses whose rooftops have become solar power collectors, feeding electricity back to the grid and reducing the amount the base must purchase.

"This is in keeping with the Secretary of the Navy's goal of using more alternative energy and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels," Edgecomb said.

Buildings 1218 and 1217 now each have 2,576 photovoltaic panels

Solar continued on page 9



NAS Corpus Christi Commanding Officer Capt. Dave Edgecomb cut the ribbon on a warehouse roof inaugurating a system drawing power from the sun. From left to right: Lt. Cmdr. James Wallace, FEAD Director; David Hogue, Project Manager; Cmdr. David Dargan, NASCC XO; Mario Saenz, Project Safety Officer; Lee Urbanovsky, ACC Project Manager; Edgecomb; Ensign Keenan Harris, Construction Manager; Michael Tunks, Project Manager; Roberto Reece, UEM Manager; Regan Houser, UEM Manager; and Bert Gonzales, Engineering Tech.

U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club serenades Corpus Christi



Approximately 65 members the Naval Academy Men's Glee Club entertained a packed house at the Corpus Christi Cathedral, March 15. *More photos on page 10.*

Photo by Bob Torres

WINGSPAN

Vol. 18, No. 5

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

March 8, 2012



March is Women's History Month



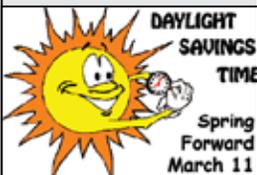
VT-28 Change of Command

page 4



Bishop visits

page 3



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
Spring Forward
March 11

Perkins receives Bronze Star Medal – with Combat V – almost 44 Years late

Story and photo by Bob Torres

Peter Perkins, the Mayor of Ingleside received a Bronze Star Medal (with combat V) during a ceremony aboard the USS Lexington, on March 1 – nearly 44 years late.

The citation tells of Perkins heroism while serving as a Forward Observer from May to September 1968.

Since then, he served as the Commanding Officer of Marine Air Training Support Group-22 (MATSG-22) here at NAS Corpus Christi.

He retired as a Marine Colonel in 1992.

Perkins received his Bronze Star Medal from Maj. Gen. Raymond "Hondo" Fox, Commanding General, Training and Education Command, who wanted to be here for the presentation.

"Colonel Perkins ran into a friend with whom he'd served,"

said Maj. Kevin Mattix, assigned to MATSG-22.

"His friend asked the colonel if he'd ever received his Bronze Star Medal that he'd earned in Vietnam. Perkins replied that he hadn't received anything – the paperwork had been lost.

"When he said no, this was about two years ago, it began a search for the person who had initially written the citation.

"It took the citation, written by his former Commanding Officer, and two eyewitnesses to his bravery, and documentation from his command and Sen. John Cornyn's assistance, before it became a reality – that he'd be the recipient of an award he earned as a Marine Captain."

His citation reads in part: "For meritorious service in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam while serving as Forward

Perkins continued on page 9



Retired Marine Colonel Peter Perkins receives the Bronze Star with Combat 'V' that he earned as a captain in Vietnam.

Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield March 19-24

Traffic delays and congestion expected during exercise



Security officers 'detain' a suspect during a previous exercise. Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2012 later this month will include a significant exercise of increased security measures that is likely

at times to cause traffic delays and back-ups at the gates as well as closure of many base functions at the end of the week.

See story on page 7.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

WINGSPAN



Vol. 18, No. 4

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

February 23, 2012

'Powerpuff Girls' tackle Navy flight medicine

Story and photos by Lt. Jason Kardos, TW-4

Flight medicine is a demanding field; the flight surgeons at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi support all military and Coast Guard aviators and aircrew at NAS Corpus Christi, South Texas recruiter stations, and ROTC units.

Of late, three surgeons have been doing the work of five – and all three are female, the only such all-female flight medicine team currently working in the Navy.

They call themselves the "Powerpuff Girls" after the cartoon series – and their power to work together as a close team definitely allows them to accomplish great feats.

"Watch for us!" said Lt. Ashley Klein.

Lt. Amber Dechambeau, Klein, and Lt. Amanda Kent stand together as a dynamic team.

"This is an amazing experience and we love working with fellow ladies and couldn't ask for a better group," Dechambeau said.

"We play off each other's strengths."

Many times one of the doctors is on a detachment and at times the

flight medicine clinic could be down to one doctor to handle the day's patient load.

They mutually agree that they have a "great support staff" that "looks after us."

In January, they attended to 750 patient appointments, with a daily high of 40.

In 2011, they cleared 5,000 patient appointments in flight medicine alone; an average of 1,667 patients each in a year.

What they are never short of is smiles.

"They are a strong team, they stay together, and are focused on goals," said HM3 John Sanchez.

"Great medical providers," said HM2 Alex Sanchez.

HM3 Berkley said, "They don't turn people away."

Amber (Dechambeau) is the Senior Flight Surgeon responsible for all the administrative duties of a department head and is the flight surgeon assigned to VT-31.

As the senior flight surgeon she also is the medical liaison to

Powerpuffs continued on page 16



Friendship 7 50 Years Later

Editor's column, page 2



Housing Awards rain on NASCC

page 6



Coast Guard trains at Texas State Aquarium

page 4



(top) 'Powerpuff Girls' emblems on the helmets of the three female flight surgeons supporting Naval Aviators at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi. (middle) Lt. Ashley Klein (left) consults with Senior Flight Surgeon Lt. Amber Dechambeau.

Vice Admiral James P. Wisecup, Naval IG, visits NASCC



The Naval Inspector General, Vice Adm. James P. 'Phil' Wisecup (center), observes air traffic controllers in the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi control tower during his tour of the base on Feb. 15. During his stop in the tower, he saw controllers handle an in-flight problem, using a light gun to communicate with and control an aircraft that had lost radio contact. The Naval IG team was in South Texas for two weeks, with stops in San Antonio and Kingsville as well as Corpus Christi.

Photo by Bob Torres

WINGSPAN

Vol. 18, No. 3

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

February 9, 2012



**Valentine's Day
February 14**



**New NASCC
Ombudsman**

Skipper Column, page 2



Electric Cop Cars

page 5



**New Fire Station at
Cabaniss**

page 3

Seabees train, NASCC Marina gets new boat ramp

Story and photos by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Scott B. Boyle, 25th Naval Construction Regiment Public Affairs

Training to be a Seabee requires more than studying manuals or sitting in a classroom.

To excel in all aspects of construction, today's Seabees need real world, hands-on experience – and the Construction Training Exercise (CTX) is designed for that very purpose.

Currently, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74, from Gulfport, Miss., has a team

of 23 Seabees building a boat ramp to support Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

The homeport project gives Seabees an opportunity to maintain their core construction skills outside of a classroom, while giving NAS a new Marina boat ramp to replace World War II era one that was no longer safe to use.

"It gives them a sense of
Seabees continued on page 8



(above) Steelworker 3rd Class Alan Moiles trims rebar from pilings used to support boat ramp. (right) Utilitiesman 3rd Class Daniel Trump builds a frame from rebar for the boat ramp.



Two Engineers of the Year for NASCC Public Works

Story and photo by Rod Hafemeister

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi got a double honor this year: Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast selected both the Military and Civilian Engineer of the Year from NAS Corpus Christi's Public Works Department.

Lt. Cmdr. Craig Clutts, the Public Works Officer, was selected as Military Engineer of the Year and Marcos Castaneda, a construction manager, was selected as Civilian Engineer of the Year for the Southeast Region for 2012.

The awards were announced Jan. 24.

"This was the first time I was nominated," Clutts said. "It was a very cool surprise – very humbling and very flattering."

Castaneda, who was recently licensed as a professional engineer, didn't even know he was nominated.

"I was really surprised by the award," he said. "I had a busy year last year."

When supervisors recommended Castaneda for the award, he was the clear choice, Clutts said.

"It was pretty easy to write up an award for Marcos – it pretty much writes itself," Clutts said.

Engineers continued on page 9



Lt. Cmdr. Craig Clutts, NAVFAC SE Military Engineer of the Year, and Marcos Castaneda, Civilian Engineer of the Year

WINGSPAN



Vol. 18, No. 2

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

January 26, 2012

One pair of Wings, three generations of Naval Aviators

Story and photos by Rod Hafemeister

On Jan. 13, Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Matthew Zackman received a set of Wings as a Naval Aviator – Wings that were decades older than the 31-year-old pilot.

“Those are the Wings I bought when I became a Navy pilot, said John Whitehead, Zackman’s grandfather.

He passed them on to his son, James Whitehead, who became a Naval Aviator in December 1974.

“Now they’re on the third generation of a Naval pilot,” John Whitehead said.

It wasn’t always clear that would be the case.

“I wanted to fly when I was younger,” Zackman said.

“But when I got out of school from Embry-Riddle, nobody was hiring – airlines, nothing.”

So he went to work for his family’s business in New York for seven years until he found out he

might be able to fly for the Coast Guard.

He joined the Coast Guard in 2008 – and went to a non-flying billet.

“I went to OCS and didn’t get picked up for flight school right away,” he said. “I went to a unit for nine months.

“I told my command I was right on the borderline of not getting picked up because of age requirements – and I got picked up by the next board.”

Delayed pilot training also is a family tradition.

John Whitehead enlisted in the Navy in February 1943, ready to fly.

“I’d been flying as a civilian since I was 16,” he said.

But the Navy didn’t send him to flight school right away – they sent him to college to study engineering.

Pilot continued on page 6



Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Matthew Zackman’s wife Lindsey pins on his Wings on Jan. 13 while his grandfather looks on. The Wings were the same ones worn by his grandfather and uncle when they became Naval aviators.



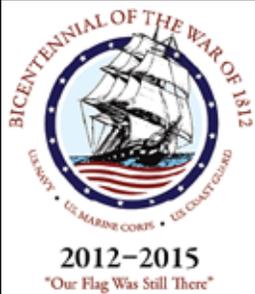
February is Black History Month

page 5



Water Rescue

page 3



2012-2015

"Our Flag Was Still There"

First Declared War

Editor’s column, page 2



Winter Holiday Camp

page 4

NASCC opens refurbished ‘Bird Bath’ on airfield

NASCC officials on Jan. 12 cut the ribbon on the refurbished Airfield Wash Rack. (Right, from l. to r.) Randy Startzell, Calidad Services Inc.; XO Cmdr. Dave Dargan; CO Capt. Dave Edgecomb; Ensign Keenan Harris, Public Works; Cmdr. Jeffrey Mullen, Air-Ops; Von Pilcher, Public Works; Lt. Cmdr. James Wallace, Public Works FEAD. (Below) Edgecomb drives the command SUV to inaugurate the reopened ‘bird bath.’

Photos by Rod Hafemeister



January 12, 2012

WINGSPAN



Vol. 18, No. 1

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

January 12, 2012

Revelers go out with the Old, in with the New Year



Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Jan. 16



Spouse honored by NCIS

page 3



The NAS Corpus Christi community sent 2011 into history and welcomed 2012 by 'Dancing Through the Decades' at the Bay Club. The festivities included a live band, 'Top Shelf' from San Antonio, door prizes, hors d'oeuvres, dancing, no cash casino style fun, and party favors – followed by breakfast in 2012. Photos by Amber Stennet



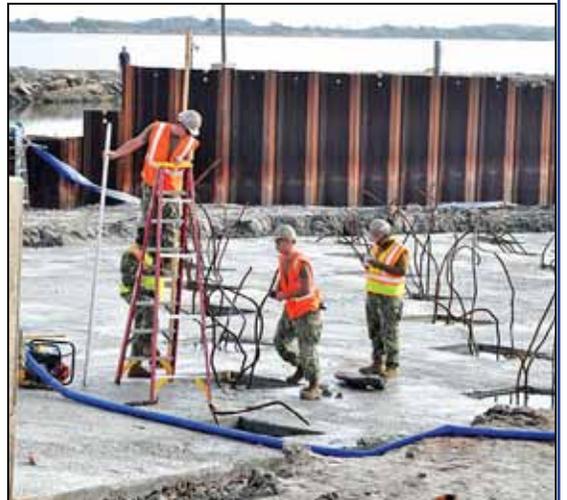
Reservists help judge NJROTC Drill Competition

page 14

Rebuilding the Marina



After months of preparation, progress is ongoing at the NASCC Marina. Above, workers are building a new boat dock while (right) Seabees work to replace the boat ramp. Both projects should be completed by early summer. Photos by Bob Torres



Heating & Fire Safety

page 7