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Wingspan

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • December 7, 2006

Ullmann assumes command of Training Squadron 35

By Bob Torres

Air Force Lieutenant Colonel John Ullmann relieved Commander Kurt Johnson as the commanding officer for Training Squadron-35 (VT-35) during a change of command ceremony in Hangar 58, Nov. 30.

Johnson took time to review some of the squadron's accomplishments during his tenure of the past two and half years.

"Being able to *teach* was the one goal that I put out when I took over," said Johnson. "The one thing I wanted to do here; was to make sure we taught the students everything we could while they're here. We're not here to simply teach them, but also to train them to go out to the fleet, and do the great things we hope for them to do."

The squadron is unique in that the commanding officer changes from Air Force to Navy leadership every other time a new commanding officer is emplaced. That brings diversity to the training and currently there is more interservice training being taught that includes Marines transitioning to the MV-22 rotor-propelled aircraft.

"Now with the movement towards the interservice training, we're running three distinct communities," he continued. "The Air Force guys, the MV-22 (Marine) folks and the helo guys. It's hard to have a perfect mix in the syllabus and how we serve that syllabus. I leave here knowing there is going to be a curriculum review for every one of the syllabuses and that it'll be a good fix for training, from the input that will drive it."

"What I enjoy is the discussion. Individuals will sit down and they'll talk about what's good, what's better and what's best about changes in training," said Johnson. "Then they chose the one that's best. They'll



Ullmann

talk to everyone else and come to an agreement. I like the communication, and that our people have a huge part of how decisions were made. It's easy to communicate why things change, because everybody was aware of how the decisions were made and they know why."

Among the accomplishments during his tenure, was the squadron receiving a Safety award. Johnson smiles as he remembers traveling to Washington, DC, to receive the award from the Secretary of the Navy, Donald C. Winters, during September.



Johnson

ing. The squadron has done well; it also won a production award, the Ellison Award. We're being good stewards for the tax payers."

Then he continued by explaining more fully, about the Safety award. "It included a ground safety portion too," he said. "This squadron is *the* most active on the flight line. We have weekly ORM (Operational Risk Management) reviews that involve flight leaders, students and instructors. And we believe in an intrusive leadership profile. We've been able to capture the intent, rather than just getting caught up in words, where senior and junior folks get together and have open discussions about, good and bad ways to approach situations. Rather than just dictating, 'Don't

drink and drive,' or 'Don't go hunting without a license,' we're getting open dialog and that has been good. We've not had a ground incident here in more than two years."

Johnson leaves and considers that he's been the "head" teacher.

"Obviously my job here is not to be a flight instructor, but to take care of everything, our people, to oversee the unit, and get the right staff instructors to be super instructors," he continued. "What I look for in our instructors is that their time here is a 'career enhancement.' I realize I need to take care of our civilian positions, to take care of our contractors, and to get our Sailors promoted if they deserve it. The squadron exists to train young pilots to go out and become the fleet operators six or eight months from now."

"That's what I've tried to keep as my optic focus," said Johnson. "Everything that I do is to make our students knowledgeable, and the best way to do that is to ensure their instructors can teach them that."

"It's been a great 2 1/2 years here," he said. "I'm thrilled in the direction that we're heading, not just VT-35, but (Training Air) Wing-4, and many of the things that CNATRA is pushing and helping us push. We're headed in the right direction to prepare our product, the students, for some of the equipment and procedures that are coming years down the road."

"I think we're getting headed in the direction of making the pilots more effective and that's being created by the relationship that we have with the Base and CNATRA. There's just absolutely no doubt that all three levels here, are working off the same sheet of music

COC continued on page 4

65 years ago – a Sunday morning that became known as 'The Day of Infamy'



The USS West Virginia was sunk Dec. 7, 1941. (Photo from Historical archives)

Shortly before 8 a.m., on Sunday, December 7th 1941, a wave of Japanese airplanes left six aircraft carriers and struck Pearl Harbor as many lay sleeping aboard American ships.

In slightly more than two hours, more than 3,500 American servicemembers were killed or wounded, and 18 ships sank or were badly damaged. These included all eight battleships of the Pacific Fleet and more than 350 aircraft were destroyed or damaged. At least 1,177 lives were lost when the Battleship U.S.S. Arizona exploded and subsequently sank.

In one stroke, the Japanese navy scored a brilliant success—and assured their ultimate defeat. The Japanese attack brought the U.S. into the war on December 8—and brought it in the war determined to fight to the finish.

From The Skipper

A day of honor...

By Capt. T.E. Coolidge

For some people, today is December 7th. For others it's a day of remembrance of "Pearl Harbor Day." There are few people around today that served in the military on Dec. 7, 1941. For those who did, and especially for those who were serving in Hawaii, it continues to be a special day.



Coolidge

On Sunday morning, December 7th, 1941, in the town of Lanakii on the windward side of Oahu (Hawaii), a husband and wife had just gotten up to have breakfast on their lanai (patio) and watch the sunrise. Moments later they heard the drone of aircraft and watched as Japanese bombers crossed over the beach toward the Naval Base at Kaneohe Bay. Soon they heard the sounds of bombs exploding and saw plumes of smoke lifting from a mostly still-sleeping contingent of Americans that morning.

The PBY aircraft mechanics in the han-

gars and those living on the Mokapu peninsula were rudely shaken as the surprise attack ensued. But the Japanese didn't create ruin without repercussions. At least one Sailor rushed to an anti-aircraft gun in one of the hangars and with careful aim, or maybe due to the amount of Japanese aircraft in the air, hit several of the attacking aircraft before others flew away. At least one Japanese aircraft lost power and crashed into the side of the highest point on the base. Today a memorial stand marks the death of that Japanese pilot, employed and visited by Japanese visitors even today.

The Japanese had attacked Kaneohe Bay. It wasn't until moments later that another group of Japanese aircraft came from the East through a pass near the northern part of the island to attack American ships anchored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor. Within minutes the American Navy lay in waste on that "Day of Infamy."

Again, Sailors and Marines rudely awakened by the attack mobilized where they could and fought back as even more ships were being strafed and bombed. A handful of Army pilots were able to get to their aircraft that were also under attack. Those brave pilots

engaged Japanese "Zeroes" that had traveled as fighter escorts to the bombers. The loss of life and ships was devastating for the US but with known American resolve servicemembers fought back in what we know as World War II.

For those who have never spent time in a war zone, for the most part, conditions are unexplainable. I've noticed that those servicemembers who spent time "in the trenches" during war don't talk about it much. My father, who served in Viet Nam, is much the same way. Yes, I've read stories about combat and war from some who have served, but rarely do they describe in detail the ravages of war. It's something only those who have "been there, done that" really understand. And because they do, there's not much need to talk about it.

If you've ever visited the USS Arizona Memorial you know that small boats will take you to where the ship lays under hallowed waters where it sank. The names are written on marble walls commemorating those that died there that fateful day.

I don't want to draw this out and make
Captain continued on page 10

Chaplain's Column

Love one another

By Chaplain Chin Van Dang

The man had moved from the city to the suburbs and had spent a lot of time and money on his lawn. Then, up came a crop of dandelions. He tried everything he could think of to get rid of them, but nothing helped. Finally in desperation he wrote to the Department of Agriculture and asked them what they thought he should do. Two weeks later he received this reply.

"We suggest," said the letter, "that you learn to love them."

"God loves us," wrote C.S. Lewis, "not because we are loveable, but because he is love; not because he needs to receive, but because he delights to give." St John, calling on us to love one another, adds, "Whoever fails to love, does not know God, because God is love" (1 Jn 4:8). We are urged to love all people since God loves everyone. God makes His sun shine on the good and the evil, and He makes His rain fall on both the just and the unjust without discrimination. Love is genuine only when it embraces all.

There are some four ways of expressing the different facets of the word love in Greek.

There is "stergein," the Greek verb to love, but it means the love family members have for each other. The verb "philein" is used to describe the warmth and trust that real friends have for one another. The verb "eran" with its accompanying noun "eros" is used in reference to sexual love and often refers to lust. Finally there is that heroic love expressed by the verb "agapan": this is unconquerable love, and it means that no matter what a person might do to you, you would continue to love that person. To love with "agape" means never to become bitter or vindictive toward another, even though you might have every reason in the world to feel bitterness toward that person (W. Barclay).

We must endeavor to love him or her whom once we did not love, whom we have condemned, or who may have done us an injury. To love all human beings is difficult but it can be learned, if we closely consider the benefits of loving all people. One benefit surely is that it unites people. Modern technology may be useful for uniting people; however, without love, machines can easily separate people. Another benefit of love is that it makes the one who loves, very happy. If you hate even one person, all the joys will leave

your heart. God wanted us to be happy, but happy in our belonging, and hence endowed us with a longing for love. Hence we will be happy only when we all love one another. We are like stones joined in an arch and are bound to collapse unless we support one another with love. To be in love with all people is the greatest good and the greatest happiness.

A student one time asked a professor, "Would it be possible for all the people of the world to live in the State of Texas?" The professors thought for a little while, estimate the size of the state and number of people in the world, and answered:

"Yes, it would be possible if they love one another"

In the end, there just will never be peace on earth unless this doctrine of love as taught by God is put into practice.



Dang

Wingspan

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Commanding Officer
Capt. T.E. Coolidge

Public Affairs Officer
Robert D. Torres

Writer/Photographer
LI2 Paul Hewitt

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Station Spotlight



(Photo by Bob Torres)



(Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

**ABH3 Diana A. Caragan
 NASCC, CMC Admin Assistant**

ABH3 Diana Caragan was born in Angeles City, Philippines. She transferred to NASCC from the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) in 2005. Caragan has served in the Navy for six years. Although she has only been stationed at NASCC for a year, she has performed many duties above and beyond what the Navy has asked of her. She spends much of her time on and off duty performing various tasks which include, but are not limited to community service, volunteer work with the community, and organizing special events for Air Operations and NASCC as a whole. She has been a valuable asset to the Navy and to the community, and continues serve with pride. "I am taking advantage of this shore duty by furthering my education and allowing myself to get more involved in the community by doing different volunteer work, and although I have done admin work before, I enjoy the new experiences and great people that help me along the way," Said Caragan. Caragan is hoping to be stationed in the west coast for her next duty station, and has volunteered for an I.A. and she will be leaving for Iraq in February.

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MWR News and Events

By Laurie Garcia, NAS MWR

Auto Skills Center

Reminder

Texas Vehicle Safety Inspections are performed at the Auto Skills Center, Bldg. 1713, down the street from the Navy/Army Federal Credit Union. Services are a first come first serve bases. Wait or drop off your vehicle. Hours of business are Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. Additionally, have a current copy of your insurance available. For more information call 961-3470.

Auto Safety Tip

Check your tires for proper tread wear by: inserting a penny (Lincoln's head first) into the tread of your tire, if you can see the top of Lincoln's head, your tires are below 2/32 of an inch and need to be replaced. For more information regarding concerns or questions about this safety tip or for a demonstration call as at 961-3470.

Army Vet Clinic Holiday Open House

U.S. Army Veterinary Services is hosting a Holiday Open House on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Veterinary Treatment Facility aboard NAS Corpus Christi. Activities will include pet photos with Santa and working dog demonstrations. There will also be displays containing information on pet care and the Veterinary Service mission. A drawing for a free heartworm and flea and tick preventative will also be held. In addition, several vendors have donated various pet supply items to be given away on a first come first service basis at this event. For more information, please call 961-3952.

ITT

ITT will be carrying tickets to some exciting events this month. Take a look what ITT has to meet all your entertainment needs.

Spurs Tickets:

Spurs vs. Houston 12/22/06: \$39.25; \$24

Spurs vs. Dallas 1/5/07: \$39.25; \$24

Spurs vs. NJ 3/10/07: \$39.25; \$24

Rayz Games: ITT will be carrying vouchers this year to the Rayz games. Prices are \$13; \$11; and \$5.

Season Tickets: ITT now has new SeaWorld Season Passes and Fiesta Texas Season Passes available for purchase.

SeaWorld Season Pass:

1 Year: \$55

2 Year: \$93

Fiesta Texas Season Pass:

1 Year: \$55

Hours of Operation: The ITT office is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located on the Westside entrance of Building 39.

Call ITT at 961-3961 to find out the com-

plete array of tickets available.

ORAC

Shields Park has 68 RV sites, picnic areas, and campgrounds. Dedicated to providing recreational opportunities to base personnel, their families and other eligible patrons, MWR is always looking to improve and expand its program and facilities offerings.

Corpus Christi is a beautiful area and whether you're here for just a short time or more permanently, we know you'll enjoy recreating in this area. Our MWR facilities are here for recreational use by active duty, retired military, active reservists, current and retired DoD civilian employees (civil service and non-appropriated), family members. We hope you'll visit our facilities and take advantage of the many activities and services.

Hours of Operation are: Tuesday and Wednesdays 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.; Sunday, Monday Thursday, Friday & Saturday 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Don't forget about all the other fun things we have here for you, Such as:

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For more information, call the Marina at 961-1293.

Gonzalez Liberty Center

Stop by and visit the Gonzalez Liberty Center and watch one of the many **Navy Motion Picture Service movies** they have to offer. The "new releases" include: Beerfest; Crossover; Hollywoodland; How to Eat Fried Worms; Idlewood; Invincible; The Covenant; The Wicker Man.

December Programs:

Monday Night Football: Don't miss a minute of the hard-hitting action that is **Monday Night Football** every Monday night. Get some friends together or come join us while we watch the big game on one of our big screen TV's. And rest easy, for your viewing pleasure; the GLC will stay open until the game ends. Snacks are included.

December 14 & 28: Last Buck Night: Dinner & Movie at 5 p.m.

X-Box Tournament: Hollywood Video is hosting an X-Box Tournament on December 9. This tournament will include Halo-2 and the newest Madden game. Snacks and prizes will be provided. Sign up at the Gonzalez Liberty Center today!

Paintball Shop: High Pressure Air Fill Station is HERE! Schedule your paintball game with us. Stop paying those high prices out in town when you can get it all here at the GLC. Field is FREE, Air is FREE, and the cost of rentals is close to FREE. If you want to schedule a command tournament, let us know!!! For more information on any Liberty Program, call the GLC at 961-6405.

Holiday safety tips for your pet

By Capt. Erin Graves, US Army Veterinary Services

The holiday season is here and it is important to be mindful of pet safety during this festive season. Many of the foods and decorations we enjoy can actually be hazardous to our pets. Pet owners need to keep the following tips in mind to help ensure a safe holiday season for all members of the family.

Remember gifts under your tree that may be food items. Gift wrap will not usually stop a determined pet from eating good smelling treats under the tree. Additionally, many non-poisonous people foods, especially fatty foods, can still make your pet quite sick if consumed in excess. It is best to avoid the temptation of indulging your pet because "it's the holidays"; feed your pet their usual diet on their regular schedule.

Many decorations, especially the Christmas tree, can pose a danger to pets. If you have a fresh Christmas tree, keep the water stand covered. Pine sap mixed with water makes a poisonous drink for a thirsty pet. Also consider securing your Christmas tree to a wall or to a ceiling hook with sturdy fishing line. If a pet decides to jump on the tree to get a tempting ornament or a large, wagging tail hits the tree, this will help prevent it from toppling over and possibly injuring a pet or person.

Other popular holiday plants and flowers, such as mistletoe, can be also quite poisonous to pets. It is interesting to note that poinsettias, believed to be quite poisonous by the public, rarely cause a problem if ingested. The most common signs of poinsettia ingestion are vomiting and diarrhea and these signs usually occur when large quantities are consumed. Also remember that your pet may be tempted to mark unfamiliar trees or plants so it may be helpful to bring the tree or plant into an isolated indoor room for a few days so it smells more like "home."

Tree trimmings and other decorations can also be hazardous. If a pet tries to eat one of these items, it could injure their mouth or cause further damage if the pet actually swallows the item. If your cat (or dog) is tempted to play with the ornaments and knocks them off the tree, decorate the bottom third with non-breakable, plastic or wooden ornaments, or breakable only the top two-thirds of your tree.

The location and types of tree decorations will depend on the individual pet's behavior (do they try and eat all of the decora-

tions or just bat them around). Be wary too of tinsel, string, and thin ribbon on the tree, presents or around the house. If your pet ingests these items, it could experience serious internal injuries or worse.

Lights present a safety concern as well. Indoor holiday lights should be secured so they do not hang too low and entangle your pet. Remember to supervise your pet to make sure they do not chew on light strands and, for extra safety, unplug the lights when you are not home. Pets have been electrocuted from casually chewing on strings of lights.

Also be mindful of the placement of burning candles around the house. A flying bird, curious cat or wagging dog tail could easily be burned by a poorly placed lit candle.

Keep in mind that pets, like people, experience the stress of the holiday season. The change in surroundings and environment, schedule changes due to shopping and travel, and an increase in visitors to your home are all stressful for your pet. Try to keep your pet's exercise and feeding schedules as normal as possible. Also, try to continue to make time for daily walks and playtime, regular litter box cleanings, and regular grooming activities to help keep stress at a minimum.

If your pet is not used to a lot of company in your house, especially children, try to provide them with a place to escape to where they will feel safe. A stressed, scared pet is more likely to accidentally bite someone out of fear and an animal bite could easily ruin a holiday celebration. Children, especially those unfamiliar with pets, are most likely to be bitten so make sure and provide plenty of supervision around your pets to ensure the safety of the children and your pet.

Finally, studies have shown that if a person just sits and pets an animal the interaction can reduce the person's level of stress and actually has positive health benefits such as decreasing blood pressure. So, when things get crazy around the holidays, as they often do, take a moment to just relax with your furry friend. It will do both you and your pet some good! Have a safe and happy holiday!

Please join us on Dec. 16, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. for our Holiday Open House including pet photos with Santa, working dog demonstrations, door prizes and other freebies. Contact the Corpus Christi VTF at 961-3952 for details or any other pet questions.



Cats do enjoy climbing, so please be aware of the safety hazards that could bring harm to your pets during the holidays. (Photo from public internet)



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Small Claims Court and how it works

By Lt. Heather Cassidy, NLSO Central, BROFF Corpus Christi

Have you ever had to spend your own money to fix another person's mistake? When this happens, people often think to themselves: "it's simply not worth the expense of hiring an attorney to get my money back." Well, you may be able to get your money back without hiring an attorney...

Small claims court gives people the opportunity to litigate on their own behalf. It doesn't require an attorney or legal training. If you have a claim worth \$5,000 or less, Small Claims Court may be for you. Any person 18 years or older can file a Small Claims case. A parent or guardian can file on behalf of a minor child.

To start an action, the first step is to figure out who or what you are going to sue. This entity is known as the defendant. When an individual person has wronged you, this step should be fairly easy. However, when suing a business, corporation or partnership, it can be difficult to determine who you need to name as the defendant and where to have them served. You should research this information before filing. If in doubt, assistance can be sought through the Secretary of State, Business Tax Department. This entity maintains a central registry for almost all business activity occurring in the state of Texas. One can reach the Business Tax Department at phone number 512-463-5555.

Once you have identified a defendant, the next step is to file the complaint. To do this one must fill out the proper paperwork, pay the appropriate fee and file the paperwork in the applicable county courthouse. In Nueces County this occurs at the Justice of the Peace office, Precinct 1 in Corpus Christi. The self-help coordinators located on at this building will provide you with the necessary paperwork to start your Small Claims action.

How much is the filing fee for a Small Claims action? The cost depends upon the amount for which you are suing. Any claim from \$1 dollar to \$5,000 dollars carries a \$12 dollar filing fee and a \$45 dollar service fee. It shall be noted that you can add the cost of these fees to your claim.

Once you have signed the complaint in the presence of a deputy clerk (or signed it in the presence of a notary), paid the requisite fee, and filed it with the clerk, you must then arrange to have the opposing party served. It will cost you \$45 to have the Sheriff's office serve your adversary. You can arrange for

service at the same time you file your complaint. Be aware that you can pay the filing fee by cash or through a personal check, but the Sheriff's service fee can be paid only by a money order made out to the Nueces County Sheriff's Department.

In the next step, the case will be scheduled for mediation. This usually occurs within two months of filing suit. At mediation, an impartial third party will attempt to iron out an agreement between the sides. If an agreement is reached, this agreement is binding on the parties and carries the same weight as if the case had been tried. If an agreement cannot be reached, the case will be referred to a judge for a final hearing.

Litigants can expect to receive notice of their final hearing approximately two weeks prior to the hearing date. The date of the final hearing will depend upon the court's calendar, but one can expect it to occur between six to eight weeks after mediation.

In the event you wish to compel the appearance of witnesses at the hearing, you will need to have subpoenas issued. If you provide the clerk's office with the correct name and addresses, they can assist with having the necessary subpoenas issued. Each subpoena will cost \$70 with a witness fee of \$10 dollars. Witness's can only be served within a 150 mile radius.

Every case is unique, but the person who succeeds in Small Claims Court is usually the one who has kept the best documentation. As such it is important to keep all bills, contracts, invoices and/or correspondence relating to your case. You will typically use this information, not only to establish who is at fault, but also to assist in determining how much one party owes the other.

At the final hearing both parties will have the opportunity to present their respective sides of the case. Either side can call witnesses, introduce documentary evidence and make arguments as to why they should prevail.

After hearing all of the evidence, the judge will issue a decision as to whom, if anyone is at fault, and if so, how much that party owes the other.

If you have additional questions regarding Small Claims Court or how to collect on a final judgment, call the Naval Legal Service Office Central at 361-961-3765 to set up an appointment.

Legal Corner

Navy Focuses on Suicide Prevention, Awareness

By MCSN Shannon K. Cassidy, Fleet Public Affairs Center, Pacific

The Navy is focusing its efforts to educate its Sailors about programs available to them with Suicide Prevention.

Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC) worldwide are educating service members about the risk and protective factors to help Sailors identify warning signs in their shipmates or trouble within themselves.

"Knowing the warning signs that someone is thinking about committing suicide will save a shipmate's life," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/AW) Joe R. Campa Jr. "If you're a leader - and specifically for the chiefs - you must know your people well enough so that you can tell if they start to change. Recognizing the signs of suicidal thoughts can help prevent future tragedies."

According to the Department of the Navy Suicide Incident Report, suicide is still among the top three causes of death in the Navy.

"Compared to homicides, we're killing ourselves more than other people are killing us," said Dr. G. Bruce Schumacher, FFSC Clinical Life Skills educator in San Diego.

The first step in preventing suicide is to identify and understand the risk factors. Risk factors are anything that could increase the possibility that a person will harm themselves, such as alcohol or substance abuse, a history of depression or mental disorders, or the loss of a relationship.

FFSC offers annual General Military Training about suicide prevention, as well as Life Skills classes, that help treat and deal with the symptoms of such issues.

"Sailors cannot be afraid to use the wealth of resources that the Navy provides,"

said Campa. "These resources are there to help you and all of our shipmates through times of crisis. The Fleet and Family Support Center has a staff that is highly trained to help anyone, and they care about what you are going through and they will help you if you go to them."

For many reasons, such as pride, shame or embarrassment, people don't seek or use the resources available to them.

"There is nothing wrong with asking for help," said Schumacher. "Nobody is born with all of the resources within to handle every situation in life. Somewhere along the line, you're going to have to ask for help, and there is nothing wrong with that."

Suicide can be prevented. The Journal of the American Medical Association and other affiliations concur that all warning signs of suicide, such as change in appetite, weight or sleeping patterns, diminished ability to think or concentrate, are magnified when a person with suicidal thoughts is under high stress or pressure, making warning signs that much more recognizable.

While general military training on suicide prevention helps Sailors to know the signs of a person who is considering committing suicide, Campa said it's really going to take to take everyone, such as chiefs and senior petty officers, to be out on the deck plates, knowing what is going on with their people on a daily basis.

"You can't recognize that someone is suicidal if you don't know what their normal routine is," said Campa. "We can prevent suicides when we take the time to learn our people."

For more news from around the fleet, visit www.navy.mil.

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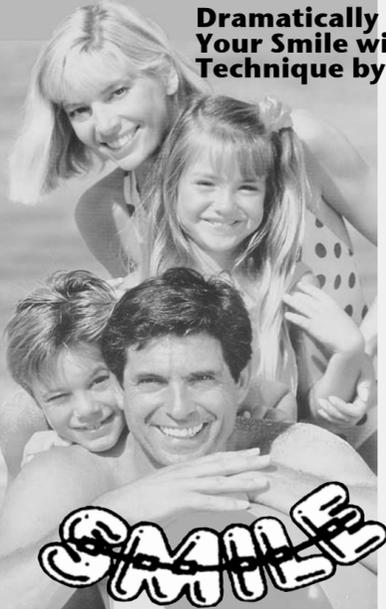
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Captain continued from page 2

this a macabre column of war and death. What I want to do is get folks to think about what our American servicemembers did throughout history – and are doing today – so that we are able to celebrate our holidays here, back home, in relative peace.

That guy that cut you off this morning on the way to work, well you might have gotten a little bit upset. Or little Suzy staying up too late to watch a program that you'd told her not to. Or maybe the cashier that short-changed you at the grocery store. Each can make a person upset.

Please take a moment to think about what some of our servicemembers are facing today, as men and women like them did yesterday, standing the guard so that we can sleep peacefully. While the tents are more modern, the cold is the same as it was during WW II. Being underway and away from families even with much more modern weapons is still be-

ing away from family. Today's MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) may be more nutritious than the ones in WW II but I'm not sure they taste any better – especially when eaten cold. They don't taste as nice as that warm turkey we at home enjoyed over the Thanksgiving holiday. These are the kind of things we must not take for granted. Our service members operating "in harm's way" certainly don't!

Maybe today is a good day to reflect on all that we do have as we spend time here in the middle of the holiday season. I know there are days set aside on the calendar to honor veterans during "Veteran's Day" and our freedom on the "4th of July" but folks, any and every day is a day that we can say "thank you" to veterans who have served our country. There are few World War II veterans left and we're losing them daily as they succumb to old age. If you know of any Pearl Harbor Day survivors, please let him or her know – we appreciate what they did.

See ya on the beach!

Special programs are available to assist you

Transition Assistance Program (T.A.P)

The T.A.P workshop for retirees will meet from Dec. 11-14 in the CBQ at NASCC. The workshop is designed for individuals who are within 24 months of retiring from active duty. Pre-registration is required. For registration and more information please contact Tito Perez at (361) 961-2863 or email at tito.perez@navy.mil

Sexual Assault Victim Intervention (SAVI)

Training is a two-day basic training to prepare SAVI Advocates on their role as an advocate and how to identify victims. Training is being offered at NAS Kingsville at the Fleet & Family Support Center. To

register, please contact Pat Kapitan at 361-961-1670 or the NASK FFSC at 361-516-6333, DSN 876.

Command Financial Specialists (CFS)

CFS will be holding an Investment Seminar on December 13th at 8 a.m. in the Breezeway Inn Conference Room 1. To reserve your seat please contact Ken Thorn (961-1673), Financial Educators - NASCC FFSC (961-2372).

Family Advocacy Program (FAP)

The FAP Victim Advocate assists victims of domestic violence by providing military and civilian resources and investigative appointment.



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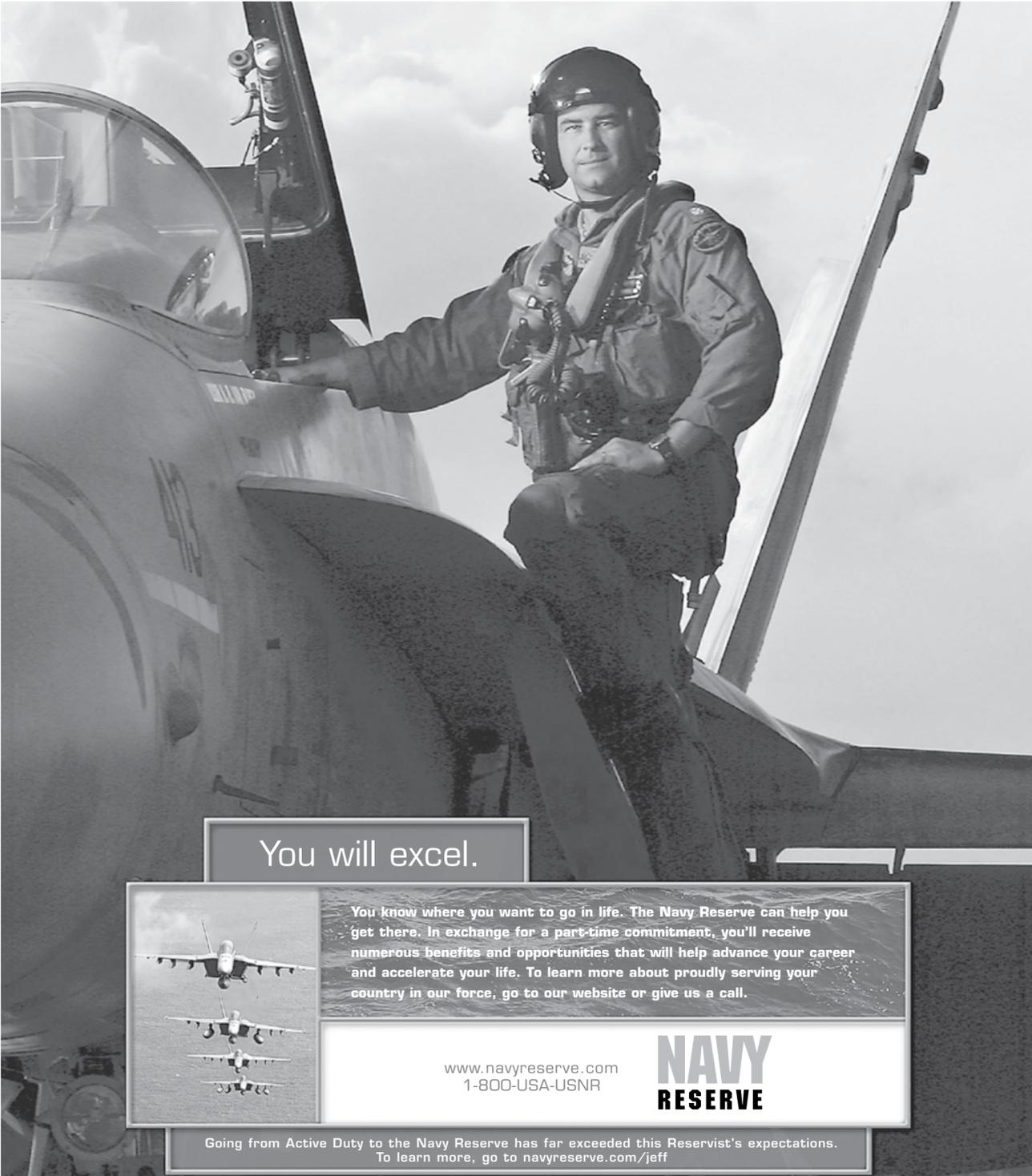
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AROUND THE BASE

Gonzalez Liberty Center celebrates Thanksgiving with NASCC personnel



The GLC with the help of Command Master Chief, Mike Cisneros and many other volunteers held a Thanksgiving event for the personnel onboard NASCC, the event was catered by the Bay Club. Many military and civilian alike gathered for a great dinner, the dinner was for those who wanted to join their friends and shipmates for an evening of fun, food, and entertainment while away from home. Everything from turkey to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was available to them. (Photos by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

The CDC brings the family together for holiday meal



A home-cooked meal was prepared by CDC personnel and passed out to parents and children who sat together for what could become a family tradition. The children enjoyed eating dinner with their parents - away from home. (Photos by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

MA1 Roel Rosalez Reenlists



MA1 Roel Rosalez (right) reenlisted on Nov. 21, by the Security Officer Cmdr. Jeff Shields (left) in building 104. This event was an opportunity for him to say good bye to many of his shipmates before his departure on Nov. 24 to Italy. (Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Student pilots advance to aviator status



The following pilots received their "wings" designating them as aviators during a "winging ceremony" Nov. 9. It was held at the Corpus Christi Bay Club on board NASCC. In alphabetical order they are 2nd Lt. Charles D. Albertson, 2nd Lt. Samuel C. Dunlap, 1st Lt. Robert J. Fitzpatrick, 2nd Lt. Eric J. Forsyth, 2nd Lt. Jason E. Fox, Ensign Jason D. Freese, 2nd Lt. Ian A. Granier, 2nd Lt. James J. Holsinger, Esign Francesco Lovato, 2nd Lt. Andrew M. Miller, Ensign Brandon J. Miller, 2nd Lt. Christopher S. Paxton, 2nd Lt. Erin E. Richardson, Lt. j.g. Matthew A. Schibler, 1st Lt. Gianluca Stefanini, 1st Lt. Jordan C. Stern. The graduating aviators are seen above with US Coast Guard, Cmdr. Doug Bruce; Cmdr. Charles Cassidy, Commanding Officer of VT-31; Cmdr. Kurt Johnson, CO of VT-31; Air Force LtCol. John Ullmann, XO of VT-31; and Training Air Wing-4 Commodore, David "Moose" Maynard. (Photo by Hugh Lieck)

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