

# Wingspan

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

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## NAS Corpus Christi Customs Station receives U.S. Interdiction Coordinator's Award for outstanding service to nation

Story and photos by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland

The United States Customs and Border Protection Station, Surveillance Branch West division on board NAS Corpus Christi recently received a well-deserved accolade when it received the United States Interdiction Coordinator's (USIC) Award. It was presented for outstanding service in the areas of combating and preventing illegal drug smuggling, and the capturing of foreign nationals attempting to smuggle drugs (and occasionally undocumented immigrants) into the country.

The awards ceremony took place Feb. 6 in the hangar bay of the Customs and Border Protection Station on board NAS. More than 50 people, including several local dignitaries,



Assistant Commissioner of the Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Sector Michael Kostelink addresses the crowd during the United States Interdiction Coordinator (USIC) Awards Ceremony Feb. 6. USIC Coordinator Charles "Chick" Garland (left) listens intently.

among them NASCC Commanding Officer Capt. Timothy Coolidge, turned out to witness the event.

Assistant Commissioner, Customs and Border Patrol Air and Marine Michael Kostelink, the keynote speaker, praised the efforts of the men and women in brown uniforms, clustered behind the VIP chairs.

"Each of you has contributed to the success of the mission," Kostelink said to the assembled crowd. "You have today shown your inner courage and resounding strength in the war against the drug trade. Without your outstanding efforts, we would not be able to have accomplished the phenomenal work we've achieved so far this year. I can honestly say you represent the pride of Customs and Border Protection, and a grateful nation thanks you for your hard work and many sacrifices. We appreciate the many long hours you often spend away from your families to keep our nation safe."

Acting USIC Coordinator Charles "Chick" Garland, in proffering the award to the customs station, indicated how proud and humbled he was to be able to give out such a terrific accolade to such a deserving unit.

"I'm pleased to be able to share in your crowning achievement," Garland said. "The work you accomplish, and the dangers you continually face, demonstrates your true commitment to the safety and security of the U.S. homeland."

The Surveillance Branch West presently operates five P-3B Airborne Early Warning (AEW) and five P-3A Long Range Tracker (LRT) aircraft. Both versions of the P-3 planes are utilized for detection, identification, tracking and maintaining reconnaissance on air, marine and ground based vehicles. They are closely monitored when it is believed they are smuggling narcotics into the United States. The planes perform long-range flight patrols along the entire United States border. They also prowl across Central and South America and adjacent waters, searching for potentially illegal drug contraband.



U.S. Customs officials listen attentively as Assistant Commissioner Kostelink pays tribute to a job well done.

The Surveillance Branch West has racked up some impressive credentials. It has seized and disrupted nearly 519,000 pounds of cocaine, 207,000 pounds of marijuana, and 52 pounds of black tar heroin since 1987. A total of 199 aircraft, 216 vehicles, 116 boats and ships, and 867 suspects have been apprehended. \$4 million in seized currency and \$1.2 billion in illicit drugs have been seized since 1987 and 2002, respectively.

The Surveillance Branch West offers back up assistance to many Federal Government agencies. They provided airborne damage assessment video footage to the Federal Emergency Management Department. They also did air traffic control advisories to planes helping with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief operations.

The Surveillance Branch West has received several prior awards, including the Commander's Unit Citation in 1988. It also was the recipient of the International Narcotics Officers Association Awards in 1994 and 1997.

## Gearing up for the March-April PRT on board NAS Corpus Christi

by BUC(SCW) Manuel Segura, NASCC Command Fitness Coordinator

Every member assigned to the command that reports onboard on or before the Feb. 3 will be required to take part in the Body Composition Assessment (BCA). The BCA will take place in the E Street Gym Boxing Room using the schedule below:

### Spring 2006 PFA Weigh-In:

**March 28**  
6 a.m. - 7 a.m. Security  
7 a.m. - 8 a.m. QOL  
8 a.m. - 9 a.m. Exec/Safety/PW  
Religious Dept  
ATC/GEMD  
Stragglers

1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**March 29**  
6 a.m. - 7 a.m. ATC  
7 a.m. - 8 a.m. WEAPS/GEMD

8 a.m. - 9 a.m. Security

**March 30**  
6 a.m. - 7 a.m. ATC  
7 a.m. - 8 a.m. Exec/Safety/PW  
1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Stragglers

**March 31**  
7 a.m. - 8 a.m. Stragglers  
8 a.m. - 9 a.m. Stragglers

**Spring 2006 PRT Schedule:** Every member assigned to the command who reported onboard on or before Feb. 3 will be required to participate in the Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) unless medically waived by a doctor and documented on the SF600 form. The event will take place inside the E Street Gym, and the run will be behind the Bay Club using the schedule below:

### Spring 2006 PRT:

**April 4**  
6:30 a.m. CFL/PRT  
Coordinators  
Exec/Safety  
PW Dept.  
Religious Dept.

**April 5**  
6:30 a.m. ATC  
7:30 a.m. WEAPS/GEMD  
Fit Support

**April 6**  
6:30 a.m. Swimmers  
7:30 a.m. Security  
8:30 a.m. Stragglers

**April 7**  
6:30 a.m. QOL/Stragglers  
7:30 a.m. Stragglers

**April 10**  
6:30 a.m. Stragglers/ Final PRT

In the event the weather does not cooperate, sessions will be rescheduled to prevent any possibility of injury due to inclement weather.

All CFL/PRT coordinators are requested to be at all of the above PRT sessions unless otherwise coordinated through their chain of command. I need the name(s) of all divisional/departmental representatives.

Any members who will be on leave, TAD, or unable to make one of the above days (weigh-in or PRT) should have their CPO

March PRT continued on page 3

Wingspan

## From the Skipper

### Remembering and honoring the achievements and spirit of African Americans

by Capt. T.E. Coolidge



Coolidge

Now that the month of March has arrived, I want to take a few moments today to salute and say thank you to all the military and civilian personnel who make Naval Air Station such a great place to live and work. I appreciate the way you way you work together, volunteer your time for those in need and stand up for what's right.

With Black History Month (founded by Carter Woodson in 1926) coming to a close, it's especially important to continue to remember the sacrifices and achievements African Americans have added to the American cultural mosaic. Recently, two legendary civil rights icons-Rosa Parks and Coretta

Scott King (wife of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King)- have passed away. The tributes paid to them remind us just how far we have progressed in the civil rights movement.

Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15) recently sponsored a Black History Month celebration on February 17. The program highlighted many outstanding individuals who significantly changed the course of American history. Some of these noteworthy pioneers included activist and social worker Mary McLeod Bethune; scientist and inventor George Washington Carver; vocalist Lou Rawls; former Secretary of State and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell; magazine editor/publisher John Johnson, baseball great Willie Mays, and of course Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Their advancements and contributions in music, science, arts, politics and humanities

as a whole have enriched all our lives.

In addition, Dr. Dana Andrews, a licensed Marriage and Family therapist and educator, presented the main address at the celebration. In his own humorous way, he encouraged the audience members to look inside themselves. He taught them to respect personal and cultural differences, and yet find the common bonds and threads that join us together as one unified nation and people.

President Bush indicated in a recent proclamation that "African Americans have sweat, sacrificed and given much to the cultural mosaic that is America. Their accomplishments have made the United States the beacon of hope and the great nation of freedom that it is today."

Let's remember the past, but celebrate and cherish the future as we forge our way through the 21st century.

## Chaplain's Corner

### Listening to God

by Chaplain Robert Christian

Many times we wish someone would simply tell us what decision to make. When faced with life's challenges we long for clear direction. When faced with various choices we long to know which is the right one with the best consequences. We ask questions like, "what is God's will in this situation?" or "what would God have me to do?" During Old Testament biblical times it seemed that on many occasions God spoke audibly so that His message was clear.

During the New Testament period we read of that audible voice but not quite as often. In our day, if someone claims to have heard God's voice audibly then we are looking for the nearest straightjacket. Does God still speak to us? Does He still give direc-

tion and counsel for our lives? I believe the answer is a definite "yes!" So how does God speak? I believe He speaks to us in several ways, primarily through sacred scriptures and through wise counsel from others that are regularly studying those scriptures.

We must open our "spiritual ears" by reading and listening to God's scriptures on a regular basis so that we develop a base of wisdom in which we will make good decisions. For instance, I have heard people try to quote something they believe to be scripture in an attempt to guide their thinking. Two examples come to mind: "God helps those that help themselves" and "money is the root of all evil." I hope I don't disillusion you but the first quote is not in the Bible and the second one is a partial quote, the correct quote reads, "The love of money is a root of all kinds of

evil." So in this verse God speaks to us today by telling us to keep a proper perspective on the place of money in our lives.

By attending worship services and by spending time with people of similar faith beliefs you will allow God to speak to you through messages from the pulpit and from group study sessions. God can also use individual conversations from others that are personally seeking to know God's voice in their lives. Has God been trying to get your attention? Maybe He has something to tell you. The challenge for us is to open up the possibility of hearing His voice.



Christian

## Healthwatch

### Shattered Minds

by Lt. Nate Ruttig

The term "schizophrenia" translates roughly as "shattered mind" and often this word stimulates fear and misconceptions in many people, including professionals. Approximately two million Americans, one percent of the total U.S. population, suffers from some form of schizophrenia. These individuals have a chronic, severe and disabling



Ruttig

disease and should never be labeled as being "crazy." Schizophrenia afflicts men and women with equal frequency, but usually strikes men at an earlier age (early twenties vs. early thirties and forties for women). No one knows what causes schizophrenia, but genetic factors are believed to play an important role. A large portion of individuals with schizophrenia can appear as normal, functioning members of society, having only

scattered episodes of the disease, whereas others have a more chronic persistent pattern.

Schizophrenia involves an abnormal pattern of thinking, behavior, and a distorted sense of reality. The hallmark sign of schizophrenia is bizarre behavior, and/or thinking, and usually psychotic symptoms. The term "psychotic", contrary to television and movie jargon, does not imply homicidal tendencies. Psychotic symptoms are actually hallucinations, which can be tactile (touch), olfactory (smell), gustatory (taste), visual, or auditory. Psychotic symptoms also refer to delusions, which are false yet strongly held personal beliefs that result from an inability to separate real from unreal experiences. Hearing voices that others do not is the most common hallucination in schizophrenic people. These voices are usually a "running commentary" (a description of the person's activities), orders, a warning of impending dangers, or an actual conversation. Delusions may take on many different themes.

Patients suffering from paranoid-type delusions may feel like they are being cheated, harassed, poisoned, or conspired against.

Delusions of grandeur can also occur, where one thinks they are an important figure, or famous. Some delusions may seem bizarre, such as someone controlling their behavior with magnetic waves; that people on television are directing special messages to them; or that their thoughts are being broadcast aloud to others. Some people that stalk movie stars are schizophrenic. They actually believe that the movie star is directly communicating with them through the screen.

There are many other symptoms and signs of schizophrenia that are not covered here. People with schizophrenia live in a distorted world full of hallucinations and delusions. They are confused, anxious and frightened. They cannot hold a job, have trouble finding meaningful relationships and often cannot even carry on a conversation. It is estimated that nearly half of the country's homeless are homeless because of schizophrenia. This disease is important and there are many treatment options available. If you or someone you know may be suffering from schizophrenia, please see your healthcare provider today.

## Wingspan

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Temple Beth El at 857-8181

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(7341 McArdle Rd.)  
Jumah Service - 1:30 p.m.  
For other worship service times,  
call 992-8550

## Station Spotlight



**Larry Lising, Culinary Specialist Chief Petty Officer**  
Leading Chief Petty Officer, NAS Quarterdeck

A native of San Fernando, Pampanga Province, Republic of the Philippines, Lising claims San Antonio as his adopted hometown. His prior duty stations include the Culinary Specialist School Learning Site at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, and the USS *Vandergrift* (FFG 48). Lising has been on board NASCC for one month, and has been in the Navy more than 16 years.

"I love working in and out of my rate, particularly with people who have different naval experiences," said Lising. "That's my favorite part of the job."

Lising's future goals and career plans include making Master Chief, and earning a degree in

Business Management through Park University.

Lising's hobbies include participating in basketball, watching movies and listening to music.

Lising is married with two sons, Larry, Jr. and Vincent, and a daughter, Karla.

"Right now, I'm teaching and learning with the watch standers, and making certain the quarterdeck is properly maintained," said Lising. "I'm learning the proper qualifications, and becoming qualified to stand watches. I'm learning from the Sailors here, and sharing what I know with them, too."



**Lori Pena**  
Youth Center School HQ Coordinator

Born and raised in Corpus Christi, TX, Lori has been a member of the boys and girls club for 6 years, and with her experiences found she enjoyed working with children. After several years, she is now a School H.Q. Coordinator for the Boys and Girls Club on NASCC.

Lori finds herself happy and enthused every morning to work with the children of the youth center and watching the children develop and mature as a person.

Lori spends much of her time scheduling and helping the kids learn through their experiences. She is also a contributing member of the before school program. The program is designed for

parents who must be at work before school begins, the children are brought in early and are cared by the staff until they school begins.

Lori is currently attending college, she is taking child development classes and hopes to one day become a kindergarten teacher, working with the boys and girls club is what inspired her to want to teach and work with children.

Lori's day is a busy one that allows her to teach the children responsibility, teamwork, respect, and many more qualities that are needed to grow into mature adults.

Lori's hobbies include ballet, and watching basketball.

*March PRT continued from page 1*  
coordinate with me to arrange an alternate time.

All members are encouraged to complete the Semi-annual Physical Activity Risk Factor Questionnaire (PARFQ) no later than 10Feb06. You may access the PARFQ via [HTTPS://PRIMS.BOL.NAVY.MIL](https://PRIMS.BOL.NAVY.MIL). LOGIN: SSN: PASSWORD: BOL PASSWORD OR PKI CERT. If there are any significant changes from previous PRT, please contact the medical department for evaluation.

If you answer YES on the PARFQ to any question that you have not previously answered yes to, then you will need to go to medical and have the SF600 completed and signed by a doctor. If your medical condition has changed or it has been over a year since you completed the SF600 you will need to go to medical to have it signed again. This form must be done annually. Time is of the essence as we are rapidly approaching our Spring PRT cycle. To make an appointment call 961-6000, and ask for a PRT screening appointment.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact BUC (SCW) Segura at 961-2468/2383. Please provide a list of those personnel that would like to do the swim instead of the run to SK2 Michael Torres 961-5371.

### NAS Advancement Exam Advertisements

**Advancement exams are around the corner! The March 2006 advancement exams will be given on the following dates: E-5, Thurs., March 9 and E-4 Thurs., March 16. The exams will be administered at 7 a.m. on the dates listed above, at the Gulf Stream Recreation Center. Participants must be in uniform of the day, and an ID Card is required. No cell phones, beepers or wristwatches are allowed. For more information, contact Mr. Braden at 961-1289/3849.**



## Instructor pilot recognized as champion horseback rider

by Lt. Kyle Twenter, VT-31 Public Affairs

Lieutenant Amelia Ebhardt, a VT-31 instructor pilot hailing from Vacaville, Calif. was recently in the news. A graduate of the Merchant Marine Academy, Lt. Ebhardt began her flying career at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas training with VT-27 and VT-31. She returned to VT-31 as an instructor in April 2005. Amelia has managed the demanding schedule of a flight instructor, while also finding time to fulfill another passion five days a week, horseback riding.

Ebhardt first took an interest in horses in 1982 at the early age of five. Only two years later she began competing on horseback. She competed through middle school and high school before taking a break during college and flight school. In 2002, she purchased her first horse, Practical Magic, and began competing again.

This past year, she competed in four different competitions in the Texas area on her new horse, Slim Jim. She captured the Reserve Champion in April and the Division Championship twice in October and once in December. These four awards helped Lt. Ebhardt earn one of her biggest accomplishments on horseback. She was honored and recognized



LT Amelia Ebhardt and her horse Slim Jim.

as the South Texas Hunter Jumpers Association Overall Champion in 2005.

VT-31 congratulates Amelia on her recent accomplishments.

## Navy Exchange Home Center enhances hard lines with new furniture, appliance additions

Story and photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland

If you're in need of a new living room set, or you haven't located just the right table for your dining room, don't panic. Or beat your head against the wall in utter frustration. The Navy Exchange Home Center has everything to suit the most discriminating tastes. The three full-time and one part-time employee are dedicated to serving their customers with pride according to store supervisor Marilyn Bankhead.

"We realize we have to compete with all the major furniture outlets in town," explained Bankhead. "We want our customers to feel at home, and not be in a high pressure environment. We definitely want them to be returning customers."

The home center underwent an initial renovation last year. The store increased in size from 3,200 to 4,000 square feet. This permitted greater expansion of furniture and appliance name brands. Original merchandise was flip-flopped and moved around to make way for the new products.

NAS Navy Lodge Manager Maria Gonzalez and Room Attendant Kim Satterwhite were shopping for a recliner, ottoman and desk chair. They struck pay dirt when they first located a recliner.

"It's really handy to come over here to look for lodge and office furniture," said Gonzalez. "Otherwise we have to drive several miles out into town."

Satterwhite nodded in agreement.

"The price is just right-not too expensive," said Satterwhite.

Ole and Freeda Sansom were diligently searching around, searching for a comfortable chair.

"We really like the fact we don't have to pay sales tax on anything we buy here," explained Ole. "Paying that darn Texas state sales tax really slugs you hard in the wallet."

New brand names added since the expansion

include Benchcraft, Bassett, Kinkaid, Aspen and Thomasville. The store carries a good selection of decorative candles, in addition to oriental dust covers. It also has a nice selection of wool and Chinese rugs, wall art pieces and various displays of colorful lamps.

Besides furniture and bedding, the Navy Exchange Home Center also maintains dishwashers, stoves, chest and upright freezers, refrigerators, washers and dryers, and dehumidifiers. Appliance accessories for purchase include power cords, stovetop cleaners, and refrigerator and microwave cleaner filters.

Bankhead indicated sales are often cyclical, depending on the time of year. The store just recently completed a successful Valentine's Day sale.

"Christmas is always about the busiest time of year," explained Bankhead. "We have some fluctuation, and sales tend to be based on seasonal demands, too. For example, we had a rush of people come in during the holidays wanting to buy computer desks. We could barely keep up with the demand."

Bankhead added there are distinct advantages to shopping at the Navy Exchange Home Center.

"In addition to no state sales tax charges, people who use their military star card receive an additional 10 percent off the purchase price," said Bankhead. "We also have no payments and no interest for a full year. We literally blow the competitor's prices right out of the water."

The Navy Exchange home Center is located in Building 1218, adjacent to the NAS One Store Solutions Center, formerly the NAS Serve Mart. It is open Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from Noon to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Bankhead or one of her associates at the store, at 961-4435.



Navy Lodge Manager Maria Gonzalez (left) peruses through a Navy Exchange Home Center flyer as room attendant Kim Satterwhite (right) checks out the features of a new recliner. Gonzalez and Satterwhite were shopping for new office and room furniture at the NEX Home Center, located in Building 1218.

## New Safety Officer arrives at NASCC

Story and photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland

Naval Air Station recently added another new Officer-in-Charge to the ranks. Lt. Cmdr. Jon Sweeten, a Turlock, Calif., native, recently took over the helm in October as head of the NAS Safety Department. He brings with him many years of experience, after having served on the *USS Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) and several other commands. Sweeten served as Assistant Strike Operations Officer and Officer of the Deck while on board the *Ronald Reagan*.

"I'm really impressed with the caliber of people I work with every day," explained Sweeten. "I thoroughly enjoy working with the other people on base in the different commands, too."

Two of Sweeten's immediate concerns are providing more motorcycle safety courses, in addition to keeping and maintaining a four point zero Safety Explosive Ordnance program.

"In addition, we are looking at offering more classes for young drivers operating high performance motorcycles," said Sweeten. "We had a Sailor from the NAS Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment who died in an accident on South Padre Island Drive this past December. The biggest percentage of motorcycle accidents happen out

in town. An accident on base is really rare- a somewhat rare occurrence."

Sweeten added that a new Triple A Driving Implementation Course recently was added to the safety department's list of priorities.

"We want to try and educate people, especially younger sailors, to become smart, savvy drivers," said Sweeten.

Sweeten also hopes to condense and consolidate a base wide hazardous materials program. He frequently reviews NAVOSH and OSHA standards for workplace safety enforcement.

"It's an ongoing issue we monitor regularly," said Sweeten.

Sweeten graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Systems Engineering.

Sweeten has been in the Navy for almost 12 years. In addition to the *USS Ronald Reagan*, Sweeten's other past commands include serving as T-34 instructor pilot at VT-6. NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla., VP-47 at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, flying P-3 planes.

Sweeten and his wife, Tara, have three daughters, Amanda, three, and Julianne, one.



NASCC Safety Officer Lt. Cmdr. Jon Sweeten has been at the helm since last October.

### 2006 Fleet Reserve Association Scholarships available!

*The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) is proud to support America's future leaders by awarding more than \$80,000 annually in scholarships to deserving students. Awardees are selected based on financial need, academic standing, grade-point average, character and leadership qualities. Scholarships are now available for the following academic year. Applications are be downloaded via the FRA website at <http://www.fra.org>. Click on "About FRA", and then "Scholarship". Scholarship recipients will be notified via phone or mail. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Don Larson at (361)-776-4709.*

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## Senior Enlisted Plot Future of Mass Communication Specialist Rating

by Jon Gagne, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Nine senior enlisted personnel from ratings being merged to form the new Mass Communication Specialist (MC) rating spent three weeks in January and February at the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC) here, plotting the course for the new rating and developing its first set of enlisted advancement examinations.

The new advancement examination will be given to enlisted Sailors in the new MC rating in September.

"What you are doing in Pensacola is very important to the Navy," said the Navy's Chief of Information (CHINFO), Rear Adm. Terry McCreary, via video-link from San Diego at the Advancement Examination Development Conference (AEDC). "You are developing the criteria that will define how we as a public affairs community cover and relate the Navy story on a daily basis. Merging these four media ratings will make us a better-trained and more professional public affairs team."

The MC AEDC was hosted by NETPDTC's Navy Advancement Center. While NETPDTC hosts AEDCs for all enlisted ratings, this conference represented precedent-breaking new ground for merging ratings.

"We added more time to this conference because the group we put together had to accomplish three specific goals," said Master Chief Journalist (SW/AW) Tom Updike, NETPDTC senior enlisted leader and the conference coordinator. "Our first goal was to develop a list of topics and subtopics that truly gamers the breadth of tasks that will be accomplished at each pay grade for the new rating. Then we had to actually design how

the new MC rating is going to function. Once we were finished, we went through about 8,000 exam questions from the four legacy ratings to develop a functional and accurate MC exam question bank for each pay grade. It was an enormous task to accomplish in the time frame we allotted."

To assist the exam development teams, the Navy Advancement Center has a number of instructional psychologists and system specialists who are experts in the field of exam development.

"Our team leader Patti Gibson and her team oversee the exam development process," Updike said. "We also have support personnel for graphics, layout, and administrative tasks as needed. It's not uncommon for NETPDTC to have three or four exam development conferences going on at the same time, so we really rely on these team leaders to help us produce quality exams for the fleet."

Prior to the conference, NETPDTC piloted a stakeholders meeting for representatives from examination development, enlisted community management, resource sponsors, the Navy College Program (NCP) and the U.S. Military Apprentice program (USMAP). Since rating mergers will have an impact in the Sailor's pursuit of college degrees and participation in apprenticeship programs, these meetings help engage those organizations early in the process.

"These initiatives represent a huge investment by NETPDTC, not to mention those commands that allowed fleet experts to attend the conferences," Updike said.

The MC of the future will have skill sets derived from each of the legacy ratings, ac-

ording to Master Chief Photographer's Mate (SW/AW) Mark Tibbert, conference facilitator. The representation of each of the ratings at the conference has provided the group the ability to develop into a self-moderating team.

"It's unrealistic to expect an MC3 to have the same core knowledge currently contained by four Sailors in these ratings," Tibbert said. "So the problem becomes, which skills need to become non-testable? By inviting multiple subject matter experts from each of the ratings, we had the diversity of experiences available to be able to combine the scope of the MC rating with current work center practices to answer that question."

Chief Lithographer (SW/AW) Chris King, a Media Department division leading chief petty officer aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and a former exam writer at Saufley Field, said many Navy commands have already started merging the ratings to assist Sailors with the transition.

"We've known the merger was coming for quite some time," King said. "Quite honestly, a lot of us are relieved that it is finally here. We realize that there are going to be some growing pains, but overall I think our troops are excited about the increased opportunity for advancement that comes with the merger, the broader mission scope, and the technology that comes along with it."

The new rating will stand up July 1, and the first MC advancement exam developed by the team will be administered in September. Updike said the first exams will include related tasks from all four legacy ratings and will focus on the scope of the new rating. To help prepare for the exams ahead of time, Sailors should download their Advancement

Exam Strategy Guide (AESG) off the Navy Advancement Center Web site.

"There's no better tool for preparing for the exam than the strategy guide," Updike said. "Each time we hold a conference to create exams, we update the information in the AESG. We also verify and update the references we use to create the exams and supply practice questions. The AESG is a great tool to help Sailors prepare."

Exam bibliographies are available on the Advancement Center Web site six months prior to the exam being administered. These bibliographies are exam specific, and provide all the references that were used to create that specific exam. Updike said the cards are definitely stacked in favor of the person who takes the time to review their bibliography and strategy guide.

"Our goal," he said, "is to create an advancement exam that helps the Navy determine who the most qualified candidates are for advancement. That's what makes these exam development conferences so important, and why the subject matter experts we bring in from the fleet are so vital to the process."

For more news on enlisted advancement exams or to download the rating Advancement Exam Study Guide, visit <https://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil> or the NETPDTC Web site at <https://www.netpdtc.cnet.navy.mil>.

For related news, visit the Naval Education and Training Command Navy News-Stand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/cnet/](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/cnet/).

## MWR News and Events

by Laurie Garcia, NAS MWR

### Sign-Up for Baseball at Youth Activities

Get your baseball glove and bat ready! It's Time for Baseball! Navy Youth Major League Baseball registration is ongoing for ages 4 to 9 at the Youth Activities Center. Opening Ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, April 1 at 8:30 a.m. The season will end May 20. Cost will be \$45 per player which includes a pro cap, jersey and a medal.

To get you ready for this years baseball season, Youth Activities will be hosting its first annual MLB Pitch, Hit and Run Clinic on Saturday, March 25. Come out and test your skills of baseball. Clinic will begin at 8 a.m. and will go until noon. **For more information please call the Youth Activities Center at 961-2355.**

### Sign Up for Spring Break Camp at Youth Activities

Spring Break is here! March 13 through 17. Stop by the Youth Activities Center and pre-register your children for Spring Break Camp 2006. Full Day Camp is offered for ages 5 through 13. Camp hours are 5:30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Come and enjoy a week full of music, art, science, sports, theatre, games, and field trips.

**For more information please call the Youth Activities Center at 961-2355.**

### Aquatic News

The Oasis pool will be opening for lap swim on April 4. The hours of operation for the Oasis Pool will be as follows:

Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**For more information, call Earl Olsen at 961-3260.**

### Corpus Christi Bay Club

The Corpus Christi Bay Club sends out a Happy St. Patrick's Day to all of it's members and patrons. Come join the CCBC for their monthly specials celebrating "The Luck O' the Irish".

#### Specials for March:

March 4: Medallions of Beef Bernaise \$15.95

March 11: Chateaubriand Flambe

for Two - \$31.95

March 18: Flaming Kabobs - \$13.95

March 24: Shrimp En Brochette - \$13.95

#### Special Events For March:

March 3 & 10: All you can eat Shrimp-A-Peel will be served \$15.95

March 17 & 31: Winging designation ceremony will be held in the ballroom at 3 p.m.

March 17: Irish specialties will be available to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

March 25: A FREE meal for CCBC club members only will be served from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Delicious chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, tossed green salad with ranch dressing, hot rolls and butter, coffee or tea. Cocktails and desserts will be available for purchase. Cost for non-members is \$9.50 per adult and \$4.25 for children ages 5-10.

March 31: Mongolian BBQ will be served.

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

### E-Street Gym

Captain's Cup 5-A-Side Soccer League: Register your team at the E-Street Gym before March 3. Pick up a registration packet and fill it out completely. Late entries will not be considered. A mandatory Captain's meeting will be held at the gym on March 8 at 4:30 p.m. Send an alternate if the team Captain cannot make it. The League will start after DST begins and matches will be played twice a week in the evenings. Please practice on the practice field, so the turf will grow on the game field.

**Captain's cup Softball League:** Register your team at the E-Street Gym before March 17th. Pick up a registration packet and fill it out completely. Late entries will not be considered. A mandatory

Manager's meeting will be held at the E-Street Gym on March 22 at 4:30 p.m. Send an alternate if the team Manager cannot make it. Games will be played on Monday-Thursdays evenings. St. Patrick's Day 5K Run: Register at Fitness Express before March 15. The race will be held on Saturday, March 18 at 8 a.m. Check in time is 7:30 a.m. For additional information about the race and location call the Fitness Center at 961-3164.

### Sports at a Glance:

Captain's Cup Golf - Deadline: April 7

Event Date: May-August

Tennis Singles Tournament - Deadline: April 21

Event Date: May-June

Captain's Cup 5K Run - Deadline: April 19

Event Date: April 22

**For more information, please call the E-Street Gym at 961-2401.**

### Fitness Express

Group Fitness Classes: A new Pilates, a stretch and tone class, has started on Tuesday night at 4:30 p.m. We also are offering a new cycling class on Monday night at 5:30 p.m. we have more than 29 regularly scheduled class per week. Please ask about special early morning classes not on the schedule. These change weekly by request of the Command Fitness Leaders.

Operating Hours: The operating hours for Fitness Express are: 5:30 a.m to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays, and noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays and holidays.

**For more information, please call Fitness Express at 961-3164.**

### Gonzalez Liberty Center

#### March Programs:

March 16: Paintball Shoot. \$10 per person.

Game will start at 3:30 p.m. Sign up no later than March 9.

Navy Motion Picture Service "New Releases" Come and relax while you watch the latest new releases from the Navy Motion Picture Service: Aeon Flux; Cheaper by the Dozen 2; chronicles of Narnia; Derailed; Family Stone; Fun with Dick and Jane; Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire; Jarhead; Just Friends; The Ringer; Shopgirl; Water-boy; X-men.

### 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 Gonzalez Liberty Program event, please call 961-6405.**

### Information, Tickets and Travel

Sea World Season Tickets: ITT now has new Sea World Season Passes available for purchase.

One Year Season Pass \$51

Two Year Season Pass \$85

Fiesta Texas Season Tickets: ITT now has Fiesta

Texas Season Passes available for purchase.

Early Bird Adult/Child: \$49

Early Bird Season Parking Pass \$20

Late Adult/Child: \$60

Late Season Parking Pass \$25

Walt Disney World (Florida): ITT has the fol-

lowing tickets available for purchase.

(3) Day Hopper (Adult) \$205

(3) Day Hopper (Child) \$172

(4) Day Hopper (Adult) \$220

(4) Day Hopper (Child) \$183

(4) Day Hopper (Adult) \$235

No Expiration

(4) Day Hopper (Child) \$198

No Expiration

Sporting events: You can get your tickets through the ITT office located in Bldg. 39.

Rayz Games: ITT will be carrying discounted tickets this year to the Rayz games. Tickets will

be running \$11 per ticket if purchased at the ITT office.

Baseball season coming soon!! ITT will carry tickets for the Corpus Christi Hooks.

Hours of Operation: The ITT office is open Monday through 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 complete array of tickets available.

### Lighthouse Lanes

#### March Specials:

Mondays: 75 Cents per game all day .

Sundays: \$1 per game all day.

Rock N Bowl: \$1 games on Saturday nights 7

p.m. until midnight.

There will be no open bowling between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Tuesday , Wednesday and Thursday due to league bowling.

Come to the "300 Fun Zone Game Room" for some video game fun!

March Madness: Watch College and Pro Basketball Games with the Big Screen T.V. located inside the bowling center.

Pro shop items available during bowling center hours. We also special order items not on hand. Please call 961-3805 for more information.

**For more information, please call Lighthouse Lanes at 961-3805.**

### Marine/Outdoor Recreation

Discover the excitement of the sailing experience available in the warm waters of the Laguna Madre and the Corpus Christi Bay. Our developed instruction for Mate "A" will help you gain competency and confidence in developing your sailing skills. Continuing your sailing skills in our

Skipper "B" qualification class will move you up to the 19' Flying Scot and the 25' Cape Dory.

New this Spring: 18' Sea Ark, center console fishing boat added to the rental fleet. Two-line trick kites. Fishing Kayak: Outfitted with everything you need.

Motor boat Qualification Classes are available: Please reserve your spot in the class. Come by Building #1757, on the waters edge of the Laguna Madre behind the housing office. Call us at 961-1293. **For more information, please call ORAC at 961-1293.**

### Youth Activities Center Monthly Activities

The Youth Activities Center has a month of fun activities planned. Just take a look at what is in store for you:

March 1: Art Club 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 2: Torch Club 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 3: Image Makers 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 4: 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

March 6: Power Hour 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 7: Fitness Authority 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 8: Cooking Club 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 9: Image Makers 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 10: Keystone Meeting 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 11: 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 13: Power Hour 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 14: Fitness Authority 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 15: Art Club 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 16: Billiard Tournament 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**For more information, please call the Youth Activities Center at 961-2355.**

## MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**The March 2006 advancement exams will be given on the following dates: E-5, Thurs., March 9 and E-4 Thurs., March 16. The exams will be administered at 7 a.m. on the dates listed above, at the Gulf Stream Recreation Center. Participants must be in uniform of the day, and an ID Card is required. No cell phones, beepers or wristwatches are allowed. For more information, contact Mr. Braden at 961-1289/3849.**

**Motorcycle safety classes will be offered through the month of March. The Basic Rider Course is scheduled for March 14 and 15, and the Advanced Rider Course is slated is March 21. For more information, contact the NAS Safety Department at 961-3673.**

**Registration is now underway for classes onsite and online at Park University and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Classes for the upcoming semester begin March 13. Park offers degrees in Management, Human Resource Management, Health Care Administration, Computer Information Systems, Social Psychology, and Criminal Justice Administration. Embry-Riddle offers advanced Master's Degrees in Aeronautical Science and Management. For more information, contact Park University at 937-8222, or Embry-Riddle at 937-4951.**

**The SUCCESS program is a year around academic and social program. It is in need of mentors for after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, to act as positive role models and assist with homework. For more information, contact Myra Brown at 961-2641, or Dr. Shannel Magee at 853-0001.**

**The NAS Classified Control Office is completing fingerprint cards for security investigations on NAS Military and Civilian personnel from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, contact Estella Jimenez, Security Assistant at 961-3370.**

# AROUND THE STATION

## Street Scoop

Wingspan readers want to know: What is your favorite Spring Break activity?"



1<sup>ST</sup> Lt. Tim Farag, Kingsville, Texas  
"I'm looking forward to surfing off the coast."



Tessie Honorado, NEX Jewelry Sales  
"I enjoy Salsa dancing with my husband."



AE3 Marshall Davis, HM-15  
"Relax by the lake in San Antonio."

# AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Parker re-ups for four more years



FC2 (SW) James Parker (left) is congratulated by NAS Security Officer Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Shields (right) after receiving his certificates of discharge and reenlistment. Parker reenlisted during ceremonies held Fri., Feb. 10 at the NAS Security Department, Building 104. (photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

## Cotter recognized as countermeasures expert



Lt. Cmdr. Todd Becker presents Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (Gold Star in Lieu of Seventh Award) to AEC (AW/SW) Robert Cotter for outstanding professional achievement. Cotter served as Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department Electronic Countermeasures Branch Chief on the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) from January 2003 to January 2006. (Photo by YNI (AW) Larry Clark, Jr.)

## Coast Guard rescues, assists heart attack victim



A 39-year-old man was hoisted aboard an NAS Corpus Christi-based Coast Guard helicopter after experiencing a heart attack while on a fishing boat 20 miles east of Port Aransas. The fishing vessel "Gulf Eagle" initiated a distress call to the Coast Guard at 4:30 p.m. Wed., Feb. 1 reporting that one of the passengers suffered a heart attack (left). A Coast Guard HH-65B Dolphin helicopter was dispatched from NAS Corpus Christi and arrived overhead just after 5 p.m. A rescue swimmer was lowered to properly assess the man's condition and stabilize him prior to being hoisted. (middle) The helicopter crew delivered the man (right) to the Christus Spohn Memorial Hospital in Corpus Christi for immediate treatment. (photos by Lt. j.g. Lane Steffenhagen, Coast Guard Air Station Public Affairs)

## Silva reenlists for six years



AC2 (AW/SW) Jose Silva, NAS Air Operations Department, (right) is presented a certificate of reenlistment by Air Department Traffic Control Officer Lt. j.g. Joe Heuser (left). Silva reenlisted during ceremonies Thurs., Feb. 9 at Building 60 on board NAS. (Photo by J02 Jeffrey Fretland)

## NHCC honors outstanding personnel



Naval Hospital Corpus Christi February award recipients are (left to right) Cmdr. Benjamin Ernst, MSC; Master Chief Culinary Specialist (Surface Warfare) David Graef; Hospital Corpsmen 3rd Class (Fleet Marine Force) Sergio Flores and Oscar Morales. Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Ricardo Treviño, Jr. is not pictured. Ernst received the Meritorious Service Medal (Third Award). Graef was the recipient of the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (Fifth Award). Flores was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (Second Award). Morales was presented the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Treviño received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. (photograph by Bill Love)



## A touch of love

The Youth Activities Center came together earlier last month to create balloon bouquets for Valentine's Day. Adina Gray (right) was one of the many people who helped create the bouquets. The YA staff delivered more than 200 balloon bouquets throughout the base on Feb. 14. Hammy Rolon (left) poses in front of the many bouquets that were delivered. (Photos by Laurie Garcia)



## Sharing the bonds of naval friendship

Royal Norwegian Navy Chief of Staff Rear Admiral Jan Eirik Finseth (left) exchanges a plaque and gifts with Commander, Mine Warfare Command Commanding Officer Rear Adm. Deborah Lower (right) during Rear Adm. Finseth's visit to the Naval Air Station Fri., Feb. 10. Rear Adm. Finseth made a number of stops, including a visit to Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15. While there, he and his entourage received a tour from HM-15 Commanding Officer Cmdr. George Parisi and staff. They received briefings on various types of modern technology and equipment associated with mine warfare. (Photo by Andrea Bell, CMWC Public Affairs)