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Wingspan

Vol. 13, No. 01

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • January 4, 2007

Blue Angels will soar above Corpus Christi in April!

By Bob Torres

Some people wondered if they really saw a Blue Angel jet in the air Dec. 27 and the answer is yes, Blue Angel #7 arrived for a pre-season visit.

The aircraft carried Marine Maj. "Nate" Miller and Lieutenant "Dan-o" McShane, the advance party for the Navy's flight demonstration team.

"We're here to setup up our show for Corpus Christi," said McShane. "We're really pumped to be coming here!"

The crew was here to meet base personnel and coordinate efforts for their performance on April 14 and 15. This is one of 35 performances on the Blue Angels' 2007 schedule and both team members are looking forward to their first season.

"We're expecting this to be our best show ever," said Lt. Asa Taylor, Air Operations department, and 2007 Event Coordinator. "Our last show in 2005 was very successful and we all learned a lot. This year, we're building on that experience and putting together a block buster event that will really excite the crowd."

Returning for his last year as a Blue Angel is LtCmdr. John Allison, a Flour Bluff High School graduate. On his previous visit, he was immensely popular and expects to have even more "family and friends" come see the show from the local area. "It's always exciting coming home," said Allison, who as the Number 5 Solo pilot, **Blue Angels continued on page 6**



Blue Angel aircraft #7 arrived Dec. 27 flown by Lt. Daniel McShane and Marine Maj. Nate Miller to help make preparations for the Air Show, April 14-15. Flying the #5 aircraft as a Solo pilot will be Flour Bluff graduate Lt. Cmdr. John Allison. (Photo courtesy of Jeff Leinen)

NASCC's Protestant Chapel celebrates its 65th anniversary onboard

Story by RP2 Gary Wood



Chaplain Gault recognized the Chaplain's assistants RP1 Russell Foster, Chaplains department LPO; RP2 Paul Drachenberg, Navy Shore Commands "RP of the Year;" RP2 Gary Wood, and CSSN Robert Miles. (Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

"A date which will live in infamy," President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke these words about December 7, 1941. A date we all know so well as the date of the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. This date is synonymous with death, destruction, and the beginning of a war, but there are stories of heroism peace and love which come with this day. Only hours before the attack on the United States one such story began, the story of our very own Protestant chapel.

The Beam (the base newspaper in 1941) announced the first service to be conducted in the station chapel:

Divine services will be held tomorrow in the new NAS chapel for the first time. All future Main Station services will be conducted there.

The revolving alter is ready to accommodate all types of services, while rooms for choir practice and family groups, as well as offices and work rooms, are completed. Interior is tastfully done in ivory and mahogany finishes with a congoeum floor, and polished bronze fittings.

Present plans call for a complete set of chimes to be installed in connection with the modern electric organ. The chimes will range

from A to F, and there will be 21 of them, each an inch and a quarter in diameter, mounted on a wall bracket with a separate keyboard to be attached to an organ console. This article ran on December 6, 1941.

There are no records to show if the services actually took place that Sunday, however, the services would most likely have started at approximately 10 a.m. local time. This time coincides precisely with the launch of the 183 planes from the Japanese aircraft carriers 230 miles north of Oahu. Members of the inaugural congregation may have still been inside the chapel at 11:55 a.m. when the first bomb was dropped on Wheeler Field, eight miles from Pearl Harbor. And they could have left the chapel in time to hear the first reports of the attack on the radio as the attack was narrated to the nation.

The first wedding in the Protestant chapel was also conducted on December 7, 1941, possibly as a result of the attack and impending war. Other interesting facts about the Protestant Chapel include:

Chapel continued on page 4

From The Skipper

Thoughts during the holidays

By Capt. T.E. Coolidge

Well I trust that everyone had a joyful and Merry Christmas, and if some of you "indulged" too hardy in bringing in the New Year, that by now you're ready for a good year. Because it's now time to reflect on the "good" that happened last year, and the positive things that we look forward to in the coming year.



I'm pretty sure that we've all made our new year's resolutions and I hope that we can live up to those things that we said we are going to do - this year.

It's hard to believe that I'm somewhere toward the middle of my tour here and it's also time for my wife and I to decide what we intend on doing for our next assignment. It's

truly come too quickly. There is still much to be done before I leave here so let me tell you a little of what is going to happen.

For many of us serving in the military, wherever we are, we should always be prepared for the hardships of war. Even during the holidays, some of our brother and sisters have been serving, and dying, in defense of our country.

I guess what we need to do here, is set our goals high, and then seek to meet them.

One of those goals is to ensure that we're taking the best care of our families and our fellow Sailor. Well that's Sailor specific, but also, all our servicemembers.

The best way I've found to do that is communicate. Find out what's happening in and around your area, and in and around the Navy. Because in the world we live today, something happening in Iraq or Afghanistan can affect us here - right now.

There have been times when we've seen

something in the news and it's easy to feel "well that's happening somewhere else." But although a place or situation may be far away, distance-wise, its affects could be very local. Like the loss of a Sailor's life has the ripple effect if say he's from here, or his family lives here. Suddenly far away is next door.

I like to think that we're something of a family and we take care of our own. And sharing in someone else's grief can be difficult. But as family, I hope that we make every effort to "be there" for someone in need.

There will always be someone that is better off than we are, as well as people that have much less than we do. I'm going to ask each of you to join me in trying to make life easier for someone that is having a difficult time.

The movie from a few years ago "Pay it forward," kind of reflected doing a good

Captain continued on page 4

Chaplain's Column

Advice from the three wise men...

By Chaplain Timothy Gault

The holidays are coming. The signs of it are all over the place. You can go to the shopping plazas and malls. You will see packed-out parking lots. You can open up a local newspaper. The special advertisements for products will fall out at your feet even as you pick up the paper. You can turn on a television, a radio, or open your web-browser. You'll be aware without even consulting a calendar that holiday time is near. Then, after the holidays have passed, there will be plenty of signs that the holiday season has come. There will be some extra pounds to shed from all the extra sweets consumed at holiday parties. There will be bills to pay for all those gifts you gave. And, some will have relationships to repair. It does not have to be that way. The holidays are a special time that can add a lot of joy to our lives if we observe them properly. Take a few notes from those who first observed "Christmas":

First, it was observed with discretion. For a long time, eastern scholars and philosophers

expected the birth of a great king who would rise from the Jews to return the land to its "golden era." When they finally saw the special star in the east, they went to Jerusalem to worship him (Matthew 2:1-2). These men waited until they saw the prophesied star. They did not go about searching for possible places the Christ could be born. They waited until they saw the star. Then they set out for Jerusalem.

In a similar way, we can also wait until the appropriate time to realize certain "blessings" in our own lives. For example, wait until you see the appropriate levels in your bank account before you buy expensive gifts, wait until you have talked with your spouse before you commit your family to social engagements, wait until you have considered the total well-being of your own family before you decide to take any trips to visit relatives, etc.

Second, they paid proper respect to authority. These men went to King Herod in their search of the newborn King to inquire

where they would find him. Herod proved unaware of the Christ-child and malevolently authorized them to continue their search. But, the point here is that they did go to the king. There are authorities that we should respect even in the holiday season. One authority is the law. It is illegal to drive while intoxicated or to give alcoholic beverages to minors. The holidays do not give a special dispensation to violate those laws. Another authority is the chain of command. Be sure to follow regulations and to obtain the proper authorization for absences.



Gault

Chaplain continued on page 10

PAO's Thoughts

Looking forward to a "Good" Year...

By Bob Torres

Well we're now into 2007 and remember to make sure your checks reflect that, and not 2006. For many of us, the last couple of weeks have been relatively busy, but most of that has been with Christmas shopping and visiting family.

Thankfully there's been some generous, and in some cases much needed, time off. But now we're back to work and should set our goals and be determined - to make this a great year!

I'd like to reflect for just a little bit of some of what I consider highlights of 2006. This

last year, NAS Kingsville hosted the Blue Angels during their Air Show and now this year, we'll be hosting them during April 14-15. I smiled and enjoyed watching Katia Uriarte from Channel 3 and Sean Hagerty of Channel 6 when they took their media flights with the Navy's Flight Demonstration team. I've got to point out that Sean turned "white" after his flight, and Katia kissed the ground when she returned from her flight.

We're looking forward to the entire team, but in particular, LtCdr. John Allison a Flour Bluff High School graduate. Allison was here before and has been a crowd favorite, and is now returning as a Solo pilot.

A lot of our Base housing was completed this year and numerous families moved in to these accommodations. When I look at the homes that were built in 1966-68, it seems that the new ones are much larger than those. I think I heard that sometime this year, most of

the remaining older homes will be gone.

We had a successful Beach to Bay Run with only minor heat casualties. I have to say that the commanding officer, Capt. Tim Coolidge set the standard by challenging and then running with other commanding officers of tenant units. For some runners, it's already time to start morning runs to be in shape for this annual affair, which has turned into a lot of fun for many people throughout the state. After all, where else can you run on the beach as part of a race?

Then we had some new teams join us for the 44th Annual Navy Regatta. There's got to be something going on when pilots took over and beat Sailors during the Titanic Cup. The Titanic Cup is basically anything that floats can hoist a sail and traverse the approximately 1/2 mile course. The Coast Guard's vessel was

PAO continued on page 12

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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Scholarships and financial assistance availability for military family members

By Ann Wells for LIFELines

Financing a college education can be an intimidating task. Fortunately, many scholarship opportunities are available to military families that can help ease the burden.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) offers scholarships, grants and interest free loans to dependent children and spouses of active duty or retired service members. Children of members who died while on active duty or retired are also eligible. Each NMCRS scholarship or grant has different requirements. Check out the [NMCRS web site](#) for application deadlines and requirements.

The Navy League of the United States (NLUS) offers educational assistance to children of sea going services. The scholarships vary in number and size. The NLUS also sponsors an essay contest with a cash prize. Details are available on the [Navy League web site](#).

The Navy Wives Club of America (NWCA) Scholarship Foundation awards forty scholarships annually to children of enlisted personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. For application information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to NWCA Scholarship Foundation, 3848 Old Colony Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), a non-profit organization of Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel, awards more than \$25,000 in scholarships annually to FRA family members. Visit the web site to find

membership information and scholarship applications.

The American Legion (AL) offers a variety of scholarships, including nursing and Eagle Scout scholarships. For rules and deadlines, check out the [AL web site](#). The AL also publishes a comprehensive scholarship and financial aid guide entitled "Need a Lift." To order this guide send \$3.95 to American Legion, National Emblem Sales, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

These are just a few of the scholarships open to military family members. There are many more: several Marine Divisions sponsor scholarships, as does the submarine community and numerous other service-related organizations. Some of these awards are open to a relatively small group, so extend your search and apply for several different scholarships. Look under Military Aid at the [FinAid web site](#).

Another good source of information is the Educational Benefits section of the [Veterans Administration web site](#). You'll find details on educational assistance available to survivors and dependents of service members.

Take advantage of these financial opportunities — apply for scholarships and find interest free loans. With those extra dollars, you can afford the cost of a college education.

Chapel continued from page 2

L. Roth is recorded as the first person baptized in the chapel. She was less than one year old when she was baptized on April 5, 1942.

The youngest person married in the Chapel was age 14. The daughter of a Chief Warrant Officer, the Bride married a native of Ft. Worth, TX.

The oldest person on record to be married in the chapel was 60 years old.

The chapel celebrated the 65th anniversary of its first service on December 10, 2006 with services at 10 a.m. Chaplain Timothy Gault conducted the service with guest speaker Chin V. Dang, Command Chaplain. During the service, recognition was given to members of the congregation for various admirable things

such as youngest and oldest persons in attendance, longest consecutive member of the chapel community, and newest member of the congregation.

RP2 Gary Wood led the congregation in singing "Silent Night! Holy Night!" as a tribute to the first Chaplain's assistants known as Specialist "W." (The "W" represented Welfare) The concept of a chaplain's assistant dates back to 1878 when a committee of Chaplains recommended to the Navy Department that a Chaplains assistant be assigned to each ship with a chaplain aboard. This assistant would have been a schoolmaster who could play the organ and lead congregational singing and the age of the Specialist determined his rank.



The Chapel held a feast in the fellowship hall with the congregation to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the chapel on Dec. 15. (Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)



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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. A tire that is wearing properly will have the same tread thickness across the width of the tire. Tires that are worn on the inner or outer edge of a tire are in need of an alignment. Check your tire pressure on a monthly basis, as a low or over inflated tire will cause uneven wear patterns also.

For more information regarding concerns or questions about this safety tip or for a demonstration call as at 961-3470.

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: Everyone's Hero; The Black Dahlia; Flyboys; Gridiron Gang; Fearless; All the Kings Men; The Guardian; School For Scoundrels; Open Season; Flicka; Employee of the Month; The Departed.

January Programs:

Monday Night Football: Don't miss a minute of the hard-hitting action of **Monday Night Football**. 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.

January 11 & 31: Last Buck Night: Dinner & Movie at 5 p.m.

January 18: Pool Tournament On January 18, get your cues polished up

and your game face on as the GLC hosts and after the holidays pool tournament. The holidays are over and friends are returning from leave. Instead of hanging around doing nothing, come join your friends and co-workers compete for first place. Enjoy plenty of food and prizes. Tournament starts at 5 p.m. Come in and sign up at the GLC by January 15. You must be 18 years old to participate.

Upcoming Events:

Mardi Gras Trip to New Orleans, Louisiana on February 9-11, 2007. Cost of trip includes hotel room for two nights (quad occupancy) and transportation aboard a charter bus to and from New Orleans. Bus will be departing GLC at 5 a.m. on February 9, and returning to GLC at Midnight on February 11. Sign up at GLC Bldg, 1260 by January 26. Must be 18 years to participate, trip is subject to cancellation due to lack of participation. Limited seating available, no reservations will be accepted, payment ensures seat on bus. For more information contact the GLC at 961-3768.

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

MWR News

MWR is looking for Private Organizations to help with the concessions at the 2007 Air Show scheduled for April 14 through 15, 2007. Please contact Monica Zamorano at 961-2655 for more information.

MWR is making I.D. Cards for retired DoD and NAF employees. Beginning in December we will be issuing I.D. Cards on the first Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the pass and tag building. Form SF-50, Notification of Personnel

Action, will be needed. For more information please call 961-2268.

PAO continued from page 2

an inflatable that caught the wind but pushed off course and into some of the other boats anchored to watch the race.

There were no injuries or damage - except maybe to the Coast Guard crew's pride. I did see something in the eyes of one of the vessel's crew that leads me to believe that - they'll be doing something different next year!

Some of our Sailors got the chance to visit and share thoughts with Bolivian Sailors that came here on the ARC Gloria tall ship's first visit to Corpus Christi. Although there was a slight language barrier, there seemed to be no problem with seeing how things work with that huge wooden ship.

We hosted close to 1,100 guests to the Base as tour groups numbered from a single family to 100s of reunion members that came from throughout the US to visit during the year. Some were nostalgic visits filled with remembering the Wings auditorium when mov-

ies cost a dime; to people that had never even heard of the base before their visit.

During October we had a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new school, Starbase Atlantis, which will affect Fifth graders in the local school districts. I've always enjoyed seeing young students grasp an idea or concept as they study science. At this school, there's a very hands-on approach to studying and when the students launch a self-made rocket ship as part of their "finals," it's a pleasure to see the expressions on their faces because what they made - worked!

Well that's just a short overview of what has happened and some of the things that we can look forward to - this year. If you have ideas of things that you'd like to see in the Wingspan, call me or send me an e-mail. Maybe we can make good things happen!

I'm looking forward to meeting and seeing many new faces in the coming year. Let's make this one a "good" one!

NASCC Coast Guard Medevacs three people in two Separate rescues

By Lt. Lane Steffenhagen



AMT2 Darin Hall is seen above working on the injured crewmen before they were medevaced to Spohn Memorial Trauma Center.

The Coast Guard medevaced three men from Rig Matagorda 632A about 30 miles northeast of Port Aransas, Texas, in two separate rescues on the morning of Dec. 16.

A watch stander at Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi received a call for assistance at 6 a.m. from Rig 632A reporting they had two crewmembers onboard that had been injured on the nearby tug Smith Hunter.

The men were injured when the basket they were in tipped over during a hoist transfer between the Smith Hunter and a barge. One, a 29-year-old man, fell approximately five feet to the deck, the other, a 65-year-old man, fell approximately 10-15 feet landing on top of the first man.

Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi crews launched an HH-65B Dolphin helicopter to medevac the men. The rescue helicopter crew landed on the rig and loaded the two injured men on board. The injured men were transported to Spohn Memorial Trauma Center in Corpus Christi, Texas.

At about 10:14 a.m. a watch stander at

Sector Corpus Christi received another call from Rig 632A reporting that the Smith Hunter had transferred a 22-year-old crewman to the rig who was having a diabetic seizure. Air Station Corpus Christi crews launched an HH-65C Dolphin helicopter crew to medevac the crewman.

The helicopter crew landed on the rig and loaded the man on board. He was also transported to Spohn Memorial Hospital.

All the men were reported to be in stable condition.

The second medevac was performed by the new HH-65 "Charlie" model helicopter. Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi is currently transitioning from the "Bravo" model helicopters to the upgraded "Charlie" models. The transition is expected to be completed sometime next week. More information on the new helicopter will be released in the near future.

This was the first rescue performed by the new helicopter in the South Texas area.



The dance floor at the Gulfstream Recreation Center often got packed during the Asian American Holiday celebration party, Dec. 15. Several hundred guests enjoyed the "oriental" meal and dancefest with raucous laughter and music filling the air. (Photo by Bob Torres)

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HM-15 Blackhawk's demonstrate their abilities in the Persian Gulf

By Lt. J.g. Patrick Leslie, HM-15 PAO

On November 4, 2006 HM-15 embarked three MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopters and supporting airborne mine countermeasure (AMCM) equipment onboard the amphibious assault ship USS Saipan (LHA 2). The purpose of the embarkation was to demonstrate the ability to conduct MK-105 operations from an LHA class ship and to conduct routine mine sweeping training in the Persian Gulf.

Blackhawk personnel flew more than forty hours during the demonstration, including 25 hours of operational AMCM. The helicopter's primary weapon system for this mission was the Mk-105 Magnetic Influence Minesweeping System or the "sled" as it is called in the AMCM community. The "sled" is a high speed hydrofoil sweeping device that is used to actuate magnetic or acoustic mines.

LCDR Scott Briquet, the Officer-In-Charge of HM-15 Det Two, stated, "This demonstration was an excellent training opportunity.

It allowed the USS SAIPAN and HM-15 Det.-2 another opportunity to execute the well deck stream and recovery procedures that were validated during the last demonstration. It also provided a valuable training opportunity for the detachment and the squadron." Along with allowing HM-15 personnel to gain some excellent real world training, it also enabled the U.S. Navy to show both our friends and our foes in the region that we have the capability to protect and maintain the security of maritime shipping lanes in that part of the world.

This demonstration was highly visible and attracted attention from international media and several distinguished visitors from various coalition forces. The exercise marks the second time within two months that Det.-2 has successfully and aptly demonstrated its mine sweeping capability in the Persian Gulf.



A 53E Sea Dragon helicopter from Helicopter Mine Countermeasure Squadron (HM-15) demonstrate the mine sweeping capabilities of the Navy's MK-105 Magnetic Influence System, better known as the "sled," during a mine countermeasure training event in the Arabian Gulf in support of Maritime Security Operations (MSO). MSO help set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment, as well as complement the counterterrorism and security efforts of regional nations. These operations deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material. (Photo by MC2 Justin K. Thomas)

Blue Angels continued from page 1

couldn't keep a grin off his face. During the end of his show here in 2005, Allison rushed home for the birth of his daughter, Rylie.

The Commanding Officer, Capt. Tim Coolidge and Executive Officer, Cmdr. Bruce Lankford were among a room full of air show team members, both civilian and military, receiving the preseason brief from the Blue Angels.

"We're going to have a great show and I expect to see some really talented pilots thrilling the crowd with performances that will be very memorable," said Coolidge. "And these guys (Blue Angels) never disappoint. I think it'll be the best show of the season, and I'm glad we're able to do this."

"Bring the family, plan on having a great time, and come see what our military has to offer," he continued.

NMCI help desk to better support CLO enablement of new NMCI accounts

By Rodolfo Espinoza, Navy Marine Corp Intranet (NMCI)

In an effort to more efficiently enable new NMCI users for Cryptographic Log On (CLO), the Navy and Marine Corps has authorized NMCI Help Desk agents to remove CLO enforcement only for new users, assist the user in completing the CLO Configuration Utility, and subsequently re-enforcing the user's account for CLO. In doing this, the new user can enable their account for CLO during their first call to the Help Desk, minimizing the length of time it would otherwise take. Generally, this initial call would be the same call necessary for the user to obtain their initial network password.

Please note that the Navy and Marine Corps have not authorized NMCI Help Desk agents to remove CLO enforcement for any CLO enabled accounts. For example, users that leave their Common Access Card (CAC) at home will not be able to gain access to the network through the Help Desk using these newly approved procedures. Additionally, NMCI Help Desk agents are still not able to designate user accounts as CLO exceptions. Users that have a valid requirement for a CLO exception account should contact their Command IAM to request their account be designated as a CLO exception.

About CLO

CLO is the Department of Defense requirement to use the CAC to authenticate and log on to networks such as NMCI. A user's account is "CLO enabled" once the user completes the CLO Configuration Utility. This utility executes during a new user's initial logon to the network and associates the user's account with a unique identifier on their CAC. Once completed, a user is able to authenticate and log on to any NMCI seat using only their CAC and the associated Personal Identification Number.

A user's account is considered "CLO enforced" when the option to log on using user name and password is no longer allowed. Automatic enforcement scripts execute every Thursday evening, enforcing all (non-exception) accounts for CLO. In some cases, a new account is created and enforced for CLO before that user can log on and enable their account for CLO. Because of the security implications of CLO, this situation formerly required the new user's CLO Trusted Agent, Customer Technical Representative (CTR), or IAM to remove CLO enforcement using a CLO management tool.

For more information, contact Erick Messing at frederick.a.messing.ctr@navy.mil.

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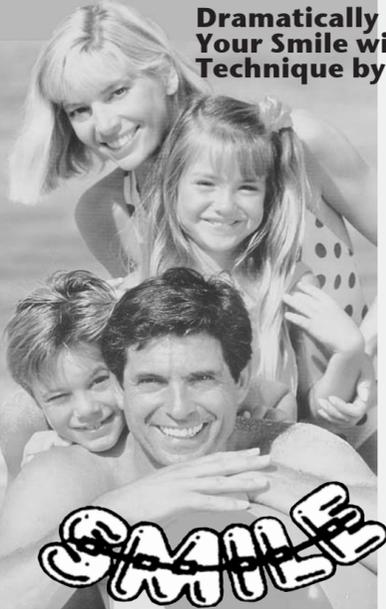
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Captain's Column continued from page 2

deed, and that would be followed by someone else doing a good deed until those good deeds traveled around the world.

What a great concept to take into the New Year! I'll tell you that my family is going to attempt to do that, do good deeds hopefully on a daily basis to ensure that we stay positive and motivated. If I can make someone's day a little better, I'm gong to do that.

And I'd like to see that thought grow seed and sprout throughout the region. We're entering into a new year, and with recent

changes in the Navy, there are many things that affect how we deal with accepting these changes.

I propose that we all think of "problems" during the New Year, and change those mind-sets to "challenges." Many of us accept challenges as a way of life. It helps us make goals and then seek to reach them.

Join me as we come in to the New Year with a smile and a goal to make our lives and the lives of people around us, a better place to be!

See you on the beach!

Chaplain's Column continued from page 2

Now some of you are astute readers and you will point out that King Herod told them to come back after they found the child to reveal his location. This brings us to a third note for the holidays: they gave morality a high place in their decision making. I believe these men would have returned to Herod had they not been warned by divine authority to stay away. Divine imperative drove their decision-making.

The holidays are times when many people make poor choices that are also immoral. The negative consequences of those choices do not end when the holiday season is over. Rather, those involved must continue to pay the price for their decisions. The holidays are as good a time as any to do the right thing. You will have a better

time and better memories with much better consequences as a result.

The last and fourth note for the holidays is this: they worshipped God. The holidays should be a time when we revel in the abundance of good things and have a good time. They should also be a time to be humble, thankful and appreciative. We should recognize that all good things come to us from One who is infinitely wise, all-knowing, every-where present, and intensely interested in us (and I don't mean Santa Claus). You should take stock of the things that matter most in life, value those things most highly, and take time to go to church or whatever house of worship you choose in this season.



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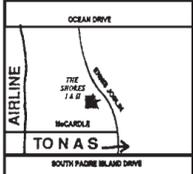
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AROUND THE BASE IN 2006

“What are your goals for the new year?”



SKSN Jose Serna
HM-15/Sup

“I want to cut down on my smoking.”



AT3 Steve Moore
HM-15/Avionics

“To relax more often.”



A1C David Powell
Air Ops

“Win another car show.”



ATAN Tom Lais
HM-15/MCM16B

“To make more time to study.”

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Jeff Dougall, NEX General Manager presents Virginia Samuelson a gift card for \$1000, during the 60th Anniversary of NEX sweepstakes on Dec. 15. (Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)



Cmdr. Bruce Emero, Air Traffic Control Officer, and Command Master Chief Mike Cisneros congratulate ETSC Martin Barnholtz during his reenlistment for two years, Dec. 15. (Photo by Bob Torres)



On December 1, 2006 the Gonzalez Liberty Center hosted a “Home for the Holidays” themed holiday party. MA3 Nickole Woods was awarded a round trip airline ticket to anywhere in the Continental United States. Thanks to the Navy Army Federal Credit Union and L&F Distributors for their sponsorship of the airline ticket. (Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)



The “Big three”, Commanding Officer, Capt. Tim Coolidge, (right), Executive Officer, Cmdr. Bo Lankford, and Command Master Chief, Mike Cisneros get together to show off their Command T-shirts during the base wide Christmas Party at the Gonzalez Liberty Center, Dec. 1. (Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)



Kassandra Trevino, Joesph Iruegas, Kayla Iruegas, Joey Iruegas, nina , and scarlet wait impatiently for their turn to visit with Santa, during the NEX Midnight Madness event, Dec. 15. Rumor had it that Santa was available for photos with pets, but some of the kids didn't want to miss out on seeing Santa.



One shopping family croons “Silent Night” during the karaoke contest of the Midnight Madness event at the NEX, Dec. 15. Sales were brisk throughout the store as some shoppers took advantage of the extended hours and discounts offered for the event. (Photo by Bob Torres)



“Winter Texans” staying at Shields Park on base, came to the base-wide Christmas party, Dec. 15 - to see what the younger generation was doing to celebrate the holidays. Some were amazed, others smiled and shook their heads at the antics of today's Sailors. Some were probably thinking, “I remember when I used to do that!” (Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)