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# Wingspan

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • March 15, 2007

## State-of-the-art Air Traffic Control Tower and Radar Facility now 'on the air'

by Anne Booher, Editor, with contributions from Senior Chief James Baker

Anticipation and years of hard work and preparation finally culminated on March 5 when the new Air Traffic Control Tower and Radar Facility (ATCF) held its ribbon cutting and official opening. Personnel have been training in the facility for about a week, sharpening their skills on upgraded technology and learning the layout of the tower.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was opened by Cmdr. Bruce Emery, standing Executive Officer. Following the opening, Esther Oliver, Constituent Services Liaison from Congressman Soloman Ortiz's office, expressed her sincere admiration of the upgraded facility and the men and women who will enjoy working there throughout the years. In 2004, it was Congressman Ortiz who initiated the legislation that would provide funding for the new tower.

The new ATCF was congressionally funded with a cost of more than \$11.5 million, including new equipment and construction costs. The facility replaces the old ATCF built in the 1940s, a small tower in poor material condition with outdated equipment.

More space and cutting edge technology are only the beginning of the list of

conveniences for NAS Corpus Christi's air traffic controllers. Senior Chief James Baker has provided detailed information on the upgraded facility: "The new control tower provides better visual data for controllers, whereas previously, controllers were limited in what they could see, since many training aircraft enter the pattern from the 'overhead.' Also, controllers couldn't see aircraft from the seawall until they entered the airfield from the western portion of the airfield. With the new tower, controllers have a much better visual cue as to where aircraft are and at what point they're entering the pattern. The new tower location reveals much more of the airfield.

"The Ground Controlled Approach (GCA) and offshore oceanic Radar facility is enhanced with better, more accurate radar display and real-time aircraft data from a state-of-the-art radar display system known as STARS (Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System). STARS is the newest available air traffic control equipment for the Department of Defense and the

*Tower continued on page 7*



The new Air Traffic Control Tower and Radar Facility was designed by Mr. Ralph Durden and contracted by STC Construction out of San Antonio, Texas. (Photo by Anne Booher, Editor)



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## Patriot Guard rides to honor fallen military, shields grieving families from protesters

Story and photos by Ed Mickley, Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command

On Feb. 19, rows of glistening, flag-adorned motorcycles owned by Patriot Guard riders were ready to rumble for 2nd Lt. Dudley Ives, Army Air Corps Pilot and Ingleside native whose B-24 Liberator went down during a storm nearly 63 years ago.

A dozen Naval Station Ingleside sailors rode alongside veterans and other riders in a 50-bike procession honoring the airman whose remains were discovered in Papua New Guinea, February of 2002. Ives' B-24, named "Here T'is," was in a group of 36 bombers that met their demise

during a bombing raid in April 1944 on what has become known as "Black Sunday."

"We (sailors) enjoy riding together, but to be part of an event like this is really special," said Navy Master Chief Mineman Alan Wilkey of the Afloat Training Group. "This man was one of the 'Greatest Generation.' It's an honor to be here."

Meet the Patriot Guard: motorcyclists who have a deep sense of pride, ride to attend funerals of fallen servicemen as part of their service—some say for their country, others for the families, yet others say to honor all vets.

Riding motorcycles is a common thread among the Guard, although neither owning a bike nor liking them is a prerequisite. Rather, the bond is the Patriots' mission to support those who wear (or wore) the American uniform. The organization's motto is "Standing for Those Who Stood for Us."

"This group is incredible," stated Navy Cdr. Vernon 'Butch' Neuenschwander, of Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three. "The Patriot Guard rides for the families, to show respect, to honor the sacrifice their serviceman paid."

"To be here for this WWII pilot, what a privilege," he added.

The Patriot Guard Riders got their start in 2005 in Kansas when a local chapter of the American Legion Riders learned a group was going to protest the war by rallying at the funeral of Sgt. John Doles in Chelsea, Okla. They put out the

word to other motorcycle groups and were successful in mounting a group in support of the fallen soldier.

The group serves as a visual barrier around the grieving family, with their motorcycles and United States flags. If protesters become disruptive, the Patriot Guard will rev their engines or sing patriotic songs to show their support for the family in a time of sorrow. The organization doesn't take sides. It makes no difference if those interested in joining are "hawks" or "doves." The only prerequisite is respect for our troops.

"Most of this group are veterans, though I couldn't serve due to a medical situation," Darrick Price, Patriot Guard Ride Captain said. "But I've always loved this country, and this is one way I can serve these folks."

A member since December, Joe Vollmer is a local businessman, who served six years in the National Guard, discovered this was a group of people who "have their hearts in the right place."

"The Riders perform an important mission," said Senior Chief Damage Controlman Dan Creswell of Naval Station Ingleside, Ride Captain for Ives' Mission. "They make sure the families don't have any outside intrusions as they grieve for the family member."

*Riders continued on page 10*



Patriot Guard Riders' motorcycles are adorned with US Flags in preparation to escort fallen pilot 2nd Lt. Dudley Ives.

# From The Skipper

## Let's talk Air Show!

by Capt. T.E. Coolidge

I know a lot of you are like me and are still struggling with this early "Daylight Savings Time" change. This is a hard shift for me. I must admit, though, that while I hate losing that hour of sleep in the morning, I do appreciate the extra hour of sunshine in the evening! Okay, I still hear some grumbling so let me jump into what I want to tell you. My column this issue is all about our South Texas Shootout Air Show on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April!



Coolidge

I want to get the word out to the public, so

I've started the media rounds. My first stop was at Channel 3 last Wednesday morning where I spoke with Katia Uriarte. The introduction was fun. While the footage played of Katia in the cockpit of the Blue Angel F/A-18 last year (NAS Kingsville's Air Show) - showing her head drop down quickly with the onset of the G's as the jet pulled up into the sky - you could hear her laughter in the background of the studio. Two great characteristics of Katia are her zest for life and her ability to laugh at herself. Laughter is the most contagious condition there is and I couldn't help but smile myself!

After the footage, I spoke about the details the Air Show and how it's shaping up to be the best Air Show NAS Corpus Christi has ever put on!

I want to take a minute and showcase our Air Show Coordinator, Lt. Asa Taylor. Asa is

pouring his heart and soul (and even dragging his wife, Jen, with him) into making this an Air Show to remember. Through his personal involvement, the Air Show will have many new and unique acts. He's working to get more than 30 aircraft and other displays dispersed throughout the flight line, too.

Lt. Taylor and his team have arranged to have aircraft from World War II as well as fighter and attack planes used on the front lines today. Of course, we'll have the World Famous Blue Angels as our showcase event, but we're also getting the Red Bull MiG-17, the WW II act "Tora! Tora! Tora!" that recreates the 1941 surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, a wing-walking act, the Red Bull BO-105 Aerobatic helicopter (the only helicopter and pilot certified in the US to perform aerobatics) and a lot more!

Captain continued on page 10

# Chaplain's Column

## Today is God's gift to you

by Chaplain Tim Gault

Meet Fred. Fred is an average guy. He works hard and likes to have a good time in his off hours. He loves his wife and kids and is proud to serve his country. When he went to bed last night he had a lot on his mind. He tossed and turned as he anticipated all that he had to do today. Before he knew it, his alarm began to chirp. It was time to get up. But, he felt like he had hardly slept. It was early and he was already tired. But, remembering he had a lot to do today, he dragged himself out of bed.

Dodging miscellaneous things on the floor, he lugged himself into the bath. Soon, Fred was relaxing in the warm water of his shower. But, he could not enjoy the shower too long. He did not have enough time. After toweling off, he got dressed and snapped up a quick breakfast on the way out the door. He had just enough time to make it into work today on time. His car worked just fine. He got through the gate without having to wait too long. He found a parking space and sauntered in to his work space. It

was time to officially "begin" the day. One thing led to another in his busy day. Fred could not believe it when he looked up at the clock. It was lunch time already. Fred thought, "I better grab a quick bite so I can get right back at my work." Half an hour later, Fred was back at his job attacking his list of things to do. He made a little progress. He kept working into the afternoon even when he felt like slacking off a little bit. As the day drew to a close, he realized some things would have to wait until tomorrow or even a later day. So, he made out his calendar and began to gather his things before heading home.

Fred got into his car, drove off the base and only had minimal traffic on the way home. He had a nice meal, played with his kids a while, paid some bills, did a little homework, tucked one of his kids in bed, watched Leno, kissed his wife, rolled over and fell asleep. He had a lot of work to do the next day.

Unfortunately, for Fred this day was like a thousand others. There was nothing striking about this day. Fred took for granted that he had the ability to walk into his bathroom. He

did not think once about the eyesight that was temporarily shocked by the brightness of his bathroom light or the supple skin that enables him to function. He missed the delight of actually tasting his food. He forgot to enjoy the remarkable technologies that make his life convenient and sometimes fun. Fred was so caught up in the daily activities that he missed out on the fullness of his life. In the words of Arthur Herbert Fonzarelli (Fonzy, to all you "Happy Days" fans), Fred's life was "hum-drum" today.



Gault

King David in Psalm 118:24 says, "This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it." This day is God's gift to you. Appreciate it. Soak it up. Live each moment. Make the most of it.

# Legal Corner

## The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: Capping interest at six-percent for Pre-Service Loans

by Lt. j.g. Jeff Murse, Navy Legal Service Officer

On December 19, 2003, President George W. Bush signed into law the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to completely revise and update the then existing Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act (SSCRA). By expanding the rights to servicemembers, the SCRA seeks to strengthen the national defense by protecting servicemembers of the United States, allowing them to devote their attention and focus to the defense of our Nation.



Murse

In addition, the SCRA drafters intended to further protect servicemembers by allowing "the temporary suspension of judicial and administrative proceedings and transactions that may adversely affect the civil rights of servicemembers during their military service." The United States Supreme Court has concluded that

the SCRA intends to protect those members of society who drop their own affairs to answer and help resolve the burdens of our country.

The SCRA affords protections to all persons in the military service on active duty within the five branches of service, in addition to members of the National Guard when called to active service authorized by the President or Secretary of Defense for a period of more than 30 consecutive days. In addition, active service by a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are also protected by the SCRA, along with any period during which a servicemember is absent from duty for a lawful cause.

If a servicemember currently has an interest-bearing debt with an interest rate in excess of six percent per year, incurred by the servicemember or jointly with a spouse before entry into military service, the servicemember may be able to reduce the interest rate to six percent. This provision applies only to pre-service debts and does not apply to debt incurred after the servicemember entered active duty status.

Pursuant to Section 527 of the SCRA, a pre-military creditor must reduce interest rates to six percent upon written notice to the creditor of military service, along with a copy of military orders calling the member to service and any orders extending service. Such notice is required to be given no later than 180 days following the servicemember's termination or release from service. Following receipt of this notification, and in accordance with the SCRA, a creditor is required to limit interest rates to six percent per year during the military service, effective as of the date on which the servicemember is called to service. Any interest in excess of the six percent cap is required to be forgiven. In addition, the periodic payments due from the servicemember under the terms of the obligation must be reduced by the allocated amount of the interest forgiven. It should be noted, however, that Section 527 of the SCRA does not apply guaranteed student loans.

Relief for creditors from the limitations of the SCRA's six percent cap can be granted by courts if the creditor can show that the servicemember's ability to pay the debt with an interest rate in

Legal continued on page 6

# Wingspan

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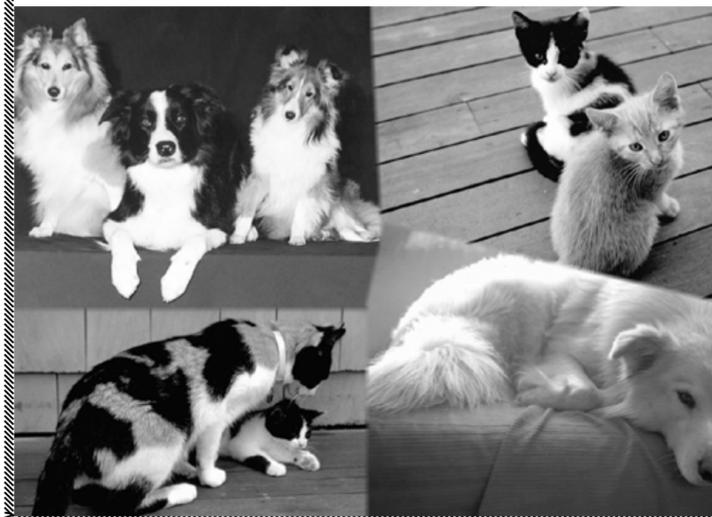
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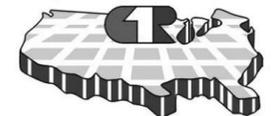
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## Top 50 local businesses offer great discounts for military personnel

by 1st Lt. Sara Crowell, PAO Assistant

The benefits and privileges afforded to military personnel, such as use of the Navy Exchange, the commissary, the hospital and the base gym, are important to daily life. Most people are aware of the various benefits located on base, but are unacquainted with the businesses in town that offer discounts to military personnel. We've compiled a list of 50 Corpus Christi businesses that offer discounts.

#### Restaurants

- Fonda Del Angel Mexican Restaurant 25% off
- Taco Cabana 20% off
- Denny's 20% off
- Jamba Juice 20% off
- Hooter's (Mon. only) 20% off
- Landry's Seafood House 15% off
- China Garden Super Buffet 10% off
- Islander Bar and Grill 10% off
- IHOP 10% off
- Schlotzsky's Deli 10% off
- Utopia World Cuisine and Lounge 10% off
- Buffalo Wild Wings 10% off
- Fuddruckers 10% off
- Quizno's Subs 10% off
- Souper Salad 10% off
- Sonic (6417 Weber Rd) 10% off
- Padre Pizzeria 10% off
- Double Dave's Pizzaworks 10% off
- Blackbeard's on the Beach 10% off
- Vick's Famous Hamburgers 10% off
- Rigatoni's Italian Restaurant 10% off
- Beamer's Pizza and Burgers 10% off

- Wendy's (5858 SPID) 10% off
- KFC (5645 Saratoga Blvd) 10% off
- Jason's Deli (dine-in only) 10% off
- The Original Schlotzsky's 10% off
- Marble Slab Creamery (in uniform) 10% off
- Smoothie King 50¢ off drink

#### Automotive

- Neighbor's Automotive 15% off
- Alamo Tire Service 10% off
- Express Tire and Automotive 10% off
- CARisma Wash-Lube-Detail 10% off
- FastKat Automotive Repair 10% off
- Banuelo's New and Used Tires 5% off

#### Home Improvement

- Heat and Air Service Company 10% off
- Graf Plumbing Inc 10% off labor
- Drain King 10% off labor
- 24 Hour Emergency Appliance Repair \$10 off
- Arrow Appliance Repair 5% off

#### Beauty

- Boutique du Jour 10% off
- Arnold's Salon and Day Spa 10% off
- Planet Sol Hair Salon 10% off

#### Apparel

- New York and Company 15% off
- Payless Shoe Source (5425 SPID) 10% off

- Shoe Carnival 10% off
- Hot Topic 10% off

#### Entertainment

- Asian Cultures Museum 25% off
- Botanical Gardens 10% off
- Starplex Cinemas after 6pm, \$1 off

#### Misc.

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Lorena and Marty Schmitt, owners of Padre Pizzeria, joined by Lorena's sister and coworker, Alice Montiel (right). Padre Pizzeria was previously owned by Ron Estes, a submariner for the US Coast Guard, who served on the USS Thresher just weeks before it sank in 1963. The Schmitt family carries on his dedication to the armed services by offering discounts to military personnel. (Photo by Lt. j.g. Caleb Booher, Asst. PAO)

At a time when the nation's support of the military and the war is inconsistent, let it be a good reminder that the city of Corpus Christi still appreciates its men and women of the armed forces. Whether out on the town shopping or eating, make it a habit to ask the manager if their business offers a discount. It never hurts to ask, and the end result might be a few extra dollars saved for later! Also, make it a point to check out the Information, Tickets and Tourism office at

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## Department of Defense ranked #1 in child care efforts

by Sgt. Sara Wood, American Forces Press Service

Child care is a critical issue for many families around the country, and the Defense Department stands alone as a model for quality child care in the nation, an independent study released on March 1 finds.

In the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies' ranking of state child care centers and oversight, DoD ranks No. 1 on the list of states with the best child care center standards and oversight practices. DoD was ranked along with all 50 states in a process that compared the written policies of each of the states and DoD with basic quality indicators in child care.

DoD was the only state to appear on the top 10 lists in both child care center standards and oversight standards.

"No other state scored in the top 10 in both of those categories, so we're very, very pleased with our results," Barbara Thompson, director of children and youth issues for the DoD Office of Military Community and Family Policy, said. "This is something we've been working for...since the inception of the Military Child Care Act in 1989. It shows that our system of care is really working and it is providing safe, healthy and developmentally appropriate programs for young children."

The report lauded DoD for requiring child care center directors to have a bachelor's degree or higher; training child care staff in first aid, CPR and other health and safety issues; and requiring staff to pursue further training. The report also highlighted the fact that DoD conducts criminal history record checks, child abuse and neglect registry checks, and state, federal and fingerprint checks. DoD's health and safety requirements for child care address nine of the 10 basic standards, such as immunization, fire drills and emergency preparedness.

One of the reasons DoD scored so high is the strong system of child care the department has, including child care centers, family child care homes, and school-age programs. The staff members in this system are all trained to the same standards, which include a self-paced modular program based on the competencies for earning a child development associates degree. Supervisors execute knowledge-assessments to ensure that information staff members learned is applied in the classroom. Staff members are also encouraged to continue their edu-

cation and their pay is dependent on education, experience and performance.

DoD was also praised for its extensive oversight system of child care centers. All child care programs are required to have four comprehensive inspections every year. The programs receive an inspection report, and any problems identified must be fixed within 90 days.

"The department recognized early on that in order to have high levels of safety and health standards in our program, we needed a system to assess it, making sure that the standards were in compliance and if not, what would be the remedial action to correct it and move on," Thompson said.

As is noted in the report, the first five years of a child's life are the most critical in development. This is when the child's brain is forming, developing social and emotional ties, so quality child care is critical in shaping the person the child will become. Thompson noted that military life offers unique stressors, such as deployments and frequent moves, which make continuity of care important.

"(Parents) knowing that they have a stable early childhood program as they relocate, I think it really is one of those stress reducers," she said. "You know the level of quality you're going to receive as you go to your next installation; you know more or less what the price range is going to be; you know that the staff are going to be trained in a uniformed way; you know that those programs are going to be inspected four times a year. There are requirements we enforce across the services to ensure there is a standardized level of high quality."

Still, she said, "We can do better." DoD is always reviewing child care practices and looking for areas for improvement. "It's a never-ending process, because we learn more and more about what it takes for young children to thrive," she said.

In the report, DoD was only given partial credit for literacy and cultural diversity activities. Thompson said that many DoD child care centers do these activities, but they are not yet included in the written policies.

"It is my goal that in the next year we look at our instruction to update the policies to reflect what we're actually doing and ensuring that we're capturing those indicators of quality," she said.



"I like to see children's minds develop and the looks on their faces when they know they've done something right. There's a part of me that's just a big kid," says Lina Shepherd, owner of "Precious Cargo," a certified on-base Child Development Center. A lifelong childcare provider, Lina has worked at NASCC for about a year.

rica since.

In 1994, April met her future husband, Paul Hyder, at a Bible study while she was a student at Dallas Baptist University. She earned her bachelor's degree in sociology there in 1995, the same year she and Paul were married.

April said she'd someday like to take her daughters to Africa for a visit. "The beaches in Kenya are some of the most beautiful in the world," she smiled.

She's already shared with her children a footlocker full of stories and anecdotes from her life in Africa. Some memories were happy, like one of her favorite African dishes, one consisting of collard greens on top of white corn meal, with a consistency of cake. Or trips to the local open air market to buy fruits and veg-

etables; or trips to the butcher, baker or dry goods store, where you could haggle over the price of each and every item.

There were some not-too-happy memories – the black limousine sent by Idi Amin that would occasionally drive up to the boarding school and then leave with the children of Ugandan politicians, who would never be seen again. Or having to be careful not to open a cabinet and stick one's hand in without looking first, lest something inside take a bite out of it or latch on to it.

Or the "safari" ants which April had several encounters with while living in Africa. Once they bit into one's skin, they had to be washed off in a turpentine bath, as pulling them off resulted in losing chunks of skin.

It's been quite a journey for April thus far: from Georgia to Africa and back to Texas. Perhaps one day, she will stand with her daughters and show them the sunrise on Kenyan beach and muse about her childhood, pondering an old African proverb: "The course of life is full of twistings; ups and downs and zigzags."



From left to right: Twins Kayelyn and Maddyson, Navy Chaplain Lt.j.g. Paul Hyder, April and Allyson (Photo by Mike Antoine)



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## Navy spouse recalls growing up in Africa

by Mike Antoine, Naval Station Ingleside Public Affairs

Aprile Hyder has a great knowledge of things "African." She spent 15-and-a-half years living in Kenya, where her parents, Allen and Alice Stickney, served as missionaries for the International Mission Board, with the Southern Baptist denomination.

Aprile is the wife of Lt.j.g. Paul Hyder, MCM CLASSRON chaplain, serving aboard Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.

"My dad was pastor at a church in Georgia in the '70s when he felt a calling to foreign missions work," said the Sylvester, Ga., native.

Aprile was just 18 months old when she and her parents arrived in Africa.

"My first recollection of Africans was that they had the most beautiful smiles. Everyone seems so loving and friendly."

Aprile was home-schooled for first- and second-grades. In third grade, she attended a British boarding school, populated with Africans and British expatriates, in Kenya through her elementary school years. "I caught a lot of grief from the British there because I was an American," she recalled with a grin.

According to Aprile, the school year included three months of study, then a month rest at home in Nakuru with a two-month break for summer. "Home" was a European-style brick home – but with no air conditioning or heat, located in a 2-acre compound.

Besides the separation from her family, boarding school was rugged in other ways as well.

"We had no television," Aprile recalled. "Our teachers would read to us about the current affairs during class. After school we could listen to BBC radio or read the British versions of Time and Newsweek."

"It was tough. I really didn't like boarding school, but I have some great memories from those days," she continued. "The teachers were very creative – and courageous."

Following her boarding school years, Aprile attended high school at the American International School in Nairobi through her junior year.

"My parents had a program where students could come and visit our home for a year to see how an American family lived," Aprile said. "They even had a coffee house for college and university students – a place where they could hang out, play guitars and sing. We'd provide them with coffee and doughnuts."

Aprile explained that they would go out into "the bush" and visit the families of the students. The villages, as she describes them, would be surrounded with a thick thorn enclosure to keep out wild animals; and the huts inside where families lived were constructed of mud and dung, covered with grass roofs.

Aprile's family, which included her younger brother, Thomas, would routinely return to the States for a year following a three-year stint in Africa, a kind of a "furlough," if you will.

Where the family would return to depended on which college or university her father would be assigned to teach. While they were back stateside, they would visit churches and share with congregations the things they were doing and the impact they were making on lives overseas.

Aprile attended her senior year of high school in Dallas, as the family returned to the States to be with her grandmother who was dying of cancer. She's hasn't been back to AF-

## Coast Guard locates boaters in Baffin Bay after extensive search

by Lt. Lane Steffenhagen, Coast Guard PAO



The HH-65C DOLPHIN, located in Corpus Christi, was used to track down and rescue the lost fishermen on March 5.

Two men in a disabled boat were found on March 5 following an extensive search of the Baffin Bay area, approximately 15 miles south of Corpus Christi.

The men were located just after noon by a Coast Guard helicopter crew along with another disabled boat crew that had tried to assist. That boat had become disabled while towing the first boat. The crew of the second boat then called Towboat US to tow them in. Both boats were towed in without incident.

Micah Atherton, of Houston, and a friend were fishing on March 4 when they began to have engine trouble. They called Mr. Atherton's father, Mike, also from Houston, and told him they were on the shoreline in Baffin Bay near the King Ranch. He then called the Coast Guard to request assistance for his son.

A Coast Guard helicopter crew and rescue boat crew were sent out on the night of March 4 at approximately 8:30 p.m. and searched for over two hours but were not able to locate Mr. Atherton's 19-foot fishing boat.

The search resumed in the morning of March 5 with another Coast Guard helicopter crew and a rescue boat crew from Station Port Aransas along with help from other agencies, including Texas Parks and Wildlife, Padre Island National Seashore, and Kleberg County Police Department. Helicopter and boat crews searched throughout the morning.

At noon, the vessel Chase reported to the Coast Guard that they thought they had located the disabled crew and another small fishing boat trying to assist. The helicopter crew confirmed the position of the disabled boats and a Coast Guard rescue boat crew was sent to the scene until Towboat US arrived. No injuries were reported.



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## Home-fire prevention starts with all-in-the-family preparation

by Fire Chief John T. Morris, NASCC Fire Department

I make it habit to stay apprised of ongoing trends in the fire service. One unchanging trend is that fires in residential structures (single family homes, duplexes, condos and apartments) continue to be a big killer in the United States. In 2005, fire departments responded to 396,000 home fires in the United States, which claimed the lives of 3,030 people (not including firefighters) and injured another 13,825, not including firefighters. Of these fatalities, 92 were in the State of Texas. The beginning of February has been grim enough to cause the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) to contact their membership, as well as media entities, to ask for their help in an effort to stem these tragic losses.

Fatal residential fires in the first 16 days of February have killed 59 people in the U.S., including four here in the State of Texas. These are not just statistics; though not part of the February numbers, a similar fatal fire did touch the family of a civilian employee here on base. Many improvements over recent years, including readily available smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, should have made our homes safer. What needs to improve is each family's commitment to safety. The old adage, "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," could not be more true, as simple steps can be taken to avoid, or greatly limit the chance of a fire; and if one is to occur, alert your family to the danger and give them a fighting chance to get out safely.

Here are some suggestions for life-saving techniques you can use: Check and or

replace batteries on smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to be sure they are working properly; Consider purchasing a fire extinguisher; Have an escape plan with a meeting place; Once you exit your home, do not return. Too many people lose their lives going back into a burning home; Do not use your stove to heat your home. Supplemental heating devices should be used according to manufacturer recommendations; If you are burning wood in your fireplace, make sure your chimneys are properly maintained. Same goes for your furnace; If candles are necessary, use them in a safe environment in a fireproof container and away from children and do not leave unattended.

If you are planning on building a new home, consider including a residential fire sprinkler system. According to statistics, the risk of death by fire is reduced by 82 percent when smoke detectors are accompanied with residential fire sprinklers. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, the cost of new-construction sprinkler installation ranges from \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot, adding \$2,000 to \$3,000 to the cost of a 2,000 square-foot home. Discounts from homeowner underwriters will vary depending on type of coverage. The discounts now range between 5-15 percent, with a projected increase in available discounts.

For more information on fire safety and making your home as fire-safe as possible, please contact the NAS Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division at 961-3369.



In the first 16 days of February, house fires took the lives of 59 people across the United States. A few simple changes and additions around your home could mean the difference between life and death.

### Legal continued from page 2

exservicemember's military service. In other words, upon petitioning a court to return to the interest rate in excess of six percent, a creditor would be required to show that entering active duty did not result in a material affect the servicemember. A comparison of a servicemember's pre-service and military income is one way in which a court will determine a material affect. As a result, if pre-service and service salaries are similar in amounts, the reduction to six percent interest may not be applicable.

Conversely, material affect may be demonstrated if a call to active duty resulted in a reduction in income for the servicemember, thereby nega-

tively affecting the servicemember's ability to pay the debt with interest in excess of six percent.

If you believe your military service has materially affected your ability to pay a pre-service debt with an interest rate in excess of six percent, you may contact the Naval Legal Service Office (NLSO) at 961-3765 to discuss the protections afforded servicemembers under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. Appointments can be scheduled at the NLSO to address specific SCRA issues, including interest rates on pre-service debts, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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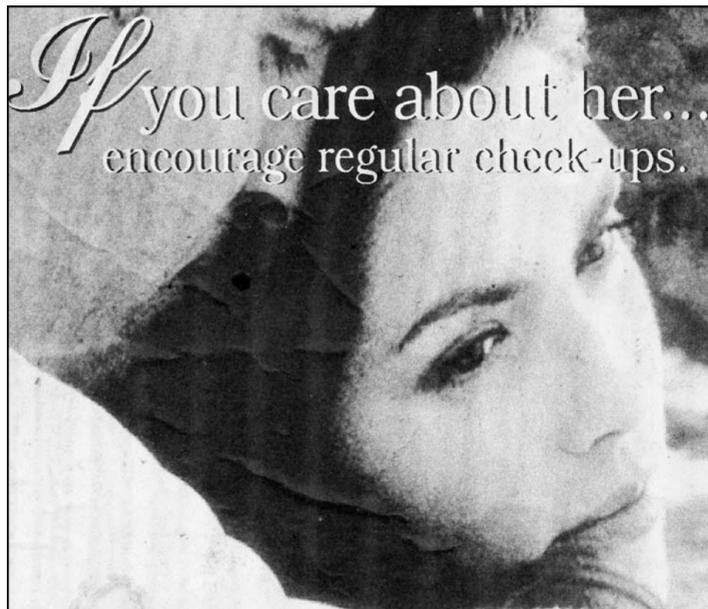
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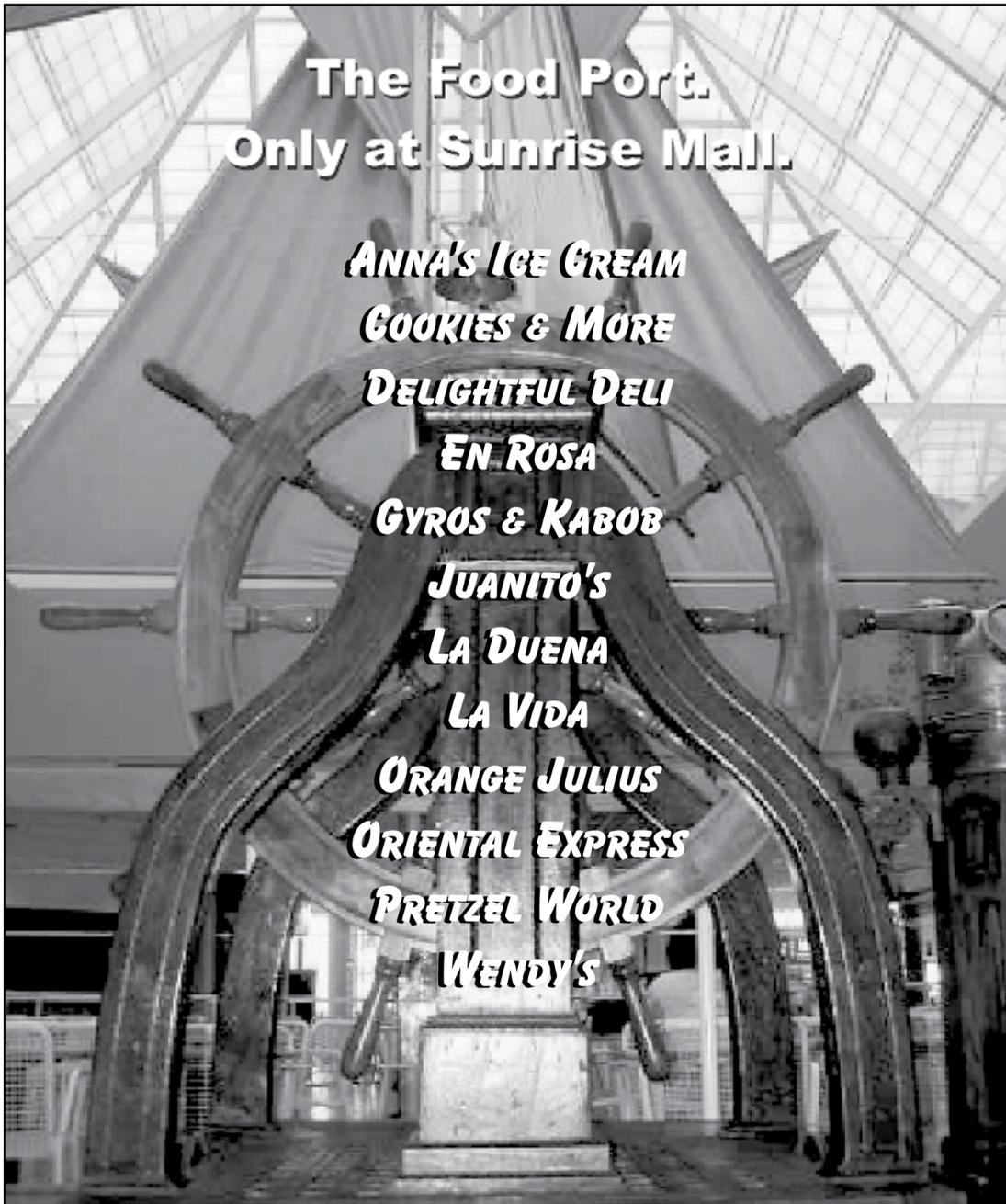
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**Captain continued from page 2**

Lt. Taylor and his team haven't forgotten about the kids, either. There will be several wall-climbing structures, radio-controlled airplanes to fly, games and other events designed just for the young ones.

But here's more! If you've never been up close to a Clydesdale, you need to join me at the Air Show. The Budweiser Clydesdales will be here both days of the Air Show. These are big horses! Just one of these animals will make even the biggest among us feel small. I'm excited to have them this year and can't wait to see the look on my sons' faces when they catch the first glimpse!

We're planning to have a few special guests this year. Former Commanding Officer of the Blue Angels, retired Cmdr. "Dusty" Rhodes, will make an appearance. "Dusty" was a member of the team when the Blues were stationed here at NAS Corpus Christi. The other special guest will be performing in Blue Angel # 5, the Lead Solo. That's Lt. Cmdr. John Allison, a Corpus Christi native who attended school in Flour Bluff. This will be John's third and final year with the Blue Angels so he's pushing the Team to make this the best show of the year.

Those of you who attended the 2005 Air Show might remember the long lines to gain access to the air field. Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Shields, our Security Officer, and his folks reviewed all of their procedures and have come up with some innovations that will make access much quicker. We're not compromising security measures, but the process for screening folks has been streamlined. We'll have multiple gate access points with buses running to and from the parking areas. Overall, this is a great plan and a better way of doing business.

Speaking of security measures, lawn chairs may be brought in to watch the Air Show this year. Also, diaper bags if you have little ones. We're still not going to allow coolers or backpacks, but don't be concerned about getting something to drink or eat. There will be plenty of concessions available if you get hungry or thirsty. We'll have several ATMs available, too.

The Main Gate will open to the public at 9 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday mornings. For those of you who live on base, I recommend you do your shopping early in the week. The crowds are expected to be heavy and traffic flow throughout the base will be impacted. Besides, if you've done all your shopping, you'll have time to wander over to the Air Show!

Thanks to a lot of dedicated individuals, the South Texas Shootout Air Show will be a fun time for everyone. I'll be out on the flightline both days, so I'll see ya at the Air Show!

**Riders continued from front page**

After dismounting at Charlie Marshall Funeral Home in Aransas Pass, Creswell stationed riders with US Flags around the parking area's perimeter and awaited the fallen airman's family's arrival.

This is incredible," Ronald Ives, 68, the 2nd Lt.'s surviving son said. "To see these all these men and flags is an impressive site."

"This is a happy event," he added. "Dad is finally home."

After a short memorial, a cavalcade of flags, headlights, bikes and cars drove to the grave site where a large gathering of local Veterans of Foreign Wars members, friends, and families assembled.

The Patriot Guard formed a shoulder-to-shoulder Stars and Strips cordon around the gravesite as the US Army Chaplain conducted the final service for 2nd Lt. Dudley Ives.

"I've been in the funeral business 57 years," said Charles Marshall. "I've never seen anything so patriotic in my life—the flags, the camaraderie. Impressive."

**Tower continued from front page**

places antiquated, non-computer radar systems. The control tower also benefits from STARS, as controllers are provided the same accurate data as the GCA. STARS contains an air traffic control simulator, called AT Coach, that provides the latest technology and offers a wide variety of training for new and seasoned controllers.

"Tower and radar benefit from VIDS (Visual Information Display System). VIDS brings information to controller's fingertips, providing maps, approach/departure information, air traffic control manuals and any other digital file that is stored in the com-

puter hard drive. Controllers have virtually every resource all together in one digital touch screen."

As for the 60 sailors in the ATC division, they can enjoy a higher quality of life and with over 400,000 aircraft operations per year here at NAS Corpus Christi, improved safety measures will make ours one of the most top-notch facilities in the nation. Senior Chief Baker adds, "The new ATCF has brought NAS Corpus Christi well into the 21st century, and will ensure continued safe and efficient ATC service, regardless of what the future brings."



Esther Oliver (left), Constituent Services Liaison from Congressman Soloman Ortiz's office, extends greetings to the ATC Tower staff. She is joined by NASCC Commanding Officer Captain Timothy Coolidge (right) and Cmdr. Bruce Emoro, Air Operations Officer.

**The 32nd Beach to Bay is on the way!**

Start training now for the 32nd Beach to Bay Relay Marathon on May 19! Held in conjunction with Armed Forces Day in appreciation of our military's work, Beach to Bay is a 26-mile relay marathon that usually brings thousands of runners and spectators to the Coastal Bend.



In 2006, the Beach to Bay Relay brought more than 20,000 spectators and runners to the Corpus Christi area.

The race continues on to the Causeway Bridge, Waldron Road near NAS Drive, through NAS Corpus Christi, and ending in Cole Park. All proceeds from the Beach to Bay marathon go towards local non-profit charities. Registration fees are \$175 per team and anyone of any age can participate! After April 7, the fee goes up, so if you're interested, sign up as soon as possible! For more information or to sign up online, visit [www.beachtobayrelay.com](http://www.beachtobayrelay.com).

**Fire Warden Training Course**

NASCC Fire & Emergency Services is pleased to announce they are once again offering the free, one-day Fire Warden Training Course to prospective Navy/ Army/Contractors "Fire Wardens" at Public Safety Building #7, Room 210B on March 7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Seating is limited to the first 20 personnel per class and offered only on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Alternate dates and times per request. Call 961-3369 to sign up.

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# Around The Base In 2007



## Computers for Learning

On March 2, 242 Internet-ready computers and 291 monitors were donated by NASCC to Flour Bluff Schools. The computers will be distributed throughout the school system and allow students to complete the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, required for them to continue to the next grade or graduate. Major contributors to the program (inset photo) include NASCC Commanding Officer Capt. Tim Coolidge; Superintendent of Flour Bluff Schools, Dr. Julie Carvajal; Bill Fettle, former basketball star and current Director of Information Technology for Flour Bluff; and Linda Reilly-Lattimore, from the NASCC Environmental Office. (Photo by Lynn Kaylor)



On Feb. 26, the Save A Life Tour came to NASCC to raise awareness of drunk driving in a safe, yet realistic way. Chris Geysbeek (left) starts a simulator that will mimic 11 levels of blood alcohol content (BAC) and give the "driver" obstacles including inclement weather, stoplights and aggressive drivers. Geysbeek has worked for the Save A Life Tour for about five years. Four years ago, a driver who had drunk only three beers ran a red light and killed one of his closest friends. "He was concentrating so hard on not getting pulled over, he never saw the red light," explains Geysbeek. For more information on the program, visit [www.savealifetour.com](http://www.savealifetour.com). (Photo by Anne Booher, Editor)



## Cribbins Award

Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) Deputy Commander Roy P. "Pat" Oler has been named recipient of the Joseph P. Cribbins Department of the Army Civilian (DAC) of the Year Award by the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA). Sponsored by The Boeing Company, the Joseph P. Cribbins DAC of the Year Award is presented annually to a Department of the Army Civilian who made an outstanding individual contribution to Army aviation during the previous calendar year. Vice Chief of Staff of the

Army Gen. Richard A. Cody will present the award to Oler on May 10 in Atlanta, GA at the Annual AAAA Convention. "It is an honor to receive this recognition from the Army Aviation Association of America," said Oler. "I will go to Atlanta and accept this award, not just for myself, but on behalf of the men and women of Corpus Christi Army Depot who strive daily to provide the Warfighter with the best quality product imaginable." (Photo by Jamey Giddens, CCAD Publicist)

## Pilot for a Day program gets special visit from B1 Bombers

Photos and story by Caleb Booher, Asst. PAO



Lt. Kelly Flynn (left), VT-27 Flight Instructor and Public Affairs Officer, kneels with Jack and Clay Howard (right). Clay received a tour of a T-34 from Flynn as one of his many activities during the day.

On March 6, two B-1 bombers from Dyess AFB in Abilene entered the pattern at NASCC airfield to show off for the Pilot for a Day, six-year-old Clay Howard. Clay is being treated at Driscoll Children's Hospital for Hunter Syndrome, a rare metabolic disease which can cause growth delays and mild deformities.

Clay was joined by his parents, Paul and Laurie Howard, and his brother, Jack as he got a royal tour of the base. The Pilot for a Day Program brings in 12 to 14 terminally or seriously ill children from Driscoll per year, providing them with a once-in-a-lifetime experience. They are shown through every aspect of Corpus Christi Naval Aviation, from tours of the aircraft and time in the TC-12B simulator to the ATC tower and radar facility and even the big red fire trucks, which are always a hit.

"It's not so important that they understand everything that's going on," said Lt. Robert Rajotte, the Pilot for a Day coordinator from VT-35, "as long as they enjoy it."

"Some of these kids are really sick," stated Aislynn Campbell, Public Relations Coordinator for Driscoll Children's Hospital. "It's great for the parents as well as the kids to have a day where they're not in and out of the hospital."

According to Campbell, the Pilot for a Day Program is a welcome distraction for the kids and their families. "For the parents to see their kids doing something this exciting and having so much fun," said Campbell, "it's huge."

George Ruiz, who founded the NASCC chapter of the Pilot for a Day program in 2001, arranged for the B-1 bomber fly-by which drew attention not only from Clay and his family, but from personnel all over the base.

"My satisfaction with the program comes in just seeing the smiles," said Ruiz. "It's great that we can bring them here and show them what the Navy can do. I'm just so happy we can make that one day their special day."



B-1 bombers fly over the airfield at NASCC on March 6. The B-1 fly-over was arranged by George Ruiz, founder of the Pilot for a Day program in Corpus Christi. (Photo by Anne Booher, Editor)

## Winging Ceremony • March 2



Back row includes (from L to R): Cmdr. Charles J. Cassidy, CO VT-31; Lt. Col. Jon H. Ullmann, CO VT-35; Capt. John H. Korn, CO CGASCC; Commodore Dave Maynard, TAW-4 Commanding Officer; Guest Speaker, Col. Rudolph T. Byrne, Commander Fleet 31 4<sup>th</sup> Operation Group, 31 4<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Little Rock AFB. Wingees listed alphabetically: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. David J. Bennett; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jeremy J. Bergmann; Ens. Alex J. Bernstein; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Scott K. Boeckman; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Neal D. Hunter; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Daniel E. Marchegiani; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kenneth H. Mazurek; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Todd W. Meyer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Benjamin P. Moran; Capt. Zan A. Sproles; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jason C. Subach; Ens. Jeremy V. Taylor; Lt. j.g. Jonathan A. Taylor; Lt. j.g. Mark H. Wernly; Ens. Stephen P. Williams (Photo by Hugh Lieck, TRAWING 4 photographer)