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# Wingspan

Vol. 13, No. 10

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • May 10, 2007

## HM-15 Blackhawks bid farewell to Cmdr. Bennett

by Lt. j.g. Patrick Leslie, HM-15 Public Affairs

During the past two years, HM-15 has enjoyed the superb leadership of Cmdr. Robert Bennett. Skipper Bennett arrived at HM-15 in May 2005 to serve as the Executive Officer under Cmdr. George Parisi. During this time, Cmdr. Bennett was instrumental in HM-15's rapid responses to numerous natural disasters throughout the world, including Tsunami Relief in Indonesia, Earthquake Relief in Pakistan, and Hurricane Relief in Louisiana.

Since assuming command of the Atlantic Fleet's largest deployable aviation squadron, Bennett has continued his impressive resume with the Blackhawks. Under his leadership, HM-15 has flown nearly 3,700 mishap-free hours and has conducted missions throughout the world. Over the past year, the Blackhawks have participated in numerous operational exercises including GOMEX 06-1 and GOMEX 07-2 in the Gulf of Mexico, RIMPAC around the Hawaiian Islands, PANAMAX off the coast of Panama, and FAWOMOEX-06 in the Arabian Gulf. The Blackhawks have also maintained a permanent forward deployed detachment in Bahrain consisting of four aircraft and more than 90

**Bennett**

personnel. This detachment has proven to be an invaluable asset for Commander, Fifth Fleet, providing both Airborne Mine Countermeasure (AMCM) and vertical onboard delivery and heavy-lift support to Navy ships in direct support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

During the past year, DET TWO (Bahrain) has transported more than 844,693 pounds of cargo and 1,200 personnel throughout the Arabian Gulf Region.

Most recently, Bennett received orders

*HM-15 continued on page 10*

## U.S. Navy implements Lean Six Sigma to increase efficiency, establish long-term goals for success

by Navy Office of Information and NAS Key West Public Affairs

In order to improve warfighting capabilities and get the most out of Navy resources, the U.S. Navy is embracing a proven business model called Lean Six Sigma. Lean Six Sigma helps build a culture of continuous improvement.

"I value leaders who fully adopt Lean Six Sigma tools and apply these principles to their daily management practices," said Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter in a recent speech to Navy leaders. "Our focus needs to be in the areas of both strategic and tactical importance."

According to Winter, the Navy's leadership faces challenges fighting the global war on terrorism while at the same time, building a fighting force for an unknown future. He said the Navy is also pressured to get the most out of the taxpayers' dollars and the only way to do that is through greater efficiency and improving on the way we do our jobs. Lean Six Sigma practices provide the Navy a methodology that will help accomplish those goals.

Any organization that is involved with

transactions, provides some sort of service, or provides support to other missions can implement Lean Six Sigma. The four goals of the Lean Six Sigma business process are: increase the speed of decisions, transactions and paperwork; increase the quality of life in the workplace; reduce ownership costs; ensure all work is done in a safe way, according to operating procedures and in a clean environment.

The Secretary of the Navy has provided the framework for the way ahead with a Three Year Action Plan. The plan provides actions and goals in the areas of Leadership, Work Product (portfolio of High-Impact Core Value Streams) and Education and Training. Intense training has been conducted to build the capacity of trained leaders that will lead the Navy effort in implementing Lean Six Sigma. Those trained personnel are called "Black Belts" and "Green Belts" and they're trained to plan and execute projects and events. More than 4,000 personnel have completed training so far.

## Hendrickson passes command of VT-27 to Bowman

by Lt. Kelly Flynn, VT-27 Public Affairs

Commander Eric J. Hendrickson will be relieved by Commander Jay S. Bowman as Commanding Officer for VT-27 on May 11.

Hendrickson was born in Arcata, Calif., but grew up as a Navy dependent living all over the world. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a NROTC commission from Maine Maritime Academy in April 1988. He was designated a Naval Aviator in November 1989.

Upon completion of Fleet Replacement Squadron training at Patrol Squadron 30, he reported to the "Mad Foxes" of Patrol Squadron 5 in Jacksonville FL, where he served from June 1990 to April 1993. While assigned to VP-5, he served as Asst. Quality Assurance Officer, Weapons/Mining Officer, Av/Arm Division Officer and Asst. Maintenance Officer. He also deployed to Rota, Spain and the Eastern Mediterranean in support of "Operation Desert Shield" and "Operation Desert Storm," as well as Keflavik, Iceland and the North Atlantic.

In April 1993, Hendrickson reported to the Defense Language School Monterey, Calif. where he qualified as a Dutch and Spanish Linguist. After language school, he reported to the Naval Postgraduate School where he was awarded a Masters of Science in Operational Oceanography.

**Hendrickson**

Hendrickson then reported to USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) where he served from April 1996 to June 1998 as V-4 Division Officer, Air Department Training Officer and V-2 Division Officer. His qualifications included Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer and "Mini" Boss. In June 1998, he reported to Patrol Squadron 30, the P-3 FRS where he served as Administrative Officer and FRS Instructor Pilot. He reported to Brunswick, Maine and the "Old Buzzards" of Special Projects Patrol Squadron 1 for his Department Head tour in December

*VT-27 continued on page 6*

## Determining what matters with Lean Six Sigma

by Rear Admiral Mark Boensel, Commander Navy Region Southeast

**Boensel**

identifies and then eliminates waste in the process. "Six Sigma" ensures that we are doing things right the first time. It ensures that not only are we doing these things very well, but we are operating under a close tolerance so we don't have to do work over again.

The environment in which we work is, by definition, under-resourced. In our current

process, to get things done, we have to find better ways to accomplish the mission. We just can't afford to waste and redo work. Six Sigma tightens up variants in the process to ensure that we have a repeatable, reliable outcome and that we can produce the same reliable outcome every time.

Together, Lean and Six Sigma give us the complete spectrum of process improvement. This is not a new process. It's been widely used in business for some time and we are able to import business methodologies to the military. Some methodologies are very adaptable and some need to be adapted further to military concepts. The Navy operates under civilian control and oversight and our civilian leaders, such as the Secretary of the Navy, come from the commercial world. This link makes the LSS concept extremely workable for the military. In addition to keeping an open mind, go beyond embracing LSS to lean forward and push the process along.

In our system of government, leadership is civilian. Civilians exercise control and over-

*Admiral continued on page 12*

## From The Skipper

### Getting ready for summer!

by Capt. T.E. Coolidge

It's hard to believe that the Air Show is over and we're JUST getting started into the "busy" season for the summer. The first thing I want to say is DON'T FORGET Mother's Day! If you haven't made plans, it's not too late. Remember, it doesn't matter what you do as long as you remember your mother. She'll appreciate it.

Last year, some of you got a first-hand look at the tall ship, the ARC Gloria. Well, she returned for the second straight year and I confirmed the rumor that they enjoyed their first visit so much that they came directly here from Columbia. That says something about Texas hospitality. Many of

the midshipmen visited our base (more than 100) during their four-day stay here last year and did so again during their visit this year. If you came across any of the Columbian Sailors, I hope you stopped to say hello and made them feel very welcome.

We've also just wrapped up the Buccaneer Day's events downtown and I've heard from a lot of you that it was fun but a bit expensive. Yes, \$7 for a turkey leg seemed a tad high, but then again, it was a big leg! I know that it was easy for a family of four to drop \$100 for the day, but it is exciting to be in the middle of that crowd, having fun and watching other people enjoy themselves.

Now to the meat of this column; something for everyone is the Beach to Bay Relay Marathon on Saturday May 19. Last year, I ran in the event with five good friends (four named Tim, one named Jim...keeps it easy for us old guys when everyone's name sounds the same). Of course, being the Base CO, I quickly volunteered to run the leg through the base, which I later learned was the longest of

the six legs of the race!

For our team, Col. Tim Sassenrath, CCADCO, ran the first, and in my opinion, the toughest leg of the race. The first leg starts at Bob Hall Pier and it's all in the sand! Capt. Jim Rice, Hospital CO, took the second leg which takes you from Bob Hall Pier to the overpass on SPID by Snoopy's and Doc's. Cmdr. Tim Halenkamp, the Hospital's Director of Public Health Services (and rabbit of our group), ran the third leg. Tim ran over the big bridge and down that long straight-away towards the Base.

Then it was my turn. I started out great and came through the gate wearing a smile. But, as I began to tire, I was thinking I could walk a bit (after all, Tim Halenkamp bought me some time, right?). Of course, at every turn I came within sight of one our ever vigilant Security personnel. I had to maintain my healthy, hard-charging image (even if I'm the only one who believes it) so I sucked it up,

*Captain continued on page 12*

## Chaplain's Column

### On Mother's Day

by Chaplain Chin Van Dang

"You are an awful son," a mother said. "You've forgotten me on Mother's Day!" "So what?" replied her son. "A herring lays a million eggs a year and nobody remembers her either."

According to Judeo-Christianity, Moses received the Ten Commandments from God. One of them is, "Honor your father and your mother." The root of the Hebrew word for honor means to "weigh heavy." Honor takes many different forms: To a small child, honor means obedience. To an adolescent, it means respect. To an adult child, it means kindness, thoughtfulness, and care of parents.

The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. In 1600, England celebrated "Mothering Sunday," which honored the Mother of England. As Christianity spread throughout Europe, the celebration changed to honor the "Mother Church." Over time, the church festi-

val blended with the Mothering Sunday celebration. People began honoring their mothers as well as the church.

In 1879, a day honoring mothers was first suggested in the U.S. by Julia Ward Howe (writer of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic") in a Mother's Day Proclamation as a day dedicated to peace.

In 1907, Anna Jarvis began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day to celebrate the day on the second anniversary of her mother's death, the 2nd Sunday in May. She launched a vigorous letter writing campaign to ministers, businessmen, and politicians. The idea caught on so quickly that by 1911, most states were celebrating a form of Mother's Day. And in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson made the official proclamation that Mother's Day would be observed as a national holiday on the 2nd Sunday in May.

We honor our mothers because they suffered and sacrificed for their children. In pregnancy, at birth, in the early years of care, and the later years of letting go. Most of all, we honor

our mothers because God has commanded us to "...so that you may live a long time in the land the Lord your God is giving to you."

What will we do to honor our mothers this coming Sunday on May 13th? Perhaps thoughtful attention to their real needs would cheer them up!

Four brothers discussed the gifts they gave their elderly mother who lived far away in another state. The first said, "I had a big house built for mama." The second said, "I had a hundred thousand dollar theater built in the house." The third said, "I had my Mercedes dealer deliver an SL600 to her." The fourth said, "You know how mama loved reading the Bible and you know she can't



Dang

*Chaplain continued on page 12*

## Security Column

### Sponsoring your guests on base

by Training Chief Bradley Volkmer

Although many may question the use of the phrase, "Customer Service," most guests arriving at the station have their first taste of it when they are greeted by the gate sentry upon entering the installation. While many of us may see this as an inconvenience, the role these individuals play in protecting the installation is extremely important and often underappreciated and misunderstood.

For most of us, this process is rather easy: we already have decals on our vehicle and simply flash our Department of Defense or Contractor identification. For others who do not access the base on a regular basis, the process can be rather confusing and hopefully, the information here will alleviate some of that.

One of our most frequent areas of confusion seems to come in the form of sponsorship and escorting civilian guests on board the installation. For security purposes, a civilian guest is defined as "anyone who would not normally be granted access to the installation." All military, dependants, and civil service employees are authorized to sponsor guests aboard the installation; however the confusion comes in the definition of "sponsoring." If you are going to sponsor a guest, you must be present with that guest at all times they are aboard the installation unless they have been pre-approved for un-escorted access by the Commanding Officer. We see this quite often when family or friends are visiting from out of town and intend to use facilities such as the Navy Lodge or BOQ. These guests are fully authorized to take advantage of these services, but unless they have approval to be unescorted, you, as their sponsor, must accompany them at all times.

On any given week, the base also plays host to dozens of job-related visitors, as well as large scale social gatherings. Special procedures are in place to ensure these types of visitors have a smooth entry and are not unnecessarily delayed at the gate. In this case, the sponsor-

ing member must provide all required information to the Security Pass and Tag Office at least 48 hours prior to the arrival of their guest(s). The required security checks cannot be processed without this information. Upon the successful completion of these checks and approval by the Commanding Officer, the names of the guest(s) will be placed on an Approved Access List for the appropriate date(s) of their visit. This list will be maintained by the sentries at the gate, therefore eliminating the necessity for the sponsor to be present or for the guest to be directed to Pass and Tag.

As with most programs, communication is the key to success. If you will be sponsoring a guest, whether for personal or professional reasons, you are strongly encouraged to make contact with Base Security as soon as possible prior to your guest's arrival to work out the necessary details.

Another question that has arisen is the requirement for either a base decal or visitor pass for all vehicles gaining entry. Although many of you may be aware that other branches

*Security continued on page 10*

## Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi  
"Exceeding Expectations Through  
Pride In Performance"

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## Military Spouse of the Year recognized at AOSC Auction

by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

There were nine nominations for this year's All Officers' Spouses' Club of Coastal Bend (AOSC) Military Spouse of the Year competition. The winner was selected during the award ceremony and auction on April 20 at the Bay Club.

Criteria for the award included the nominee demonstrating exceptional volunteer work accomplishments, exhibiting a selfless giving to others in the community, exuding ongoing strength in enduring deployments and generating support for other military spouses and their families while "holding down the fort."

Nominations were submitted in a 500-words-or-less essays that depicted these attributes and went to a selection committee. Among the nominees were, Debra Yost, nominated by her husband; Kathleen Wehrung, nominated by Susan Fisher; Susan Warriner, nominated by Cmdr. Jeff Vielock; Rachel Temkin, nominated by Cmdr. Jim Fisher and Cmdr. Mike Leupold; Sarah Stewart, nominated by Cmdr. Brad Kidwell; Amy Pincelli, nominated by her husband Gabe, and Tambi Parker; Wendy Olson Killion, nominated by Cmdr. Joe Shipley; Morgan Diaz, nominated by Michelle Rybinski, and Marine Major James E. Buck, nominated by Cmdr. Julia Buck, his wife.

Susan "Susie" J. Warriner was recognized by Master of Ceremonies, Capt. Tim Coolidge, Base Commanding Officer, as the Military Spouse of the Year to a rousing audience response. She

smiled and stood astutely, surrounded by other nominees as some of her accomplishments were announced.

"Susie devotes an unprecedented amount of time to volunteer work. She is a Kingsville mainstay. She volunteers as a docent at the Conner Museum and the 1904 Railroad Museum - both requiring considerable study on her part. She volunteers at the Animal Rescue, Kingsville Center placing animals in homes, and has served as a committee volunteer for the Parade of Lights for two years..." reads part of the nomination.

"Susie was elected as the Secretary for the Kingsville Navy League and serves the community through fund-raising, highway clean-up, and myriad charity events benefiting organizations in the South Coast area..." continues the nominating submission.

Susie also made the decision to permit her oldest son to remain at the last duty station to complete his senior year in high school with his friends. He graduated early and with honors.

Although her command does not deploy, there have been 13 annual detachments. She takes an active role in preparing almost 300



Pictured from L to R: Marine Maj. James Buck, Wendy Olson-Lillion, Amy Pincelli, Teresa Coolidge, Sarah Stewart, Capt. Jim Rice (Honored Guest), Susie Warriner, Kathleen Wehrung, Debra Yost, and NASCC CO Capt. Tim Coolidge (Master of Ceremonies).

families for future deployments. She mentors spouses and provides a two-day seminar to help educate everyone about military life and associated challenges. She makes herself available to couples and routinely meets with them after working-hours to answer questions and offer help on overseas moves. She gives freely her experience

of 22 years of marriage that spans seven deployments and more than 10 moves while raising two children.

Each nominee provided those characteristics that make being in the military a special place to be. Although Susie Warriner was the recipient of this award, there were no losers in this group.

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## Child Development Center offers stimulating learning environment with staff of certified caregivers

by Anne Booher, Editor



Photo by L.L. Jig, Calib Booher, Asst. Public Affairs Officer

Children at the CDC learn "Anchors Aweigh," "The Navy Hymn," "The Marine Corps Hymn," "The Air Force Song," and many other patriotic tunes to perform when special guests come visit as well as ceremonies on-base.

The Child Development Center (CDC) at NASCC is not your average day care: Specialized, creative curriculums that deal with the needs of military children; a staff of certified caregivers who stay up-to-date with trainings every month; and one of the greatest playgrounds in Corpus Christi (complete with big, green dinosaur, built by the U.S. Navy SeaBees.

When parents deploy, children can go through a range of feelings dealing with separation and, in some cases, loss. If the parent (guardian) who stays with the child has to work, it can be a struggle to find a safe, caring environment where you feel comfortable leaving your child. With an attentive staff, thorough caregiver training, and amenities built with a child's needs in mind, it's not hard to see that this is a top-notch facility.

Children whose parent(s) are deployed will be monitored for changes and a teacher can work with them one-on-one if they show signs of sadness or irregular behavior. Parents are always welcome at the CDC. On any given day, you'll see parents visiting their children during lunch hour and helping them out with planned activities, such as planting a flower in the garden, searching for Easter eggs or reading them a story.

The CDC provides childcare for infants (six weeks old) through four years of age. The youngest group is the "Guppies," six weeks to twelve months, or until the child is walking. Next are the



Photo by L.L. Jig, Calib Booher, Asst. Public Affairs Officer

Briggs Blume (left), 14 months old, and MaKayla Gonzalez, 7 months old, play in the "Guppy" room at the CDC. For babies, the child-to-teacher ratio is 1:4.

As far as payment goes, each family's monthly fee is based on their income. If you would like drop-in child care (without registering your child), the fee is \$3 an hour.

Each child receives breakfast, lunch and a snack from the USDA approved facility. In addition to understanding childhood nutrition and portion sizes, caregivers at the CDC are thoroughly trained every month on first aid, safety, CPR, ergonomics, child abuse prevention training, and a range of other courses that help children stay healthy and safe. Corpus Christi summers have a tendency to be a bit warm and when the heat index topples 90 degrees, the kids have to come inside. While this might seem like a downer, the facility is adding a "Tumbling Room" where the children can play inside when it's too hot outside.

When they've worn themselves out in the playground or tumbling room, there's always something fun to do in the classrooms, such as music, song, dance, reading, or arts-and-crafts. CDC Director Patti Barclay says, "Instead of giving the children a pre-printed picture to color, the child will come up with a picture on their own. We love using creative art with children."

Patti has been with the CDC since December 2001, originally a Training and Curriculum Specialist, and has been working with children for decades. "The excitement you see when a child achieves something is the best part of my job," continues Patti. "There is never a dull moment. Every day is a challenge and you feel good when they accomplish something. These kids love you unconditionally."

The Center is open Mon-Fri 6:45 a.m.-5:15 p.m. and closed on holidays. Center resources are open to military and civilians/contractors working on-base. For more information on the Center, Hourly Child Care, or CDC Homes, please call Judy or Patti at 961-1165.

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#### Captain continued from page 2

pressed on and acted like I wasn't hurting and that this was a piece of cake. I had to do that, too, every time Bob Torres popped out of nowhere with a camera (pick up the pace, suck the gut in, and smile).

I completed my leg and passed the baton to Lt Col. Tim Orner, Defense Depot Corpus Christi CO, who ran from the back gate along Ocean Drive to Swanter Park. Cmdr. Tim McGuire, Coast Guard Sector Response Department Head, took over and ran the remaining leg to Cole Park.

My travel schedule doesn't allow me to participate this year, and I haven't run enough to help any team. But I'll make time for next year's event. Who knows, maybe I'll start running in the sand. See ya on the beach!

#### Admiral continued from page 1

sight of the military. Many civilian bosses are drawn out of the commercial world and public industry. I think, having seen it work in those places, they realize the opportunities to translate that into the Navy and become more business-efficient inside the Navy.

Navy leadership, starting at the top with the Secretary of the Navy, has seen LSS provide tremendous opportunities for us to leverage the resources we've been given. This is an exciting beginning and CNRSE is at the front end of the effort.

Our first class of Green Belts just finished training in the past three weeks. These are the "working level" folks, each of whom went away from their class with a project they are in the process of completing. There are many varieties of projects they're working in all the program areas. The initial indications, not surprising to me, are that there are things we can do to make our processes better. That, to me, is a lot of what LSS is about: improving the way we do work and eliminating things that don't add much value to the end product. It allows us to focus on what's important.

I think one of the major benefits of LSS to CNRSE is that at the end of the day, it allows the workers to concentrate on "stuff" that really matters. We can put aside aggravating "stuff," the tasks and processes about which you ask yourself, "Why are we doing it this way?" and decide whether we ought to stop doing something or continue doing it, but in a different way. LSS is a formalized way of determining what things matter and what we need to be doing, which is really the emphasis and the impetus for this implementation.

#### Chaplain continued from page 2

read anymore because she can't see very well. I met this preacher who told me about a parrot that can recite the entire bible. It took twenty preachers 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000 a year for twenty years to the church, but it was worth it. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot will recite it." The other brothers were impressed. Sometime later, they each received a thank-you note. Their mother wrote, "Milton, the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway."

"Michael, you gave me an expensive theater with Dolby sound. It could hold 50 people, but all of my friends are dead. I've lost my hearing and I'm nearly blind. I'll never use it. Thank you for the gesture just the same."

"Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay home. I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes. The though was good. Thanks."

"Dearest Melvin, you were the only son to have the good sense to give a little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious! Thank you."

## South Texas Sailors rally for 2007 Special Olympics Spring Games

Story and photo by Ed Mickley, PAO NMAWC

More than 400 Olympic athletes from 17 area schools assembled on the Kelly-green field of Flour Bluff High School Stadium on April 14 to compete in the 2007 Area 2 Special Olympic Spring Games. Each team was accompanied by a Navy, Coast Guard or Air Force Officer as they awaited their introduction to the crowd.

"These kids are incredible," Rear Admiral John N. Christenson, Commander Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command Corpus Christi stated. "They have a true love for the competition; you can see it in their faces."

A full day of Dashes, Runs, Walks, Wheelchair Races, Softball Throws, Shot Puts, and Long Jumps were scheduled for these special Olympians who seemed more than eager to have a chance to compete—none too shy to let the other teams know who would win.

Helping to ready the competitors for the events or award medals to the winners were a cadre of volunteers, including more than 70 from South Texas Navy Commands, directing event or award stations scattered throughout the track and field area.

Sailors and spouses from Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, Chief of Naval Air Training, Helicopter Mine Squadron 15, Afloat Training Group, Naval Station Ingleside, Naval Station Ingleside Blue Jackets Association, Naval Air Station First Class Petty Officers Association and Mine Countermeasures Crew Leader were excited to be on board and assist the Olympians.

"This is so neat, to be here with these kids," Electronics Technician 1st Class Kristie York said. "My son is here helping, having fun too."

Fifteen-year Games veteran Anna Louise Hall mentioned that volunteers, like the Navy folks, really make the games successful. The event has grown, and their help is so important, she added. After a slow, rumbling cruise around the track by the Patriot Guard Motorcycle Riders to begin the opening ceremonies, specially selected Olympians carried the symbolic flame around the stadium ending at the ceremonial Olympic Torch. A shifty breeze hindered lighting the traditional flame, but it didn't douse the enthusiasm on the field as the 2007 Spring Games began. Doves were released and soared above the field followed by chants and cheers from all-too-proud parents in the stands or on the field as their children were introduced by stadium announcer and "Volunteer of the Year" Steven King.

High-fives, cheers, wide-eyed grins and hugs were the order of the day as sailors handled racers or thrown softballs, measured long jumps, or handed out medals to the competitors.

"Mom, mom, I got the gold!" was heard from a smiling ear-to-ear youngster as he stood on the highest pedestal in the Runners Award stand after receiving his glistening medal. "This is such a special event for these kids," said Arnold Sosa, seven-year veteran coordinator for the Spring Games. "The volunteers, the schools, it all comes together for them to have a great event like this."



Training Air Wing Four Commodore, Capt. Dave Maynard stands among competitors in the 2007 Special Olympic Spring Games. More than 70 volunteers from Navy Commands assisted with the Games.

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**VT-27 continued from page 1**

1999 and served as Training and Maintenance Officer. During his tour, he served as Mission Commander and OIC on classified detachments. Hendrickson then reported to Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Md. where he served as the P-3 Asst. Program Manager Training Systems at NAVAIRSYSCOM PMA-205. He supported \$400 million in P-3 training systems and programmed more than \$200 million in P-3 flight and mission training systems upgrades.

In March 2005, Hendrickson reported to Training Squadron 27 as Executive Officer. He is married to the former Michelle "Mimi" Caron of Brunswick, Maine. They live in Corpus Christi with their two sons, Austen and Seth. Hendrickson's next assignment will be to the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington D.C.



**Bowman**

1987 with a Bachelor of Arts in Finance. He entered the Navy through OSU ROTC and was commissioned in June 1987. Bowman received his Wings in July 1989. Following training in the CH-46D helicopter, he was assigned to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 11 at NAS North Island, San Diego, CA, deploying aboard *USS Mount Hood* (AE-29) and *USS Flint* (AE-32). Bowman was next assigned to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 3, the West Coast H-46 Fleet Replacement Squadron, where he served as one of the squadron's first night vision goggle instructor pilots and the squadron operations officer until 1995.

Following this tour, he completed a two year disassociated sea tour onboard *USS Boxer* (LHD-4) and earned his Officer of the Deck/Command Duty Officer Underway qualifications. In 1998, he was selected for the Training and Administration of the Reserve program.

Bowman's first assignment was with Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 5, a CSAR/NSW squadron based at NAS Point Mugu, CA. During his department-head tour, he deployed for Exercises RIMPAC, TANDEM THRUST, COPE THUNDER, USAF Fighter Weapons School, and supported Carrier Air Wings in Fallon, NV.

He was next assigned as the Commander Helicopter Wing Reserve Operations Officer, coordinating the operations of five helicopter squadrons from 2001 to 2003. From June 2003 through September 2004, Bowman returned to the HCS community as Officer-in-Charge of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron FOUR (HCS-4) based at NAS Norfolk, Va. During his tenure, HCS-4 was mobilized and forward deployed in Iraq as part of the Joint Special Operations Aviation Detachment supporting the Joint Special Operations Aviation Command for "Operation Iraqi Freedom." From October 2004 to February 2005, Bowman was assigned as the Officer-in-Charge of HCS-4 detachment THREE based in Iraq.

Upon his return, Bowman was assigned to CHWR in San Diego, Calif. and served as Chief Staff Officer from March to November 2005.

He is married to the former Tammie Williams of Hampton, Va. They live in Corpus Christi, with their daughters Adia and Tessa.

In January 1995, he reported to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron ONE (VX-1) at NAS Patuxent River, Md. where he served as the Operational Test Director for the MH-53E helicopter and Airborne Mine Countermeasures projects and Aircraft Division Officer. He directed operational testing of the MH-53E Navigation/Communication System as well as the Airborne Laser Mine Detection System and was involved in the development of the AN/AQS-20 mine detecting sonar. Dowd was designated Aircraft Commander in the SH-60F/H and earned a Masters Degree in Management from the Florida Institute of Technology.



**Dowd**

Dowd reported aboard Pre-Commissioning Unit Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) in January 1998 where he served as the V-2 Division Officer, responsible for the operation and maintenance of all aircraft catapults, arresting gear and visual landing aids. In addition to commissioning CVN-75 and conducting work-ups, Dowd participated in the maiden voyage of USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74) and

qualified as Aircraft Launch and Recovery Officer.

Following this tour, he served briefly as the Executive Officer of the Airborne Mine Countermeasures Weapon Systems Training School prior to refresher training in the MH-53E at Helicopter Marine Training Squadron 302. In December 2000, he reported to HM-14 as the Administrative Officer before assuming the duties as MCM Maintenance Officer. Dowd deployed to Bahrain as the Officer in Charge of HM-14 Detachment ONE in October 2001 and led operations in support of "Enduring Freedom" following the attacks of 9/11. Upon his return, he served as the squadron's Aircraft Maintenance Officer until completing his tour in February 2003.

Dowd reported to the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. where he earned a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. In April 2004, he was assigned to Joint Task Force Civil Support at Fort Monroe, VA. He served as the Current Operations Chief (J33) and Joint Operations Center Chief from 2004 to 2006.

Dowd is currently serving as HM-15's Executive Officer at NASCC. He wears the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (5 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2 awards), and various unit and service awards.

Dowd is married to the former Cindra Myers of Seaford, Del. They reside in Corpus Christi with their daughters Riley and Kate, and son Jack.

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**Security continued from page 2**  
 of the service have removed this requirement on their installations, those policy changes are specific to their branch of service and are not yet DOD wide. The Department of the Navy is currently studying those changes and evaluating their practicality. Until further notice, all vehicles entering DON installations are still required to adhere to the same requirements we have all grown to love while waiting in line for new stickers.

Although you may still question the use of the phrase, we are truly attempting to provide you with quality "Customer Service," while still maintaining the necessary level of required security.

**HM-15 continued from page 1**

to deploy four aircraft to Merida, Mexico in direct support of the President of the United States. Within five days of receiving this order, four MH-53E aircraft were set to deploy along with 90 essential maintainers and aircrew. During this operation, the Blackhawks flew ninety-one hours and provided executive transport for Senior White House Staff, Secret Service and White House Press members, filling an aircraft availability gap for HMX-1. This operation also involved the first operational air-to-air refuel of a MH-53E helicopter.

Bennett's superlative performance as Commanding Officer, coupled with his extraordinary capability, drive, dedication and professionalism, have been instrumental to the squadron's ability to meet and exceed all the-

atre operational commitments while simultaneously supporting various fleet exercise and myriad CONUS tasking. His dynamic efforts have developed the squadron both professionally and morally and will have a lasting positive impact on the command. Commander Bennett will be turning over command of HM-15 to Commander Frank Dowd on May 18 and will be moving up to the Pentagon to work as Executive Staff for COMNAVRESFOR in Washington, D.C.

The Blackhawks of HM-15 would like to thank Skipper Bennett on a job well done and wish him and his family, "fair winds and following seas." "Once a Blackhawk, always a Blackhawk."

**COMMANDER FRANK DOWD**

Born and raised in Seaford, Delaware, Commander Frank J. Dowd graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and was commissioned through Aviation Officer Candidate School in May 1989. He was designated a Naval Aviator in September 1990.

Dowd then reported to Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron FOURTEEN (HM-14) in Norfolk, VA where he served as Training Officer and Aircraft Division Officer from 1991-1994. Dowd qualified as Airborne Mine Countermeasures Mission Commander and Functional Check Pilot and deployed aboard USS Inchon for Exercise "Blue Harrier '93" in the Baltic Sea and the Operational Test of the AN-37U deep water mine sweeping system.

## Family Readiness Groups gain official status from CNO

by Ken Thorn, Fleet and Family Support Center

Known as Spouses Clubs, Family Associations, or simply Support Groups, our Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) now have official stature and recognition provided by the Chief of Naval Operations. Issued in September of last year, OPNAVINST 1754.5 provides the first official guidelines for Command FRGs and makes them command-sponsored organizations. By instruction, Regional Commanders ensure that commands within their regions establish FRGs and provide them with logistical support for meetings, fundraisers, and activities to the fullest extent.

No longer are FRGs left to their own devices and resources, thanks to this official status. FRGs can make use of installation facilities, command vehicles and other equipment, newsletters, and websites. They can also conduct fundraisers on military installations. The instruction also establishes Family Readiness Alliances at the local installation level to provide coordinated services in support of our service members and their families.

The Family Readiness Alliance is a network of installation and civilian community organizations such as Ombudsman, Fleet and Family Support Centers, Chaplains, School Liaison Officers, Child Development Centers, Morale Welfare and Recreation, Navy League, Red Cross, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, the USO, Military One Source, and others.

FRGs plan, coordinate, and conduct social, informational, care-taking, and morale-building activities to enhance family readiness, thus enabling the Total Navy Family to meet mission and military family lifestyle challenges.

In addition to providing activities and support during deployments, such as farewells and homecomings, the FRGs mentor new family members and welcome new families to the installation, provide assistance in times of personal, unit, or area crises, facilitating family member attendance at orientation sessions, and providing social events (for example, holiday and children's parties) and activities. FRGs include not only command members and their immediate families, but also parents, other family members, and friends.

In order to provide a more efficient structure for the FRGs, the instruction also provides a formal group of officers and chairpersons. They can also have a more simplified, streamlined structure consisting of a Chairperson, Program Coordinator, Secretary/Treasurer, and Committee Chairperson. The Commanding Officer may appoint one or more volunteer advisors to the group, usually a spouse of a senior command member.

Commanding Officers may appoint other designated family support volunteers within the group; often spouses of command members. These appointed volunteers may serve on committees or perform other Family Readiness Group volunteer duties as approved by the Commanding Officer. As designated volunteers, their expenses can be reimbursed and they will be provided liability coverage. And lastly, and for many of our families, most importantly, small commands no longer must "go it alone." The instruction allows smaller commands to join together or with other larger commands to form an FRG.

For more information on FRGs at NASCC, please contact Ken Thorn at the Fleet and Family Support Center at (361) 961-1673.

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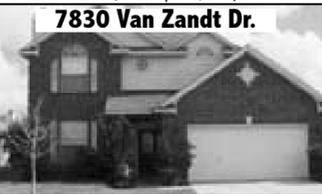
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# AROUND THE BASE IN 2007

## Earth Day · April 22



Jaxson Gage, 20 months old, fills in the dirt around his newly-planted marigold on Earth Day. Children at the Child Development Center got their hands dirty on April 20 and planted flowers in the Center's garden. Each age group was able to plant flowers of their choice in a different section of the garden. So, if you're driving past, take a look at the CDC's front yard and see what a beautiful place they've made!



In recognition of Earth Day, volunteers from NASCC & NS Ingleside Environmental Offices, US Fish & Wildlife Service and TX Parks & Wildlife Dept. installed signs depicting information about local wildlife and ecosystems important to South Texas. The signs were placed in and around Shields RV Park and the Marina as part of an educational outreach project funded by NASCC Natural Resources program. Signs include information on Migratory Songbirds, Waterfowl, Shore birds, Wading birds, Birds of Prey, Saltwater Marshes, Local Wildlife and How to be a Better Boater. From L to R: Lee Harbison (NSI), Capt. Timothy Coolidge, Rich Riddle, Pat Clements (USFWS), Russell Hooten (TPWD).

## All Officers' Spouses' Club Auction · April 20



Lt. Doug Jones and his wife, Michelle, bid on one of the many items at the All Officers' Spouses' Club silent auction held at the Bay Club on April 20. More than \$6640 was raised during the All Officers' Spouses' Club of the Coastal Bend Auction held at the Bay Club on April 20. The money raised will go to Navy Marine Corps Relief and the USO. Among the prizes were hand-crafted baskets and quilts, barbecue grill and accouterments and a myriad of items the audience could bid on.

"The priciest item was a six-month membership to the Athletic Club," said Lorri Halenkamp, auction coordinator. "It was better than last year because we doubled the number of items in our silent and live auction. All together this brought in more than \$2000. Air Force Major Jason Towns played the role as auctioneer and brought his own style of humor to the podium, which livened up the room to laughter and many raised bidder's paddles. "It was a pleasure to be able to put together such a fun event," said Halenkamp. "The money goes to such worthy charities."

## Sergeant with Corpus Christi roots is career photographer for Air Force



Flour Bluff native Tech. Sgt. Trish Bunting (right), a Basic Still Photography instructor at the Defense Information School Fort George G. Meade, Md., is re-enlisted by her father, Cmdr. Benjamin F. Hackney, USN, Ret. (left). Cmdr. Hackney, a 26-year veteran, is a former Executive Officer of NAS Corpus Christi. Bunting graduated from Flour Bluff High School in 1989 and joined the Air Force in 1990. She is married to Matt Bunting and they have two children, Zakk, 12, and Chelsea, 9. Her mother, Mrs. Georgia Ann Hackney, and father reside in Flour Bluff.

# AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Winging Ceremony · April 20



(Back row) The Official Party includes (from left to right): Chaplain, Cmdr. Chin Dang; MATSG-22 Executive Officer, Lt. Col. Nate Cook; Guest Speaker, CTW-4 Chief Staff Officer, Cmdr. "Rusty" Kasupski; VT-31 Executive Officer Cmdr. Joe Shipley; VT-31 CO, Lt. Col. Jon Ullman; CNATRA Chief of Staff, Capt. Dave Grimland.

Wingees listed alphabetically - VT-31: Ensign Lazarus C. Agrapides; Ensign Matthew R. Albright; Lt. j. g. Kevin K. Blake; 2nd Lt. Amy T. Busch; 2nd Lt. James A. Chongris; 2nd Lt. Geoffrey B. Connick; 2nd Lt. Steven W. Freeman; Ensign Jared B. McCaleb; 2nd Lt. Ryan D. McDonald; 1st Lt. John R. Menzel; 1st Lt. Curtis R. Ruback; VT-35: 1st Lt. Brian L. Desautels; Ensign Zachary P. Holbus; Ensign Bryan W. Kroncke; Ensign Alexander S. Plumer; 2nd Lt. Thomas M. Pritchett; Ensign Scott J. Sides (Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography)

## Commodore's List · Boomers do it again



For the fourth week in a row, the VT-27 Boomer's have added another student to the Commodore's list. This award was presented to Ensign Kurtis Scoby for sustained superior performance in ground academics and flight performance above that of his peers.

Ensign Sean Harrington also met with the Commodore to receive an official Blue Angel photograph picturing Ens. Harrington and the Blue Angel Team. The Blue Angels chose a Boomer to ride along during this month's airshow.

Pictured are VT-27 XO Commander Jay S. Bowman, Ensign Kurtis Scoby, Ensign Sean Harrington, and Captain David M. Maynard, Commodore Training Wing Four.

## Nurse promoted to Lieutenant



Lt. Catherne Pully (left) promotes Jeff Murse to Lieutenant during a visit from JAG Rear Admiral Bruce McDonald (middle). Lt. Murse, of the Navy Legal Services Office, is a regular contributor to the Wingspan through the "Legal Corner." During Rear Admiral McDonald's visit, a briefing was held with the NASCC JAG Unit discussing their vision and projected goals for the next 20 years.