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Wingspan

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Journey's end: A Navy wife's perspective

Photo and story by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

There's a bit of sadness and joy that emanates from the wife of a Navy master chief as she reminisces on her time in the Navy. Maria A. Cisneros has been married to NAS Corpus Christi's Command Master Chief Miguel "Mike" Cisneros, Jr. for 23 years. During a ceremony June 22, he will retire from the Navy with more than 30 years of service.

"I've been married four times to the same man," said Maria. "First in Philippines in 1984, we got married in St. Pius Catholic Church. Then we got married, in a legal capacity, for the Navy. Then when the ship got back to the Philippines, we got married again. When we arrived in the US in August 1984 we got married again."

With eyes twinkling, she remarked, "If I want to get divorced, it will take four times. I really think he just always wanted to keep me."

And although Maria loves the Navy, it wasn't always easy. "Coming from the Philippines, I was dependent upon a lot of people," she recalls. "Coming here was a rude awakening in 1984. When I got to the US, my husband was out to sea from San Diego. I had to learn to be independent. There were a lot of challenges, especially when your husband is out to sea, so I needed the support of my family and friends. They helped

me deal with those challenges. You have to be strong. Like they say, being a military wife is the toughest job in the world. When your husband is gone, everything will fall apart. Taking care of the children is number one, taking care of the car, getting to the hospital, everything. I had to learn all that stuff."

And maybe it was more difficult because coming from overseas, there was a definite culture shock.

"In the Philippines, before I was married, I went to Catholic school from Kindergarten and through college," recalls Maria. "My parents were upper-middle class, so we had maids and a driver and we had bus service that picked us up for school. My parents were both in business. My dad had a slaughter house and my mom has a grocery and bakery shop. They're still in the Philippines, but they come here every six months to visit us."

One of her sisters is a DoD school nurse for the Army located in Germany. Another sister is an RN in Los Angeles, another sister lives in Sacramento and she has a brother still in the Philippines.

"Raising two kids is really difficult, especially for the youngest one," continued Maria. "Out of the 30 years my husband was in the

Navy, for almost 20 of them, he was out to sea. So for the kids, it was tough. I was constantly talking to them. They are my first priority. For my girls, I was wearing two hats. I was the mother and the father. I always would go to their field trips. Most of all I tried to be a good example for them, to be a good role model.

"The many places we traveled affected them, especially Angela," said Maria. "We were in Japan for six years, so the hardest was when Angela was in school and we had to transfer to Korea. All her friends were in Japan, after six years, so that move was hard for her."

"I remember when they were small, especially for Avelen, my husband was only there for three of her birthdays. Avelen said, 'Mom why are my friend's dads home for their birthdays and mine is never here?' You have to explain to them why, and sometimes that's not easy. She was small. I'd tell her, 'You know what, your Dad has a very important job - and that's why he's not here. Your dad is always in your heart.'

"I'd tell her to tell her friends that her daddy is a hero. She said, 'If he's a hero, is Cisneros continued on page 8



Maria Cisneros sits beside her husband, Command Master Chief Mike Cisneros. In 23 years of marriage, Maria has shown constant support for her family and has also served in the Navy Reserves.

The Heritage of our Independence

by Lt. j.g. Caleb Booher, Asst. Public Affairs Officer

Sure, we all know what 1776 means and if someone asked you about the Declaration of Independence, you would probably be able to describe it in general terms. But have you ever thought about the world-changing effect this document had? What was it about this document that was so resounding, so unprecedented, so monumental?

The significance of the Declaration comes from Thomas Jefferson's claim about the "origin of rights." Until the Declaration, individual rights were granted and bestowed by kings and governments. A person only had a right to life because his governments allowed it. But what gave kings and governments the right to bestow rights? Strength? Bloodline? Divine authority?

Jefferson's Declaration shattered centuries of tradition in a single sentence. Where do rights come from?

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Jefferson declared our rights, the rights of all human beings, originated with our Creator, not our government! But he didn't stop there; he went on to claim that when governments subvert or deny these rights, "it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its

powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Our Declaration not only changed Europe and the Americas, it transformed the entire world. American freedom is the direct result of the American belief about the divine origin of human rights. And in only 231 years since the Declaration, our freedom has produced some of the most significant people and things ever seen on the earth.

From the cotton gin to the abolition of slavery, from the Internet to the personal computer, from the skyscraper to aviation, the majority of the world's greatest achievements over the last two centuries have originated here, on these shores and plains and mountains we call America.

For better or for worse, it is our founding belief in the divine rights of all peoples and the conviction that free, self-governing peoples advance peace and prosperity that have taken us into places like Germany and Japan, Korea and Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq.

On this Fourth day of July, and on every day of your life as an American, respect our flag, support our military, love your nation and fellow Americans. But above all, never forget your heritage and the founding principles upon which this great nation was formed. For once that heritage is forgotten and disappears, America will be no more.

From The Skipper

Independence Day and a farewell

by Capt. T.E. Coolidge

The year is flying by and we're approaching the 4th of July, our Independence Day. For those of us here in South Texas, it means warm weather, and barbecue! I'm a big barbecue fan - most of it pork, since I grew up in Tennessee. I know we're in Texas where beef barbecue is king, so please don't hold it against me! While we're on the subject of barbecue, if you haven't stopped by to visit Smokeshack Bar-B-Que, you owe it to yourself to try a meal there. To me, it's the best barbecue in



Coolidge

town (and, no, I'm not just saying that because I'm the CO). Trust me, you'll like it! Here's the "Be Safe" plug you're expecting. Some of you have already gotten your first sunburn for the year. That's not a good thing. Please ensure that you and your children wear sun block so no one has to go to the hospital for severe sunburn or other related symptoms. Sunscreen is a simple and easy way to prevent an unplanned doctor's visit and will prevent future skin problems as you get older.

Okay, let's get back to what the holiday means. We owe our independence as a nation to those who have gone before us. This is our home - the greatest nation on earth. For those of you who have served overseas or spent time away on a deploy-

ment, I think you'll agree with me that there's nothing quite like coming home. It doesn't matter where you've been or how long you're away, home is that comfortable place you've missed. Here in the United States, we have luxuries that other Nations crave and we sometimes forget how good we have it.

Our forefathers (and mothers) suffered trials and hardships to make this country great. I urge you to express your thanks in whatever way you like (for me, it's through prayer) for our country, the military members who have died for our freedom and are fighting for our nation, and our families who keep us motivated and strong. There are

Captain continued on page 14

Chaplain's Column

The American Flag

by Chaplain Chin Van Dang

A kindergarten teacher was showing her class an encyclopedia page picturing several national flags. She pointed to the American flag and asked, "Whose flag is this?" A little girl called out, "That's the flag of our country." "Very good," the teacher said. "And what is the name of our country?" "Tis of thee," the girl said confidently.

Have you ever noticed the honor guard pay meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag? Do you know the meanings behind this military tradition?

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weak human nature, for as American citizens

trusting in God, we turn to Him in times of peace, as well as in times of war, for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our hearts that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they are found inside or outside the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to woman-

hood, and mothers, for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold represents the power portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in the Hebrew's eyes, the God of



Dang

Chaplain continued on page 14

Legal Corner

The smart way to buy or finance a new car

by Lt. j.g. Candice Albright, JAGC

First rule of car buying: automobile dealers are out for a profit. No matter how friendly the salesman is, or how many times you have bought a vehicle from that particular dealer, the bottom line is that auto dealers are always looking for this one thing only. Some dealers use their experience, sales tactics and financing agreements to take advantage of your inexperience and lack of knowledge in order to ultimately get more money from you than they should. However, if you plan ahead and arm yourself with the right information, you can avoid a lot of the scams and nightmares that unfortunately have become all too common in car sales.



Albright

Contrary to popular belief, new car dealers do not make much money from the actual sale of the car. The real profit is in

the financing and "extras." The same is mostly true for used car dealers; while they have the potential to make much more profit on individual transactions than new auto dealers (because of the difference in cost of the car and the sale price), used auto dealers still push vehicle financing to increase their profit. Also, being a military member can have its disadvantage in that automobile dealers know government employees have job security, regular paychecks and our income is public knowledge.

To you, car buying may seem casual and unplanned, but dealers have a plan for you the moment you walk in the door. You need to look out for certain things that give auto dealers a greater advantage over you. For example: the salesman asks you to leave your driver's license while you go out for a test drive. The reason behind this is that while you are out driving the car, another salesman is back at the office running a credit report on you. The salesman now know your income, payment capacity, assets and credit history, and most likely have come up with their finance offer without so

much as an "I'm interested in negotiating" coming out of your mouth. By this time it's too late. Their information power gives the dealer the ability to direct you to a vehicle and package "you can afford" a.k.a. one that gives them a higher profit. Also, be on the lookout for any extra options and warranty packages they try to offer you, because they are often expensive and unnecessary.

Second rule of car buying: do not finance at the dealer if at all possible. If you finance with the dealer, you can easily fall prey to the biggest money-maker in all of car sales - the dealer financing agreement. Be wary if an auto dealer tells you right away that your financing has been approved. Most dealerships do not have the capital to finance vehicle purchases for you. What can (and often does) happen is that the dealer says you have been approved for vehicle financing of X amount per month, at X rate and for X number of years. They retain the title and tell you they will

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Wingspan

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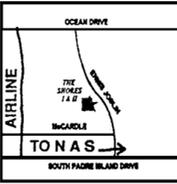
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Relocating? Utilize these tools to make your move easier
 by Rick Speller, FFSC Relocation Services Specialist

Welcome to the next generation of tools designed to assist military members and their families before, during and after a move. Moving doesn't have to be a frightening task! Plan My Move (PMM) and Military Installations (MI) are new helpful features from the folks at Military Homefront. Since the establishment of the Relocation Assistance Program in 1989, we have seen military relocation tools evolve along with advances in technology. The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) has managed our Standard Installation Topics Exchange Service (SITES).

As of May 1, SITES is no longer available. The Office of the Secretary of Defense, primary sponsor of the SITES web based site, has made the transition to providing relocation information through informative new programs designed to help you plan and carry out a PCS move with maximum confidence and minimum stress.

Plan My Move and Military Installations are available through both Military OneSource (visit their website at: www.militaryonesource.com) and Military Homefront (visit their website at: www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil). These customizable and interactive tools provide predictable, high quality information and resources to help you take charge of your PCS Move.

Plan My Move also provides information regarding your entitlements and benefits, points of contacts, checklists, planning tools, and information on education and employment. This web-based program allows you and your family to more effectively manage your moves. In the program, you have the option of storing the entries right on the site, plus it allows for creating a custom plan and calendar designed just for you and your family. With a custom plan, you don't have to reenter your information each time you return. You just sign-in and get to work!

Your Relocation Services Specialist will soon provide additional installation-specific input into these applications. Access to the latest tools and technologies will allow more time for your individual consultation and general PCS support in order to better prepare you and your family for relocation.

You can visit the Fleet and Family Support Center, 4th deck Naval Hospital, or call 961-2861. Start planning your next move with renewed confidence. Be sure to visit Military Installations for maps, photos, and directories of programs and services throughout the world.

If you're coping with the deployment of a family member, there is help.
 by Kathy Rock, FFSC IA Coordinator

Every family has difficulty coping with problems from time to time. Pressures can become so great that many areas of life are affected. The military has a number of agencies to assist in coping with the unique stressors of families with a deployed servicemember. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness. It shows that you are concerned about your family and are willing to take action to deal with the issues facing them.

The purpose of the Individual Augmentees (IA)/Deployment Support Group is to enable family members to establish and operate within a system through which they can effectively gather information, solve problems and maintain a system of mutual support. The support group can assist in reaching a solution or more importantly, preventing problems associated with deployment. The success of a Support Group is dependent upon family members' interaction with others who are experiencing a similar hardship. This interaction creates a network that helps everyone solve issues and discuss concerns in an effective and personal manner. The goals of the Deployment Support Group are to integrate the family members into a support system, assist families in gathering and disseminating information and identifying resources available through the military in the local community. Support groups work to enhance an overall feeling of belonging, control, self-reliance, and self-esteem.

The Fleet and Family Support Center will be sponsoring a Support Group for all family members of Individual Augmentees and deployed service members. The group will meet Monday, July 9th at 7 p.m. at the USO (Bldg. 3). Child care will be provided at the Child Development Center but you must RSVP no later than July 3rd in order to obtain child care services.

This is an opportunity to meet other spouses who need support during deployment. This group is open to all branches of service. If you have any questions or to RSVP, please contact Maria Bullock at 961-1786.

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The 2006 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (The Wingspan, June 7) includes the charts below, which were not printed. We apologize for the oversight. For more information on this report, please contact the Environmental Department at (361) 961-3776.

Lead and Copper

Year	Contaminant	The 90 th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2005	Lead	2.1	0	15	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
2005	Copper	0.17	0	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

Total Organic Carbon

Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection byproducts. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs) which are reported elsewhere in this report.

Year	Total Organic Carbon	Average	Range of Detected Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2006	Source Water	6.06	5.5 - 6.76	ppm	Naturally present in environment.
2006	Drinking Water - Plant 1	4.26	3.92 - 4.51	ppm	Naturally present in environment.
2006	Drinking Water - Plant 2	4.20	3.80 - 4.66	ppm	Naturally present in environment.
2006	Removal Ratio - Plant 1	1.14	0.98 - 1.38	ppm	Naturally present in environment.
2006	Removal Ratio - Plant 2	1.17	1.04 - 1.44	ppm	Naturally present in environment.

Total Coliform

Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are harder than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

Year	Contaminant	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2006	Total Coliform Bacteria	1	*	Presence	Naturally present in environment.

* Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% or more of the monthly samples.

Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated (No associated adverse health effects; Results for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi & the City of Corpus Christi)

Year or Range	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Constituent
2004	Aluminum	0.133	0.133	0.133	50	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2006	Bicarbonate	112	112	112	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2004	Calcium	49.4	49.4	49.4	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2006	Chloride	140	140	140	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
2004	Copper	0.001	0.001	0.001	1	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
2006	Hardness as Ca/Mg	204	204	204	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
2004	Magnesium	8.1	8.1	8.1	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2004	Manganese	0.0011	0.0011	0.0011	.05	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2006	pH	8	8	8	7	units	Measure of corrosivity in water.
2004	Sodium	90	90	90	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2006	Sulfate	66	66	66	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2006	Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	112	112	112	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2006	Total Dissolved Solids	441	441	441	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.

Data below shows results for the City of Corpus Christi that were not presented on the previous pages.

Inorganic Contaminants, Unregulated Contaminants, Turbidity and Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated: DATA SHOWN ABOVE

Organic Contaminants: TESTING WAIVED, NOT REPORTED, OR NONE DETECTED

Fecal Coliform

Fecal coliform bacteria and, in particular, *E. coli*, are members of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals and are passed into the environment through feces. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria (*E. coli*) in drinking water may indicate recent contamination of the drinking water with fecal material.

Year	Contaminant	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2006	Fecal Coliform & <i>E. coli</i>	3	*	Presence	Naturally present in environment.

* A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or *E. coli* positive.

Celebrate the 4th of July!



Downtown Corpus Christi

7 a.m. at Heritage Park: Bayfront Run by Corpus Christi RoadRunners. Visit their website at www.corpusroadrunners.com

3 p.m. at Sherrill Park: Independence Day Patriotic Ceremony

5:40 p.m. at the Bayfront/Marina: U.S. Coast Guard Search and Rescue Demonstration

4 p.m.-6 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Cole Park: Concert in the Park

9:30 p.m. at Downtown Bayfront: H-E-B Independence Day Fireworks Display

Patriotic Ceramics Contest and Silent Auction on June 30!

Paint a patriot! Design a flag with flying colors! And maybe you'll win the Patriotic Ceramics Contest. All you have to do is stop by the Ceramics shop, pick a mold or pre-made greenware and show the world your talent with red, white and blue. Throughout the day, a silent auction will be held for certain pieces and the money collected will go to various charitable organizations at NAS Corpus Christi. The judging will be held on June 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the shop. For more information, please call Clarice at 961-7459

Red, White & Blue Parade at Child Development Center

On July 3, children at the CDC will form a patriotic parade at 9 a.m. to the Youth Activities building in honor of the Fourth of July. Be sure to give them a wave if you see them!

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

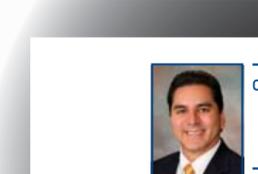


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Summer Activities at NAS Corpus Christi

Bluegrass jam session at the Marina Pavilion on June 22!

Head on out to the Marina Pavilion on Friday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy the vocal and musical talents of Monte Reitz, Richard 'Catfish' Steinborn, Garth Aldrich, and Jay 'Machine Gun' Woelkers. What better way to end your week? For more information, call Bill Love at 961-3745.

Ceramics Children's Workshop
 Every Thursday, bring your child to the Ceramics Shop to enjoy a morning of ceramic painting and projects! The class is from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and students will take home a new project each time. Sign up for four weeks at \$20 a class, \$15 per child for multiple children, or \$25 for individual classes. The shop is located on E Street past the Gonzalez Liberty Center. For more information, please call Clarice at 961-2459.

Windsurfing and sailing classes
 Weekends at the Marina, you'll find a group of folk on Laguna Madre enjoying the ever-present Corpus Christi wind, either by windsurfing or sailing. Come out on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and take windsurfing or sailing classes and then practice what you've learned out on the water. Or come by to fish, rent camping equipment or grab a kayak for the afternoon. To find out which training session is being offered this weekend, call the Marina at 961-1293.

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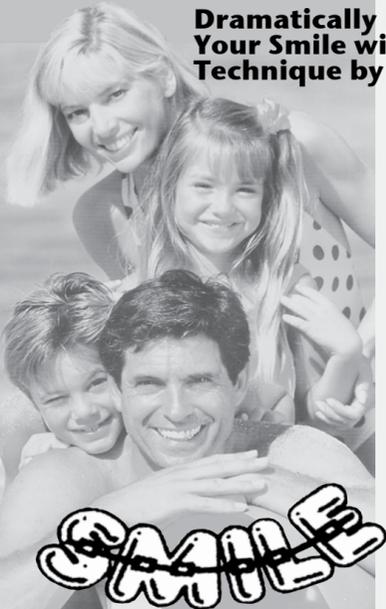
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Volunteers needed at Navy Marine Corps Relief Society

by Brandi Byrum, NMCRS Volunteer

Do you want to make a difference in a servicemember's life? Volunteering for the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society will help you do just that. If you find it difficult to get a job while moving from duty station to duty station or if you would like to dedicate some of your free time to helping service members in need, NMCRS is exactly what you're looking for.

Volunteering at NMCRS will build your resume while giving you experience in budgeting, computer skills, retail sales, publicity, financial awareness, and working with people. NMCRS is committed to the principle of volunteer service and giving volunteers the opportunity to administer the programs of the society. There are more than 3,000 offices worldwide with 3,400 volunteers, making this job easy to continue wherever the military may send you and your family. The Corpus Christi office has positions open in reception, casework, and thrift shop sales.

Receptionists are responsible for greeting new clients, processing the initial application for NMCRS assistance, answering telephones, and other clerical work.

Caseworkers assist clients in completing a budget, assessing the needs of the client, providing assistance and resources, and helping the client work toward financial security.

Thrift Shop volunteers set up displays, complete sales, and collect and

sort donated items. NMCRS will train volunteers in a group or individual basis. The society will also reimburse you for mileage and for childcare during volunteer times. Hours are flexible and at the volunteer's convenience. NMCRS appreciates any amount of time volunteers can contribute.

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society has served military personnel since 1904. The mission of the society is to provide emergency financial assistance to service members and their families in times of need. The Relief Society also provides such services as Budget for Baby, Visiting Nurse Program, Layettes, Combat Casualty, and a Thrift Shop. Last year, the Corpus Christi office assisted 357 cases with \$338,308. The local fund drive raised \$92,723 with 100 per-

cent of the money earned going right back to the service members.

The society relies heavily on volunteers. "I love volunteering with NMCRS because it enables me to learn new skills that will help me when I decide to go back to work. I enjoy helping other military families and learning about the different resources available to them," said Jennifer Fisher, a volunteer caseworker.

You will have a chance to meet people and make friendships that can last a lifetime. One person can make a difference and that person could be you! If you have any questions or you would like to start volunteering, call Amy Pincelli, NMCRS Volunteer Coordinator, or Tambi Parker, NMCRS Director, at 961-3482.




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Did you know...

Volunteering at your local Navy-Marine Corps Relief Office may add years to your life?

A 10-year study at the University of Michigan found that people who did no volunteer work died at an earlier age than those who volunteered at least once a week. Volunteering has added benefits: a sense of accomplishment, a dose of self-respect, and a boost of self-confidence. It can also serve as a reminder that, relatively speaking, your troubles might not be as severe as they seem.

NMCRS Volunteers are men and women, civilian and military - active duty and retired, officer and enlisted, and their family members. Maybe even you!

For more information, call 961-3482 or visit www.nmcrcs.org.

Legal continued from page 2

get the vehicle titled and registered for you. Texas law requires people to have their vehicles registered within 20 days of purchase. If the dealership has agreed to take care of the title and registration for you, then they must have it done within that time period. Be on the lookout for the dealership taking too long with your vehicle title and registration - this is a tell-tale sign that they are "shopping" your finance agreement around to lenders. Remember, it is only once you take the car home that the dealer starts the real profit-making process of "dealer financing."

Dealer financing, in many instances, is actually the process of the dealer offering your vehicle financing agreement up for sale to the highest-bidding financial institution. Often, dealerships will offer you an initial, lower interest rate, but after "shopping" your finance agreement to lenders, a lender will not bid on it at that rate because the lender does not approve of your financing based on your credit history. The dealer is forced to re-negotiate with you - sometimes so subtly that you do not know it happens - in order for them to make more money. On the other hand, if you do qualify for a low interest rate from the lender, there is the risk that the dealer will adjust the rate up to you and thereby make its profit. Either way, you are paying more than you should for your vehicle.

How can you prevent all of this from happening? Third rule of car buying: plan ahead. The best avenue is to pay cash for a vehicle. You have much greater bargaining power and you essentially take a huge advantage away from the auto dealer. If you know you might need another vehicle in three years, speak to a financial planner or a money-wise friend and start a savings plan. If you absolutely must have a car that is not within your means, then try to obtain a loan from a friend or a lender that provides auto loan checks. This way, you avoid the financing scams of auto dealers altogether.

Fourth rule of car buying: follow the advice of Virginia attorney Thomas Domanoske on the car-buying process: 1) Leave yourself time to shop for a car (if possible) and make it easy to walk away from a deal 2) Investigate the car's history using Carfax or some other research tool 3) Have a mechanic look at the car before purchase 4) Research the reasonable price for the car 5) If you are a credit consumer, then you should take a copy of the Truth in Lending Act disclosures and comparison shop the credit terms with at least one other lender before agreeing to any credit 6) Read all the contract documents 7) Check that numbers and promises are accurate and in writing 8) Consumers should demand to observe the dealer signing title to the car over to the consumer and ensure that the signed title is delivered immediately to their state's Department of Motor Vehicles or title agency [in Texas, it is the Texas Department of Transportation].

Be smart, plan ahead, and most of all, remember what to look out for when buying a new or used automobile.

Call the NLSO at 961-3765 for more information on automobile dealer financing. Appointments can be scheduled at the Navy Legal Services Office to address specific issues from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



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Captain continued from page 2

plenty of family members and friends serving us far away lands, standing in harm's way so we can enjoy our barbecues here at home. We're lucky to live in the land of the free!

It's also a good time to say a word of thanks to someone who has stood the watch for more than 30 years, our own Command Master Chief Mike Cisneros. The Master Chief retires tomorrow. And the first thought is, he will be greatly missed. He was already here when I checked in, so I guess I can say he took me under his wing and brought me up-to-speed on NAS Corpus Christi and his Sailors. There was no doubt that they were his Sailors, but he was willing to share them with me as long as I knew the rules.

One thing I will say about Master Chief Cisneros, and the XO will agree with me, is that he's not shy. If he has something on his mind, he lets me know. That's one of his characteristics I truly appreciate. The XO and I have always been able to rely on him for his good judgment, sound counsel, and straight-forward approach to problem solving.

There's another person who's been a part of the Navy for many years who will be sorely missed. Maria Cisneros, the CMC's wife, has stood the test of time right by his side. She, too, has given selflessly to the base and everyone who lives and works here. She's served as the Base Ombudsmen when we needed her most. Like the CMC, Maria has made a difference. There is a dignity and kindness in both of them that I see blossoming in their daughters Angela and Avelen, too.

As we say good-bye to this great family, it's almost not enough to say, "Fair Winds and Following Seas." Maybe from the Gaelic I should add, "... and until I see you again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand."

Command Master Chief Cisneros and Maria, thank you for your selfless dedication to the Sailors and the unfathomable contributions you've made to our Navy. Your devotion, service, honor and down-right goodness will be missed!

To everyone, enjoy the summer...and I'll see ya on the beach!

Chaplain continued from page 2

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The twelfth fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The thirteenth fold, or when the flag is completely folded, only the stars are visible, reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat. This serves as a reminder of the soldiers who served under General George Washington; Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones; their comrades and shipmates who followed them in the Armed Forces of the United States, therefore preserving for us their rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

Don't forget safety just because it's summer!

by Asst. Chief Jerry Garza, NASCC Fire and Emergency Services

NAS Corpus Christi Fire & Emergency Services would like to offer the following safety tips for summer days at the beach or pool, barbecuing, and outdoor safety.

When using barbecue grills on decks or patios, be sure to leave sufficient space from siding and eaves. Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use and be sure to keep children and pets away from grills. With charcoal grills, only use charcoal starter fluids designed for barbecue grills. Do not add fluid after coals have been lit. With gas grills, be sure that the hose connection is tight and check hoses carefully for leaks. Applying soapy water to the hoses will easily and safely reveal any leaks. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and have the grill repaired by a professional, if necessary.

When heading out for a day at the beach or by the pool, adults and children should use extra caution. Notice the boundaries of the approved swimming areas and do not swim outside of them. Supervise children at all times, especially in and near water and make sure that children learn to swim. Check the depth of the water with a lifeguard before jumping in. Always wear a US Coast Guard-approved Personal Floatation Device (PFD) when boating, jet-skiing, tubing or water-skiing. Air-filled swimming aids, like water wings or inner tubes, are not substitutes for approved PFDs. An adult should always supervise children using these devices.

If you plan on spending a few hours

fishing out on a boat, be sure to extinguish all smoking materials and shut down motors, fans and heating devices before fueling. In case of a spill, wipe up fuel immediately and check the bilge for fuel leakage and odors. After fueling and before starting the boat's motor, ventilate with the blower for at least four minutes.

When outside for summer exercising, like riding a scooter, biking, in-line skating or skateboarding, be aware that these activities are associated with numerous injuries. Wear a comfortable, properly fitted helmet bearing the label of an independent testing lab. Be sure that the helmet sits level on top of the head-not rocking in any direction-and always fasten the safety strap. Safety gear (wrist, elbow and kneepads) fits properly and does not interfere with the rider's movement, vision or hearing. Wrist pads are not recommended for scooter riders as they may affect their ability to maneuver. Ride scooters and bikes only on smooth, paved surfaces and only ride during daylight hours and learn the proper hand signals and use them when you turn or stop. Come to a complete stop before entering driveways, paths or sidewalks, then look left, right and left again for bikes, cars or pedestrians heading your way. And teach children crossing safety by example.

Following these suggestions and always using good common sense will help ensure your time outside this summer is fun and accident-free!



Florina Romoser (left) holds her daughter, Kidron, at the Bayside Pool. Always supervise your children at the pool or beach and see that your child learns to swim properly.

Critical Days of Summer off to a deadly start

Courtesy of Navy Safety Center

Six Sailors and Marines did not survive the long Memorial Day weekend this year. One died behind the wheel of a car, two were killed in motorcycle crashes, and all were killed while off-duty. Although the Critical Days of Summer did not start out well, Rear Adm. George Mayer, Commander, Naval Safety Center, believes this does not have to be the start of a deadly season. "We can't afford to let this be the trend setter for the rest of the summer. Get your chain of command engaged with each and every one of your folks before it's too late," he said. Both the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Joe R. Campa, Jr., and the

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Carlton W. Kent, weighed in on the importance of engaged leadership.

"Safety should not be considered an issue that can be addressed only through computer-based training. Our Sailors need to hear the conviction in our voices when we address the consequences of risky behavior," says Campa. While leaders do a good job of stressing on-duty safety, Kent said it's important to also focus on recreational activities. "The tragedy of losing a Marine is compounded when we know it could've been prevented," he said.

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Cisneros continued from page 3

he going to die?" And I told her, "He's a hero, but he's coming home soon..."

And there was a time when Maria also joined the Navy.

"I joined the Navy Reserves in 1995," said Maria with a smile. "I had my two girls already. I was in the Reserves for eight years, and I was a Mess Specialist. Now they call it a Culinary Specialist. The reason I joined was that I always saw my husband enjoying his job, so I thought I'd join and see what it's like to be in the service, especially the Navy. So I went over there, and took the basic training which was everything... firefighting, marching, and I passed!" she laughed. "I have a degree in Nutrition from the Philippines and because I passed my tests, they told me it would be good to be a Mess specialist. My husband was proud of me for being in the Navy. It really made us a Navy family."

Her smile returned as she spoke about her daughters.

"I have two daughters, two wonderful girls," she said. "Angela is 23 and Avelin is 17, going to King High School. Angela is in the Air Force Reserves and will be going to Texas A&M this fall. She wants to be a teacher, a Special Ed teacher. Avelin is a senior and wants to be a pre-school teacher. Angela has a part-time job; she's a substitute teacher in Flour Bluff. When they were small, I'd tell them 'Study hard and be good, so when your dad arrives, you can tell him you have a good grade. And that will make him happy.'"

Among Maria's fond memories are Navy Balls.

"I have a good time at ALL the Navy Balls," she smiled. "We started attending Navy Balls in 1989. Back then I went to the CPO Navy Ball in Washington State. The most emotional one was in Korea in 2002, when Lt. Gen. Fred Campbell and Adm. Byus presented me the Civilian Outstanding Service Medal for helping Sailors and their families. I wasn't expecting anything. I was in the restroom! My husband came to the door and said, 'They're calling your name.' When I got there they were all clapping, and I was wondering 'What's going on?' The Admiral was waiting and was just smiling at me. It was really nice."

Maria served for the past six months as the Base Ombudsman.

"I'm the Ombudsman here," she said. "Being a full-time Mom, I'm also a 'Mom' to all the military families. I volunteer at church, I'm the advisor when we have a family support group, and the coffee group, wherever we go. I also get involved in the fund-raising. When I was overseas, I did a lot of fund-raising for the command. Here's its kind of different, because of the legalities involved."



Fair winds and following seas,

Command Master Chief

Mike Cisneros

Enlisted 1974

And like her parents, Maria became a businessperson.

"I liked to do business as a vendor at the Navy Exchange," said Maria. "I'd give a share of my profits to MWR. I heard the Gonzales Liberty Center was going to have a pizza night, so I told my husband that I wanted to contribute and I baked some cookies. And I gave them \$1,000. I'm not doing the vendor job right now because I have another full time job as a realtor."

"I went to [realty] school and took my test here," she continued. "Right now, most of my clients are military. That's my specialty: helping Sailors and I love it. I'm getting a lot of referrals and I know they're happy because they keep giving me referrals."

A pleasant glow came to Maria as she said, "My biggest contribution to this marriage is giving birth to my two wonderful children. We raised them really well. The second part is supporting my husband 100 percent. I've always supported him and his command. The most enjoyment I get from being a military wife is that I get to travel to many places, and meet a lot of people."

"My husband's greatest accomplishment was when he became a Command Master Chief, in Japan in 1999," she said. "His life has always been helping Sailors and their families. That is his big accomplishment. I want my husband to be remembered as someone who served for more than 30 years. He did his best. And I hope he made a difference in the lives of Sailors with whom he served. That's how I want him remembered."

And she leaves a word of advice for new-lyweds:

"Those young families, they always tell me when their husband is gone and they've had a bad experience," she said. "I tell them the Navy is a great place to be, because even if you're traveling and away from home, you have a family right here. I tell them that they're going to meet a lot of people and be open to that. Support your husband. Even in bad times, things will get better. You may not always get what you want, no one will, but the Navy can give you a good life, so enjoy it. Get involved. I want people to know that we're lucky, that we're surrounded by good friends and military families."

A tear glides down her face.

"It's hard for me to let it go. This is the only thing I have known from the first time I arrived in the US. It's hard to let it go. I've had a good experience and had a great time, I would not change anything," she said through her tears. "Everything has been good. The Navy has been good to us. Yes, I'm going to miss the Navy."

NASCC Fire and EMS participate in 2007 International Safety Stand-Down

by John Morris, NASCC Fire Chief

NAS F&ES began its participation in the 2007 International Fire and EMS Safety Stand Down on June 17 and will continue through June 23. The Stand Down is sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS) of the IAFC.

We are looking forward to participating in the Stand Down as we have each year since its inception in 2004. As we had discussed in a previous Wingspan article, our focus continues to be on safety; both that of our personnel, as well as the community we are sworn to serve. We have instituted a number of policies and procedures with this end in mind, and the upcoming Safety Stand Down will give us an opportunity to put additional emphasis on these critical issues.

The Stand Down, themed "Ready to Respond," will focus on preparing firefighters and EMS personnel for their daily duties by reviewing their training and the proper use of equipment to ensure safe response, mitigation and return from all emergency situations. Failure to remain cautious can cause routine activities to become hazardous, as has been

shown in the many fire service and emergency medical service line-of-duty deaths and injuries.

In 2006, 105 firefighters died in the line of duty, and to date 38 firefighter fatalities have been reported. I receive these notifications almost in real-time, and I take each and every one as a learning experience that helps us to avoid many of these tragedies. We know that traffic accidents and heart attacks are responsible for nearly 50 percent of each year's firefighter fatalities, and these are areas where we have a great deal of control. As such we focus much of our LODD prevention activities on traffic safety and by encouraging health and wellness both on and off duty. We have a Firefighter Safety and Health committee comprised of a cross-section of our organization whose charter is to work these issues and continues to collectively make us a safer and more effective organization.

This group will be tasked with developing a comprehensive program to guide our 2007 Safety Stand Down that will emphasize these safe behaviors and help the entire department to operate quickly and effectively.

Corpsmen continued from previous page

Dotson has some tried-and-true words of wisdom for junior Sailors hoping to succeed in the Navy. "You're gonna have a lot of ups and downs, but everything will work out in the end. Just be sure to show some incentive. You've got to show that you're willing to work hard."

Someone else who knows the meaning of hard work is HM2(FMF) Jason Brobesong, the leading petty officer in the clinic's laboratory. Actually, he's the only petty officer in the lab, though the clinic has recently hired a contract lab technician to help out with the demanding workload. During the summer between his junior and senior year of high school, he performed hard labor with a construction company in his native country of Palau, located about two hours from Guam by air.

"And believe me, it was hot," says Brobesong, who became a naturalized U.S. citizen two years ago. Prior to enlisting in the Navy, Brobesong earned an associate's degree in liberal arts from Palau Community College and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Guam. His reasons for enlisting were varied.

"I didn't want to wind up like all my friends in Palau, married and supporting 10 kids on \$3 an hour. That just wasn't for me," he said. "I just had to get out and see the world." Brobesong was selected as the 1st quarter Junior Sailor the Quarter for both the Branch Health Clinic and Naval Hospital at Corpus Christi.

His first taste of the states was during recruit training at the Great Lakes in 1997, and he's never looked back. In his decade of Naval service, he's had duty or training in places like California, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, and Europe.

Like his shipmate, Petty Officer Dotson, Brobesong originally wanted to be an air traffic controller, but that field was not available

to him since he was not a U.S. citizen. He was offered the HM rating, and he grabbed it.

Brobesong's work day begins at 8 a.m. and ends only after the last patient has been seen by a health provider, as he's required to perform any requested lab procedures.

When not drawing blood or performing any of a myriad of other duties, Brobesong enjoys playing around on his bass guitar, playing softball, wally ball, or ping-pong.



Brobesong

Brobesong encourages Sailors just getting their feet wet to establish both long- and short-term goals. He certainly has.

"My daily goal is to keep my nose clean and work hard," he said. "Eventually, I want to make chief, retire, and go to work in the medical laboratory field on the outside."

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Ingleside Corpsmen recognized during HM community's 109th anniversary

Story and photos by Mike Antoine, Naval Station Ingleside Public Affairs

They are indeed a unique breed, Hospital Corpsmen. There's something you need to know about them. On Iwo Jima, the percentage of casualties among corpsmen was greater than the losses among the Marines; corpsmen are the single most decorated rating of all branches of the U.S. military; and they're the only enlisted Corps in the United States Navy.

The Hospital Corps' roots go back to 1799, when Congress made provision to include a surgeon's assistant on all ships of the fleet. The Hospital Corps was formally established on June 17, 1898, by act of Congress. During both World Wars, members of the Hospital Corps were known as



Sullivan

"Pharmacist's Mates," before ultimately becoming Hospital Corpsmen. Hospitalman Apprentice Heather Sullivan, "Sully" to her friends, can be credited with saving a life even before she joined the Hospital Corps. It was 2004.

She picked up her boyfriend from an Illinois airport and was driving along Interstate 72 when the car went out of control. The crash could have ejected her passenger, who was completely unbuckled. Sullivan's instincts averted a certain tragedy. When she realized they were going to flip, she wrapped her arms tightly around him – and he around hers. As they finally came to a stop, they were still embracing one another.

Sullivan reported for duty at the Ingleside Branch Health Clinic just five months ago. She enlisted in the Navy for a variety of reasons. "I wanted to do something other than the ordinary 9 to 5 and I wanted the professional training the Navy provides. I wanted to get a good start on my career in medicine," she said, "and I knew I could get into it right away through the Navy."

It may also have helped that there was Navy blood in her family – both her grandfather and an uncle had served with the U.S. Navy. Not to mention her husband, EN3(SW) Timothy Sullivan, the boyfriend whose life she had saved several years earlier. He's currently serving with MCM Crew Dominant, serving aboard USS Scout (MCM 8).

Admittedly, Sullivan probably isn't going to be saving too many lives performing her day-to-day instrument sterilization duties, taking X-rays, or setting up annual appointments, but she's working in her very own field of dreams.

"I chose the 'dental strand' while in

Corps School because I'd love to work in orthodontics," she says. "It's my calling. My mom and dad always told me that I was obsessed with teeth. And, as a matter of fact, the first thing I notice when I meet anyone is their smile."

Sully is still getting her feet on the ground in South Texas, but plans soon to begin on-line classes with Coastline Community College. She wants to earn an associate's degree in general health and science. Eventually, she hopes to get a dental hygienist "C" School.

Sully has an attitude that should carry her far in the Navy and beyond.

"I'm going to make the best of it," she says, "and I would recommend to anyone coming into the service that they do the same. If you want to have a positive experience, you've got to have a positive attitude."

HM2(FMF/SW) Mark Dotson initially reported to the Ingleside Branch Health Clinic in October 2003. The 1999 graduate of Hereford High School in Texas and enlisted in the Navy shortly after graduation.

"I was bored," he said. "And I had a friend who'd enlisted, so I decided to give it a try."

Soon, Dotson wasn't bored anymore.

Upon completion of recruit training, he attended AT "A" School at NAS Pensacola.

But a funny thing happened on the way to course completion. The school became overmanned and he decided to crossrate to HM. "I chose HM because I really liked the idea of getting a chance to work with the Marines," he smiled.

He completed HM "A" School in April 2000, and prior to reporting to Naval Station Ingleside in 2003, he performed duty with a variety of surgical companies and had seen places including Turkey, Egypt, Africa, and



Dotson

Bahrain.

Dotson's duties at the Ingleside were interrupted in last summer when he deployed with the 1st Medical Battalion Charlie Surgical Company near Baghdad. He's been back in South Texas for the past three months. But next month he'll be headed for duty with the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, and a reunion with his wife, April, and their young son, Noah. Until then, he'll continue performing his regular duties in his assignment with the Family Practice Clinic at Ingleside. This includes setting up procedures, monitoring patients' vital signs, screening for shots, and performing minor surgery.

Corpsmen continued on page 13

Lean Six Sigma is an opportunity to make a real difference

by Rear Adm. Mark S. Boensel, Commander, Navy Region Southeast



Boensel

Lean Six Sigma is an opportunity to make a real difference all across Navy Region Southeast. Every CNRSE employee can ensure the success of Lean Six Sigma by making an effort to understand it conceptually. Most of all, it is important to remain open to new ideas and go through the process in good faith. My message: keep an open mind and embrace it.

LSS gives everyone in the organization the opportunity to contribute in a really big way. We need that! We all have thought, "I wish I had the opportunity to tell someone, 'I know a better way to do it!'" Here is your opportunity.

Leadership is looking for those ideas – your ideas. Feel free to give them to us. We will put them through the rigors of the process and I'm sure we'll find a lot of them are exactly on target. But even if we find that they aren't, that's okay too, because we had the opportunity to explore that avenue and determine its value.

I think the most exciting part of Lean Six Sigma operates on a couple of different levels. First, for mission accomplishment on the organizational level, it is tremendously exciting to have the opportunity to make quantum leaps in how we do business. Secondly, it is an opportunity for each individual to get involved in making an institutional level of change. From the individual perspective, it's an open invitation to really get involved in the way we do business and make changes in the way we do business.

In both cases, if I had to sum up LSS in one word it would be "opportunity." There's a tremendous opportunity to make significant org change through individual contribution.

Keep an open mind. In addition to keeping an open mind, go beyond embracing LSS to lean forward and push the process along. Be aggressive about implementing LSS and become a part of it. Defeat the temptation to just sit back and just watch – you could miss a really enjoyable experience, because we're looking for people to step out. Take some risk. Be forward leaning. In my mind, there are no penalty points for being forward leaning. If we don't get it right the first time, okay. We'll tweak it and we'll press on. And we'll keep pressing on till we get it.



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AROUND THE BASE IN 2007

AOSC donates auction proceeds to Navy Marine Corps Relief Society and USO



Photo by Anne Booher, Editor

Representatives from the USO, Emma Piñeda, Program Director (left) and Don Rymer, Executive Director (right), receive a check from AOSC President Leslie McGuire (center). A check was also presented to the NMCRS and received by Teresa Christenson. The AOSC raised more than \$6500 with their auction on April 20.

VT-28 Rangers Change of Command



Photo by Richard Stewart, Base Photographer

Capt. David Maynard, Commodore TAW-4 (left) congratulates Cmdr. Michael Leupold (right) on his new position at VT-28 Commanding Officer. Cmdr. Jim Fisher (center) turned over the command on June 1.

Naval Hospital Corpus Christi Change of Command



Photo by Richard Stewart, Base Photographer

Captain R. B. Sorenson, MC, USN, (left) the new commanding officer of Naval Hospital Corpus Christi, models the iconic symbol of the Lone Star State. Capt. Jim Rice, outgoing CO, presented the hat to him at the NHCC Change of Command Ceremony on May 24. Chaplain Tim Gault (right) applauds in the background.



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jodi Ramosmorano waves goodbye to the Naval Hospital Corpus Christi staff on May 31 after receiving a Navy Achievement Medal that signaled her demobilization from active duty. Her 28 months' meritorious service augmented a heavily deployed hospital military staff. The Goodlettsville, Tennessee native will return to her parent command at Naval Reserve Center Nashville.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Photo by Bill Love, NHCC Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Cmdr. Tonie E. Gaskin, NC, (left) accepts congratulations from her new boss, Capt. R. B. Sorenson, MC (right) on her promotion from lieutenant. Gaskin is a Tallahassee, Fla., native and reported to NHCC from Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, Va.

Congratulations to FRC Mid-Atlantic Site Corpus Christi Advancements

- Advancement to E6**
 - AT1 Dusty E. Riley
 - AM1 James S. Bell
 - AT1 Daniel E. Shrum
 - AT1 Joshua T. Cain
 - AM1 Matthew J. Grotke
- Advancement to E5**
 - AS2 Craig R. Reuter
 - AM2 Nathan R. Willis
- Advancement to E6**
 - AS3 Jamie L. Seidel



Photo by Lt. Jg. Caleb Booher, Asst. Public Affairs Officer

The Catholic and Protestant Chapels honored their volunteers with a dinner and awards presentation at Kings Crossing Country Club on June 1. Guests to the event are listed from L to R: Chaplain Chin Van Dang; NASCC Executive Officer, Cmdr. Bruce Lankford; NHCC Executive Officer, Capt. Don Albia; NASCC Commanding Officer, Capt. Timothy Coolidge; Teresa Coolidge; District 32 State Representative, Juan Garcia; Teresa Christenson; Maria Cisneros; Jean Quinn; Command Master Chief Mike Cisneros; and Adm. Donald Quinn, CNATRA.



Photo by Anne Booher, Editor

Students from the Level 1 Starbase Atlantis Program hold rockets, which they engineered themselves. Graduates from the program are listed alphabetically: Dylan Ahrens, Andrew Byerly, Silvio Detore, Thomas Evaristo, Micheala Garcia, Albert Garcia, Micah Grees, John Harney, Alexia Hinojosa, Justin Ignasiak, Kathryn Jimenez, Casey Kapa, Dominic Lopez, Brandon Mourer, Justin Pais, James Rady, Jacob Robin, Jordynn Slusarz, Oscar Soliz, Zachary Villarreal, Allie Warnock, Melanie Westfall, and Paul Zepeda.

Starbase Atlantis is an outreach program dedicated to school-age children, exposing them to principles of science, technology, engineering and math and motivating them in these directions. The Level 1 Summer Program was a five-day course in which students learned the physics of flight and built their own rocket to launch on June 8. "It's amazing, the sophisticated knowledge they end up with," says Marsha Turner, instructor at Starbase Atlantis. "What we want from them is enthusiasm. When they leave, they don't just know the science...they can do it."