

Wingspan

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45th Annual Navy Regatta this August 4th and 5th

Photo and story by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer



ing the winds, ensuring they get to the landmarks established for the race, and making the best time in crossing the finish line, which is within the breakwater barrier at Sunfish Beach on the Air Station.

There will be First, Second and Third place winners in each of the five categories of sailboats.

The second race, the Titanic Cup, is held within the breakwater barrier

Sailboats dot the horizon during the 2006 Navy Regatta as sailors race to Sunfish Beach. This year's Regatta is sponsored by the Corpus Christi Yacht Club and marks the 45th year of the prestigious event.

The 45th Annual Navy Regatta, featuring the Titanic Cup, will be held this year on August 4th and 5th. The Regatta, sponsored by the Corpus Christi Yacht Club, will begin with Sailors on their boats, divided into possibly five classes, leaving the Corpus Christi marina at 8 a.m., Saturday morning for the first race.

The competition is divided into different classes because of the different types of sailboats, their configuration, and amount of people each vessel will carry. Although it is a race, it's also a fun time for spectators and participants alike.

Yacht and sailboat owners have invited military personnel to be on their boats and play the part of "civilian" Sailors during the competition.

"I've got several military folks on my boat, but I'll take one, or two, or three more," offered Barry Brown, a CCYC member.

He's probably just looking for one more," said Myrna Hunt, CCYC Manager. "He really does want to win the race. He doesn't want it to be too heavy," she jokingly added.

And that's what the Regatta is supposed to be – a day filled with sails, sun, wind, sailors and something for everyone.

The sailboats tack back and forth across the bay, selecting their best angles for catch-

rier waters of Sunfish Beach. This race is for military members only, and can be literally anything that floats, has a mast, and has at least one servicemember aboard. In last year's competition, a mattress foundation, with a mast consisting of a broom that held a homemade sail looked promising at the beginning of the race, but soon became water-logged and sank. Another entry was the Coast

Regatta continued on page 13

9.2 inches of rain drench NAS Corpus Christi

by Anne Booher, Editor with contributions from NASCC Security

Excitement over the Fourth of July holiday was slightly subdued last week when flooding on base ranged from one foot to more than three feet deep, in some places. On July 3, the rains started around 10 a.m., continuing past noon. Flooding was so severe that the base restricted all incoming and outgoing traffic until 2:30 p.m. Additional patrol sections were mobilized to assist stranded motorists while other patrols maneuvered traffic to safety. The worst flooding was located by the Golf Course and the Naval Hospital. Many residents on base also waded through knee-deep water outside their homes.

After the waters receded later that afternoon, everyone figured the worst was over. Then the rains returned overnight to recreate the same situation as the day before. On July 4, Lexington Blvd., experienced severe flooding and traffic was routed around Salvage Road to connect with First Street and the South Gate. By 3 p.m., the rain stopped, the roads were clear and the sky was blue, for the most part. Over the course of three days, 9.2 inches of rain drenched NAS Corpus Christi.

While this was not a hurricane, it was a good reminder to make sure your Hurricane Kit is together and ready to go. For those of you who were on base and saw how quickly waters can rise, you can see that preparation is of the utmost importance. If you still haven't gotten a kit together and you're not sure what to include, call Emergency Management at (361) 961-2385 or the Base Hurricane Season Info Line at (877) 989-6743.



An SUV attempts to cross a particularly deep section of Huey Drive on July 3. From July 3 to July 5, more than nine inches of rain fell on NAS Corpus Christi and restricted traffic from coming on or off base.

Photo by Anne Booher, Editor



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From The Skipper

Make plans for the Navy Regatta!

by Capt. T.E. Coolidge

August 4th and 5th, we're going to host the Navy Regatta for the 45th year. I plan on making this a fun-in-the-sun event!



Coolidge

This began as a joint venture with the Corpus Christi Yacht Club and by now, it has become a lot of fun. In the past few years, some of our military participants have fallen out, but I want this year to have everyone come back and enjoy the fun at

Sunfish Beach.

The good thing about is that the yacht club members really want our participation now more than ever, and I'm kind of happy

Chaplain's Column

Called to be God's witnesses

by Chaplain Chin Van Dang

I asked a Soldier about his religion and he answered, "I am a Jehovah's Bystander." "A Jehovah's Bystander? I've never heard of a Jehovah's Bystander!" I said. He looked coy and said, "Well, they ask me to be a Witness but I didn't want to get involved."

As Christians, we are reminded that we have been called to be witnesses of God's presence in our nation. Our Founding Fathers believed in the presence of God's hand forming us into a country where the dignity of all would be respected. We are still learning how to be this nation. It took our nation a hundred years to recognize that slavery opposed the very essence of its existence. How could we be a land of the free if people owned other people? We are only recently passing laws to ensure the dignity of those who are physically or mentally challenged. We are only recently becoming concerned on a national level with

about their reasons.

In a recent column, I mentioned how a simple thing, like a Soldier completing singing the National Anthem when the recorded anthem broke and how everyone in the theater finished singing the anthem with him, made me stand a little taller.

During a recent meeting with members of the Yacht Club, they mentioned that they would really like anyone who has "served in Harm's way" to join them on their sailboats and yachts to participate in the Regatta. This is their way of saying thank you to our active duty servicemen.

Many of our military members today have spent some time in the "sand box" of Iraq or Afghanistan. I can think of a handful of people, primarily at the Naval Hospital and HM-15, who are still contributing

from our local staffs in the present war.

Our own Command Master Chief, Master Chief Pat Flavin, recently returned from having spent a year in Iraq. I know he's going to be involved in this Regatta, and I'd like to see lots of our Sailors from every unit participating.

Now that doesn't mean that I'm making this a mandatory event. But what I would like to see is military members and their families coming out to the beach and truly enjoying the Regatta.

The sailboats leave the Corpus Christi Marina in the morning and a lot of folks can go there and wave the intrepid sailors off. Once the race is over, participants and onlookers can enjoy an afternoon of sail-

Captain continued on page 10

Legal Corner

Immigration and Naturalization: How a non-military spouse becomes a Lawful Permanent Resident

by Lt. J.g. Candice Albright and Ms. Dimple Chheda

Due to the nature of our jobs, many military members marry non-U.S. citizens and/or have alien family members that she or he would like to gain U.S. citizenship. This article is the first in a two-part series on naturalization; specifically addressing how a non-U.S. citizen spouse can obtain "lawful permanent resident" status (LPR). Note: this article applies to non-military persons. If you are a military member seeking naturalization, please contact your command or legal services for more information.

The process of becoming a U.S. citizen starts with called the naturalization and is regulated by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and varies according to different situations. Naturalization begins by becoming what is called a "law-

ful permanent resident." An LPR is not a U.S. citizen, but is granted the right to live and work in the United States and the right to apply for U.S. citizenship after a certain number of years. Traditionally, the United States law recognizes three main avenues to LPR status: family-sponsored immigration; employment-sponsored immigration; and asylum and refugee status. Within the family-sponsored immigrant category, there is an even further break-down between immediate family and other relatives. Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens are unmarried children under age 21, spouses and parents. The procedures an alien spouse must follow differ depending on whether the marriage takes place overseas or in the United States. In either situation, the USCIS will scrutinize the marriage to ensure that it is a valid marriage. They will consider such factors as the length of time the couple knew each other and whether or not the couple currently resides together, among other things.

If the couple is stationed overseas, the military member must obtain command approval and go through consular processing of the alien spouse's application for an immi-

grant visa. As part of the command approval process, the alien spouse will undergo a medical screening and a background investigation. Along with command approval, the servicemember must obtain an immigrant visa for his or her spouse if she or he is to be brought back to the United States legally. The first step is for the U.S. citizen spouse to file the I-130 Petition for Alien Spouse. Approval of this application establishes an immediate relative qualification on behalf of the alien spouse. This form should be filed at the nearest U.S. Consulate office. Once the Form I-130 is approved, then the U.S. consulate will send the alien spouse an immigrant visa packet, and once the visa is approved, it is usually only valid for six months. In order to obtain LPR status, the alien spouse must travel to the United States. If the couple has been married at least 24 months, then the alien spouse receives full LPR status upon admission, and if not, she or he will receive conditional LPR status, which can be removed by filing a Form I-751 at the end of the two-year probation period.

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Wingspan

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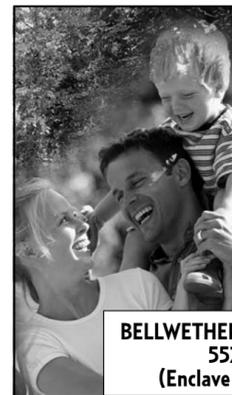


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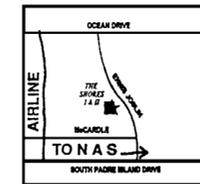
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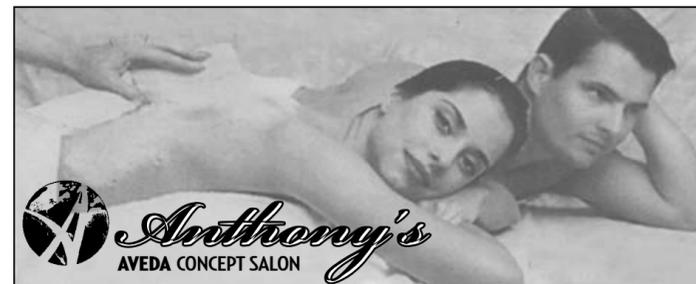
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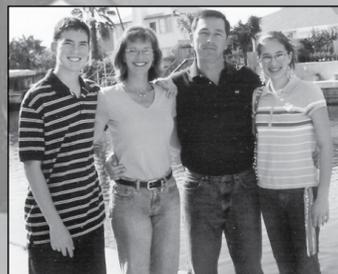


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DDCT changes hands as Orner relinquishes command to Maxham

by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

There was big pride in the big man, Lt. Col. Tim Orner, as he relinquished command of the Defense Distribution Center to Lt. Col. Robert Maxham, July 10 at the Defense Distribution Center (DDCT) facility aboard NAS Corpus Christi.

Orner has served as the commanding officer for the facility for two years before his change of command and retirement ceremony with 20 years in the Army.

"A Change of Command is an Army tradition of passing the unit colors to the new commander because the unit rallies around the colors," said Orner. "It's a time filled with mixed emotions because you've worked very hard with an organization forming a team, watching it grow, to support the mission of the war-fighter. And then you hand it off to the next commander who will take it to the next level."

Orner is a second-generation Soldier, and again pride is evident when he speaks of his father.

"My dad was an Infantryman with Lima Company, 34th Infantry Regiment, 33rd Infantry Brigade," said Orner, his chest puffed out. "He fought in World War II and he went down-range as an infantryman. He'll turn 80 this year."

He ruefully added, "I listened to my dad's war stories - he always had good war stories. Matter of fact, in today's Army, my dad wouldn't have lasted. My dad made the rank of sergeant one time. He didn't sew the rank on, because he didn't hold it that long. He was busted within 24 hours. He tells me stories about some of the things he did."

Orner continued, "I had the good fortune of giving my dad a Good Conduct Medal when I was a company commander. I did the research and found that he was owed a Good Conduct Medal for more than 50 years. So I was able to give him the GCM he deserved when I was at Fort Campbell, Ky. He lives in South Carolina, and I went there to make the presentation for his birthday 11 years ago."

Pride in his family, his brother, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, is evident in his pose and demeanor.

"I feel very fortunate that my Mom and Dad instilled in us a sense of value," he said. "It gave us the opportunity that my brothers and I have shared. Any chance I can get my Dad visibility for his service, I will always take it. My dad left the Army as a Private First Class. He's a self-made man."

Orner has coordinated a trip for his father to see the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the Change of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery.

"I talked to the commander of the 'Old Guard,' and he's going to get the special VIP tour there," Orner informed.

In regards to relinquishing command after two years here, Orner assumes a serious disposition and says, "The Defense Distribution Center is one of 26 distribution centers in the world. We obviously focus on the Aviation supply team with the Corpus Christi Army Depot being our number one client. Our job is to seek, issue and store aviation parts primarily for rotary-winged helicopters and to feed the produc-

tion lines of CCAD. CCAD then repairs the part, gets it back to us and then we ship it out world-wide to go back on helicopters.

"Parts that come from this distribution center go directly to aircraft in Iraq and Afghanistan, which means aircraft can go that day and engage the enemy, providing surface cover downrange and kill the enemy," he said. "The bottom line is that the war-fighter gets the parts he needs faster than he did 18 months ago. We've reduced all our key performance indicators greater than 50 percent."

"It's been a factor of many things. It's getting the systems emplaced to not only do the standard work, but also tie-in the management systems to CCAD's management information systems," he continued. "This works for a seamless integrated assessment. Another factor is having a great work force. They understand that we're a Nation at war, and they deliver. There are people downrange that count on us to do the right thing, and that's what we pride ourselves in doing."

And then he reflects about his time here.

"When I took over the organization, there were flaws for numerous reasons," Orner said. "But what I think I provided the workforce, the thing I'm most proud of, is that I saw us through those rough waters



On July 10, Brigadier General Lynn Collyar (left) presents Lt. Col. Tim Orner with the Legion of Merit during the DDCT Change of Command, which was also a retirement ceremony for Orner.

and focused on what was important, meaning support to CCAD, and support to the war-fighter. I re-prioritized other things that didn't support that concept and stuck to those principles. The result was that we became value-added to our customer. We

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What does my daddy do? Military parents in the workplace

Courtesy of LIFElines.navy.mil

From a child's point of view, the job of a parent in the military may be a little fuzzy. Explaining to your children what you do, especially during deployments or underway periods, helps their understanding and shortens the distance between you.

Parents with potentially dangerous occupations have the burden of easing fears when describing to their kids what they do for a living. Despite the fact that the majority of the military is not imminently in harm's way, added sensitivity is the plan of the day.

Varying age groups and individual circumstances dictate a variety of responses. The National Association of School Psychologists gives this advice to parents: Filter known facts one by one and do not prepare children (especially military children) for the worst. Basic information about your job or rate should be sufficient. Reading a bedtime story from your rate training manual takes it a little overboard.

According to Kids & Careers, children believe mermaids are as real as car crashes and dangers can be common. It is not until approximately age 10 or 11 that children begin to understand which events are real. Fear for their parents being in danger can be managed by explaining that Daddy or Mommy is highly trained and practices routinely for the emergency situations children might be seeing on television.

According to Liz Hengerer from the Norfolk Fleet and Family Support Center, children also hear from their friends what supposedly goes on during deployments and at work, and they can often be a source of misinformation. If your child comes home reporting, "The other kids say Dad's gonna get 13 tattoos, fall overboard, and get eaten by a shark," parents must correct the information. Explain that other kids don't know what is going to happen and Dad is not going to get eaten by a shark.

Infants and toddlers have an undeveloped sense of time and limited visual memory. Showing pictures of Daddy, in uniform and in civies, keeps Daddy's image at hand and refreshes young memories. Bring Daddy into conversations by saying, "Let's sing The Barney song. It's Daddy favorite!" or "Let's mail Daddy's care package." If, for example, Daddy's a pilot, say, "Look, a plane like Daddy flies." If Daddy's on a ship, show pictures or submerge toy submarines to imitate Daddy. One enterprising wife of a West Coast Sailor created a photo album organized by what her husband would be doing each hour of the day. For example, 11 a.m. showed Daddy eating lunch, 3 p.m. showed Daddy sitting at his desk, etc.



Photo by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

Cmdr. Tom Tharp holds his granddaughter, Isabella, at his retirement ceremony. Helping children understand their parent's military role is pivotal to healthy child and family development.

If possible, bring school age children into the workspace. If you can't get permission, show your kids a similar place or a picture of yourself at work. Tell children simple stories about what happened at work or explain what you did that day, just like you expect them to tell you about their day. Long distance dads can send frequent e-mails, ask specific questions when calling by phone, or mail surprises via snail mail.

With pre-adolescents and teenagers, honest, clear, and specific information works best. This age group knows everything anyway and is highly capable of filtering information. They still need reassurance, a sense of safety, and a parent who's there when they're ready to talk. Frequent e-mails, video conferencing, and instant messaging can be your best connection, away or at home.

For more suggestions, try Fathering Teenagers which includes tips such as "Open Your Belly." (You'll have to read that one for yourself.) Teens will let you know how much they want to experience. Don't be surprised or offended to find a conscientious objector to your occupation in the household. That's part of what all teens go through in discovering their identities.

Children of all ages can track a working military parent's progress on globes or with pictures or calendars. Participate in Bring Your Parent to School Day, no matter how embarrassing your child claims this is. Participate in the widely popular Bring Your Daughter to Work Day. First-hand experience is a valuable tool for understanding a military parent's role in the everyday work place.

Regatta continued from page 1

Guard's behemoth consisting of an inflatable boat with a wooden deck where crewmembers would stand. However, once underway, the semi-dirigible caught the wind in its sail and the boat itself and although it soon crashed into sailboat spectators as it was blown off-course in the bay, it did eventually make it back on course.

The evening is topped off with dinner for all participants at the Bay Club with plenty of room for socializing, and dancing into the early morning.

Sunday morning begins the military por-

Legal continued from page 2

If the couple was married in the United States and resides in the United States, then the alien spouse may apply to adjust his or her status to an LPR if she or he is already lawfully in the United States pursuant to a nonimmigrant visa. The first step is to file the Form I-130 at the local USCIS office nearest to where the couple lives. Once that is approved, then the alien spouse must file a Form I-485, the Application for Permanent Residence, and an accompanying Affidavit of Support must be completed by the sponsoring (citizen) spouse. Also, if the couple has not been married at least 24 months, then the conditional LPR status (see above) will remain in effect until the filing of the Form I-751 at the end of the two-year probation period.

After all of that paperwork, time and waiting, the alien spouse is ready to receive his or her permanent resident card (green card). The applicant spouse (alien spouse) must take the approval notice, conditional green card, two photos and a passport to the local USCIS office, at which they will process the paperwork and the spouse will finally be a lawful permanent resident of the United States. Information about other situations in which someone

can become a citizen, definitions and examples of the requirements discussed above, and sample exam questions, among much more, can be found on the website and in the guide.

As always, we're here to help you. Please remember that applying for citizenship is a time-oriented, pro-active process. One must plan ahead and be prepared for a lot of paperwork, time and effort on the part of the applicant and citizen spouse. While this article does outline the basic procedure and requirements of the LPR process, it is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. We highly recommend researching the U.S. Citizenship and Immigrations Services' website at www.uscis.gov to find answers to your questions and to understand situations in which the requirements are waived or modified (for example, specific parts of the attachment to the Constitution can be modified to accommodate religious beliefs). Applicants should also download and read "A Guide to Naturalization" while on the USCIS's website. Call the NLSO at 961-3765 for more information on the LPR requirements. Appointments can be scheduled at the NLSO to address specific citizenship issues from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

tion of the race, when servicemembers take the helm of the sailboats and race them back to the Corpus Christi marina. Yachtsmen solicit military members and then entrust their boats to them for this final race. In this case, the boat owner does not receive the trophy; the military personnel on the boat are the recipients.

For more information, visit the website at <https://www.nascc.navy.mil/navyregatta/index.htm>. Online registration is being accepted for race participants, volunteers and race events. Join the fun of sun, wind, and water as this year's Regatta comes just in time to beat the heat of South Texas!

Can become a citizen, definitions and examples of the requirements discussed above, and sample exam questions, among much more, can be found on the website and in the guide.



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DDCT continued from page 3



Maxham

helped them improve their success and we became at least 50 percent more efficient in getting the war-fighter's parts earlier."

With more than 20 years active duty, Orner sees himself as a "muddy-boot soldier" having served in 30 percent of the Army's active duty divisions. As he retires, Orner considers his family.

"My family is going to stay in the area," he said. "My son (Taylor) is a junior at Flour Bluff High School. He's rated as the Number 9 diver in Texas. My children have been to 10 schools in 20 years. My wife, Robin, and I made the commitment to have him stay here for two years to graduate. My wife is

finishing her degree, and will get her Master's of Science in Nursing from Texas A&M University. She's a registered nurse working in the local community and going to school full-time, something she put off for 17 years for me and my career. My son, Tim Jr., is a sophomore at Del Mar College and daughter Kelly is a senior in South Carolina.

"Right now, I'm looking at some opportunities internationally," he said. "After two years, the kids will be in college and Robin will meet me wherever I am. I want to be remembered first of all as a Soldier focused on taking care of Soldiers, and supporting the war-fighter, doing the right things when nobody was looking."

The command is turned over to Lt. Col. Robert Maxham, who moved here from Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio with his wife Sarah, with sons Nic and Jace, and daughter Emily.

"I'm a medical officer," said Maxham. "I feel very fortunate in getting this command opportunity. I'm originally from Barre, Vermont, near the Canadian border. I'm a New Englander. It's hot down here," he said with a smile.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the customer relationship that is here, and establishing my own rapport with them. There will be no major changes, I will work with the Deputy and the staff here, learn their jobs, learn their functions within this organization. My biggest goal is to continue on the path that Col. Orner has set and continue our relationship with CCAD. Everyone here knows that what we do is support the warfighter."

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General Electric recalls dishwashers due to fire hazard

Courtesy of U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with General Electric Consumer & Industrial of Louisville, Ky., announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

About 2.5 million GE Dishwashers are affected. The hazard of these units is that liquid rinse-aid can leak from its dispenser onto the dishwasher's internal wiring, which can cause an electrical short and overheating, posing a fire hazard to consumers. GE has received 191 reports of overheated wiring including 56 reports of property damage. There were 12 reports of fires that escaped the dishwasher. Fire damage was limited to the dishwasher or the adjacent area. No injuries have been reported.

The recall includes GE built-in dishwashers sold under the following brand names: Eterna, GE, GE Profile™, GE Monogram®, Hotpoint®, and Sears-Kenmore. The dishwashers were sold in white, black, almond, bisque and stainless steel. The brand name is printed on the dishwasher's front control panel. The model and serial numbers can be found inside the dishwasher tub on the front left side of the dishwasher. For more information, please visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/1prhtml07/07190.html> or call the Recall Hotline at (877) 607-6395.



Photo available by public domain

Following almost 200 reports of malfunction, GE has recalled 2.5 million dishwashers that pose a fire hazard.

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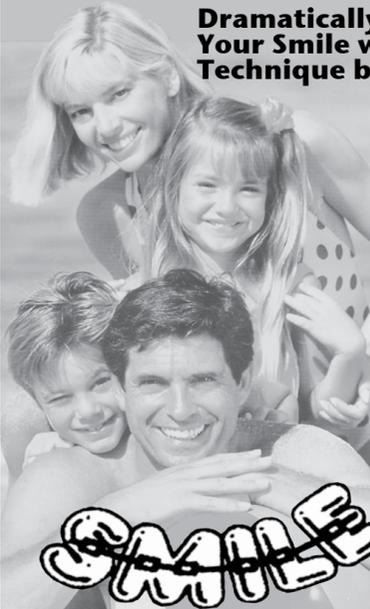
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Navy announces management controls for Tuition Assistance and NCPACE

by Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs with contributions from John Collis, Director, Navy College Office

In order to ensure our best Sailors continue to have access to tuition assistance funding, the Navy implemented management controls for the Tuition Assistance (TA) Program and Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE).

"Education is, and will continue to be a key factor in the professional and personal development of our Sailors," said Commander, Naval Education and Training Command, Rear Adm. Gary Jones. "We must reward those deserving Sailors by enacting policies that take into account performance and career development."

According to Ann Hunter, Education and Training Branch Head for Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), timing is important to an individual's successful education plan. "Historically, Sailors' chances for success have improved when

awarded any non-judicial or courts-martial punishment in the previous six months shall not be authorized TA or NCPACE courses. E) Sailors must be recommended for promotion or advancement.

Enlisted personnel with less than 20 years in service are now required to have at least one year remaining on their current enlistment prior to using TA or enrolling in NCPACE courses. The current statutory service obligations for officers using TA or taking NCPACE courses remains in effect.

"The cap for TA authorizations remains at 16 semester hours per fiscal year, but an approved academic/education plan is required after the fifth course," Hunter said. "Only courses required by the academic/education plan are authorized for TA and NCPACE, and TA will no longer be authorized for additional degrees at the same or

lower education level. Lower division or prerequisite courses may be authorized if the courses are part of the degree program and are listed on the Sailor's approved education plan." Sailors already pursuing a degree at the same or lower level may continue taking courses provided their approved education plan is dated December 2005 or earlier.

"In general, we've had a positive response to the changes in TA," says John Collis, Director of Navy College Office at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. "Sailors who are adversely affected do have other options. They can activate their Montgomery GI Bill or if their finances allow, pay out of pocket."

Sailors who are currently enrolled in TA and/or NCPACE courses but do not meet the conditions listed above will be allowed to complete their current courses, but will not be authorized funding for additional courses until the conditions have been met.

Under the Navy College Program, several programs are offered to help Sailors earn a college degree. A visit to the local Navy College Office (NCO) is a logical first step to learn about the wide variety of college level examinations available, such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and the DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) program offered through the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) Examination Program.

"Navy leadership is committed to providing opportunities and financial assistance to Sailors as they pursue their edu-



The Navy has recently initiated changes in the Tuition Assistance and NCPACE programs in an effort to maximize the potential of enrolled Sailors.

education is introduced at appropriate times within a career," Hunter explained. "Experience tells us that Sailors' first assignments following initial training are extremely challenging. We've found that Sailors have a better chance of success in college courses if they have completed their warfare and professional qualifications before enrolling in college courses. Commanding Officers are asked to look closely at all TA applications for the proper career timing."

The following management controls are effective immediately and focus on meeting professional development requirements as a prerequisite to TA/NCPACE approval: A) Advancement-eligible Sailors must have taken and passed the most recent advancement exam. Sailors who are serving out of their rating, and have not passed their advancement exam are eligible for TA and NCPACE with approval from their Commanding Officer or Officer in Charge. B) Sailors must pass the most recent Physical Readiness Test (PRT), or be medically waived from the test. C) Sailors must not be under instruction in initial skills or in a Duty Under Instruction (DUINS) training status. D) Sailors who have been

Tuition continued on page 10

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Captain continued from page 2

ing and relaxation. Last year, some of the sailboats had parasail riggings and just about anyone who was in the water could be hoisted into the air on a parasail and float around, enjoying the view. There were dozens of people in the water in life vests, floating, chatting, swimming, enjoying their favorite beverage as they awaited the Titanic Cup race.

I think the Titanic Cup is the most fun event to watch. This is when our servicemembers put together a vessel that will float, attach a sail to it, and try to reach the finish line approximately a quarter mile before sinking. One of the requirements is that the group building the vessel can spend no more than \$75 to build it. I've seen some real innovative vessels that have been put into the water, but sometimes they sink before the crewmembers even get on!

I'm hoping to be on one of those floating vessels. Word has it that the Chiefs have a "ringer" of a boat that I may be asked to ride on.

Folks, this is going to be a memorable and exciting event. Make plans to come out to Sunfish Beach on August 4 and 5 and enjoy the sun, sailboats and water! See you on the beach!

Chaplain continued from page 2

desperation, he cried out, "Don't you recognize me! I'm the Jesus you say you love." The lady froze in her tracks for what seemed like an eternity to the little boy. Then with tears streaming down her face, she threw open her arms. She picked up the boy and took him to safety.

Today, new waves of immigrants are landing on our shores, testing our commitment to serve God and God's people. We, too, were once aliens and strangers in this new world. We, too, benefited from the charity and love of others. We are now being challenged to remember our past and offer hope to those who come searching for freedom and a more humane form of existence. As Christians, we can never be indifferent to our brothers and sisters who set up tents in our midst. Each Christian community is the present testing ground for the courage to accept our brothers and sisters as we would accept Christ himself.

Tuition continued from page 6

Tests (DSST) program offered through the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) Examination Program.

"Navy leadership is committed to providing opportunities and financial assistance to Sailors as they pursue their educational goals," Hunter said. "We are currently working detailed execution guidelines including criteria for waivers, but the majority of the information on TA and NCPACE management controls can be found in NAVADMIN 161-07."

Navy College Office staff serve as the primary points of contact for off-duty education and are responsible for ensuring the implementation of the programs. Additional information on the Navy College Program can be found at <https://www.navycollege.navy.mil> or contact the Navy College Office at NAS Corpus Christi: (361) 961-3236.

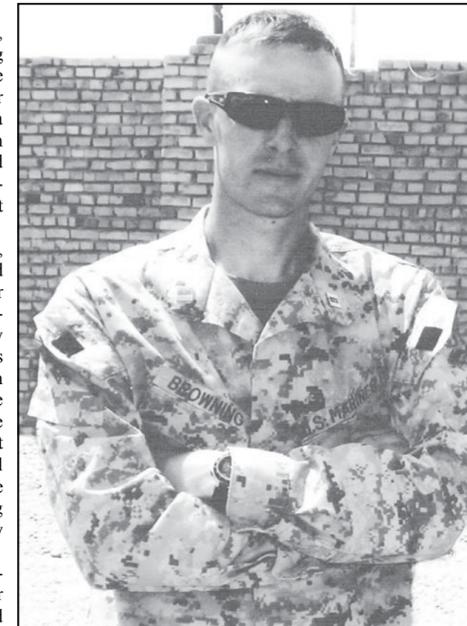
NMCRS Combat Casualty Program ensures financial, medical assistance to injured Marine

by Lisa Aszklar, NMCRS Staff Writer

From the time he was a young boy, Major James L. Browning, Jr., USMC wanted to fly. As a 12-year-old, Browning joined the Mississippi Wing Civil Air Patrol, a civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. During his time as a Civilian Air Patrol cadet, he learned the importance of leadership, physical fitness, and a strong moral compass—all qualities that would serve him well as a Marine in the years to come.

Following high school, Browning enlisted, earning the rank of Corporal before leaving active duty to enter college in Mississippi as a commercial aviation major. In late 2001, Browning joined 3rd Battalion 14th Marine Regiment, an artillery reserve unit based in Richmond, Va.

As a member of 3/14, Browning was cross-trained as an MP in preparation for his unit's activation and deployment to Iraq, and by March 2006, 3/14 was on its way to Anbar Province. In late April, the young Marine suddenly began to experience excruciating headaches that culminated in an inter-cranial bleed beneath his skull. He had suffered a debilitating stroke that left him partially paralyzed.



Major James Browning, Jr., USMC suffered painful headaches that resulted in a paralyzing stroke. With medical bills piling up, the Browning family found the help they needed through NMCRS and eventually, their Visiting Nurse Program.

When Browning's parents received word of their son's condition, they rushed to meet their son at National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, where he had been airlifted following his initial surgery in Germany. The family shuffled between National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, the Veterans Administration Hospital in Richmond, Va., and the Traumatic Brain Injury Unit at the Veterans Administration hospital in Tampa, Fla. Very quickly, Jim and Brenda Browning found themselves incapable of meeting expenses, both at home and in their travels with their son during his many surgeries.

Fortunately, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's Combat Casualty Visiting Nurse Program stepped in to assist. NMCRS Bethesda Director Ed Potts met with Browning's parents and outlined how the Society could help. Potts provided an immediate grant to cover the cost of food and lodging until government funds were issued to cover these mounting expenses. Also, because the family's income suffered when Brenda Browning left her job to be with their son, the Society was able to help cover some of the Brownings' ongoing expenses back home in Mississippi.

Next, Potts referred the Browning family to an NMCRS Combat Casualty Visiting

Nurse, Susan Boyd. Boyd immediately met with the family to answer any questions they had concerning the prescribed course of care and to help navigate through the military medical rehabilitation process. Serving as the Brownings' personal advocate, Boyd not only monitors Major Browning's rehabilitation, but also makes sure the family is able to successfully ad-

dress issues that may arise as a result of his injury. She provides the family with critical information concerning resources and programs available to them, and she is available if the family has any concerns or simply needs a shoulder on which to lean. Since the Combat Casualty Program guarantees that a Society Visiting Nurse will be available for as long as the need exists, the family is assured that any financial or medical issues that arise as a result of their son's combat-related injury will be addressed quickly and efficiently.

Jim and Brenda Browning couldn't be more pleased with the care their son has received at NNMCM Bethesda, which Jim Browning calls "a wonderful house of magic." Further, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and its Combat Casualty Program, they claim, has helped them stay afloat, both mentally and financially. For more information on the Combat Casualty Program, contact NMCRS aboard NAS Corpus Christi at (631) 961-3482.

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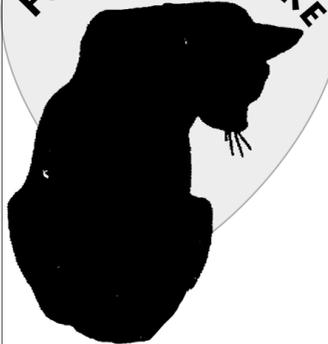
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AROUND THE BASE IN 2007

Welcome Home, Veterans!



Photo by Aprilie Hyder

Children of Sailors returning home hold a homemade banner welcoming their father back from a four and a half month deployment to the Arabian Gulf. Thunderstorms across Texas delayed one flight and cancelled another out of Houston.

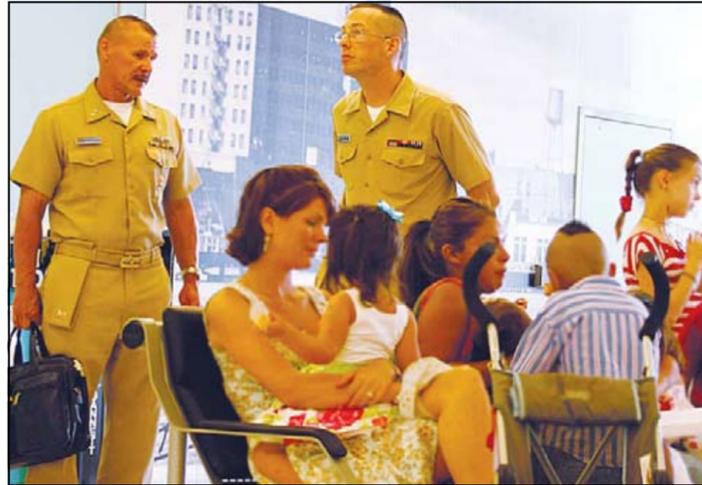


Photo by Ed Mickley, NMAWC Public Affairs

Spouses and children wait diligently upon their husbands' and fathers' return at Corpus Christi International Airport. With their arrival delayed, CMC Ken McGlothlin (left) and Chaplain Paul Hyder discuss alternatives and work to ensure all available information about the flights is passed along to the families.

Crew Exultant, Naval Station Ingleside sailors returning from a tour aboard *USS Dextrous* (MCM 13), ran into thunderstorms that delayed their arrival to Corpus Christi International on June 25. Their spouses and children waited patiently while Command Master Chief, Ken McGlothlin and Chaplain Paul Hyder attempted to resolve the situation, but were left at the mercy of the weather.

Eventually, Sailors flying in from Dallas/Ft Worth turned to car rentals and drove south to meet their families. The Houston flights finally made their approach to Corpus and pulled up to the gate just after 8 p.m. to a cadre of excited, though tired, women and children.

"We are happy and so proud to welcome MCM Crew Exultant back to South Texas after four and a half months service in the Arabian Gulf. They did a super job while deployed," said Captain Mark Rios, Commodore of Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two. Crew Exultant is led by Lt. Cmdr. Scott Curtis. These Sailors are part of the Mine Warfare Command's multi-crewing initiative in which crews manning ships in Ingleside "swapped" with those manning ships forward-deployed in Bahrain. The initiative increases the Navy's forward presence by keeping a single ship hull continuously present in a given area of operations, while swapping crews at four-month intervals. This increases the on-station time for the ship without extending deployments for crewmembers and additionally, saves wear and tear on the ship, weeks of transit time, and millions of dollars in fuel.



Photo by Bill Love, NHCC Public Affairs Office

Postal Clerk Third Class (SW) D'Arcy Plumley received a Navy Achievement Medal (NAM) Spot Award on June 18 from CO Capt. R. B. Sorenson, MC, who praised her professional achievements while serving as Defense Medical Human Resource System internet (DMHRSi) Super User, Operations Management Department, from January 2007 to June 2007. Plumley impacted the command's mission while adapting to job requirements outside of her normal rate as a postal clerk. She flawlessly purged more than 1,000 personnel files that allowed a seamless transition to DMHRSi. Her efforts ensured the command met all pre-implementation requirements and staff DMHRSi training schedule on or ahead of schedule.



Photo by Bill Love, NHCC Public Affairs Office

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, Ambassador Charles A. Ray (left), visited Naval Hospital Corpus Christi on June 29 and informally met with staff to discuss rescuing individuals who fall in harm's way as a result of combat. Kay McMahan, POW/MIA chairwoman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2932 Ladies Auxiliary in Aransas Pass, had a hand in bringing Ray to Corpus Christi.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Photo by CNATRA Public Affairs Office

Commander Keith Wagoner (right) is hosed down by his son, Thor, and Lt. Jason Bartholomew following his final flight in the U.S. Navy. Wagoner will retire from the Navy August 10 following 23 years of service.



Photo by Richard Stewart, Base Photographer

During his retirement ceremony on June 15, AMCS (AW/SW) Timothy Nichols (right) receives the Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal from Lt. Cmdr. Todd Becker. Nichols, a native of Omaha, Neb., served 23 years in the US Navy.



Photo by Richard Stewart, Base Photographer

With 21 years of service, BMC (SW/AW) Rodney Williams (right) retired on June 15 at Wings Auditorium. The Newport, Tenn., native receives an award from Cmdr. David Padula.



Photo by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

Master Chief Petty Officer Hull Maintenance Technician (Surface Warfare), Ronald D. Gonzales, retired from the Navy with more than 30 years, aboard the *USS Lexington* on July 4. He was whistled ashore for the final time on active duty as CNATRA, Rear Adm. Donald Quinn looks on.



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

QM1 Francisco Ramirez's retirement ceremony was held May 29 at the Protestant Chapel aboard NAS Corpus Christi where NASCC Fire Inspector Otis Terrell served as the guest speaker. Ramirez was joined by his family and close friends in honor of his 20 years of service to the U.S. Navy.