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Wingspan

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • September 27, 2007

Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony held on Sept. 21

by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

In a pinning ceremony at Wings Auditorium aboard NAS Corpus Christi, 17 Sailors were promoted to Chief on Sept. 21. AOCs(AW/SW) Tony Pineda served as Master of Ceremonies and remarks were given by Rear Admiral John Christenson, CMDMCM (AW/NAC) Pat Flavin, and NCCS(AW/SW/FMF) Curtis D. Blunt. The guest speaker, AFCM(AW) Craig L. Springman, addressed the Sailors, saying, "Many strive to become Navy Chiefs and now, you are one."

The process of becoming a Chief, which can take anywhere from nine to 20 years depending on rate, also requires a great deal of integrity and dedication. "Chiefs are the backbone of the Navy," said NAS Commanding Officer, Captain Tim Coolidge. "I've got a feeling that one day I'll probably be working for one."

Both officers and enlisted personnel go to chiefs to get things done, and you'll often hear "Ask the Chief," as a response to questions because of their professionalism and expertise in their respective fields. In addition to various

physical requirements and community service, these men and women have achieved a prestigious honor and are congratulated for their accomplishments.

(right) Chief Petty Officers listed alphabetically: ADC(AW) Samuel D. Bartels, MNC(SW) Billy J. Blackwell, AMC(AW) Joseph M. Caldone, OSC(AW) Eugene Carr, AOC(AW) Jermaine L. Clark, ATC(AW/SW) Shawn L. Cox, YNC(AW) Caryn O. Dejong, MNC(SW) Ruben Diaz, AMC(AW) Christopher S. Francher, AMC(AW) Greg C. Garcia, CMC(SCW/AW) James A. Graves, HMC(FMF) Edwin N. Guingab, UTC(SCW) John M. Kaffenberger, ATC(AW) Jeremy J. Most, AMC(AW) Thomas K. Shelton, YNC(SW) Brianard Thompson, NCC(AW/SW/NAC) Michael J. Wilder



Photo by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept. 15- Oct. 15

by Anne Booher, Editor

The early 1800s were a disaster for Spain. Between the ugly wars with France and power struggles in the Spanish government, Spain lost all of their American colonies in the first quarter century.

On September 18, 1810 Mexico declared independence from Spain. Two days earlier, Chile set up their own government in spite of Spanish occupation.

Eleven years later, on the Sept. 15, 1821, five more colonies declared their independence; Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua simultaneously cut ties with the struggling Spanish government.

For this reason, Sept. 15 marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month. Everyone needs heroes and Hispanic heritage is full of them: Ellen Ochoa, the first female Hispanic astronaut in 1991; Joseph Marion Hernandez, the first Hispanic member of the US Congress in 1822; the first Hispanic star of Rock and Roll, Richie Valens in the 1950s and 60s; and the first Hispanic to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Carlos Santana in 1998.

Carlos Mencia has made us laugh; Julio César Chávez and Oscar De La Hoya have made us cheer; and many whose names we will never know are making us proud in Iraq and Afghanistan today.

When one forgets his heroes and heritage, he loses his identity. Take a few moments this month and remember the great achievements Hispanics have made throughout their history.

Hispanic Heritage Month continued on page 4

Photo available by public domain

Donovan, VT-28 XO, retires Sept. 28

by VT-28 Public Affairs Office



Donovan

After 18 years of service, Cmdr. John "Moose" Donovan will retire. The ceremony will take place Sept. 28 in Hangar 58 at 10 a.m.

Donovan is a native of West Palm Beach, Fla. He graduated from Brown University in Providence, R.I., in 1988. He was commissioned through the Aviation Officer Candidate School program in Pensacola, Fla., in July of 1989. After commissioning, Donovan immediately

began primary flight training at Whiting Field with VT-6 and HT-18. After being winged a Naval Aviator in Aug. 1990, he moved to Jacksonville, Fla. He finished training, for the SH-60B, with HSL-40 in Sept. of 1990 and was assigned to the "Proud Warriors" of HSL-42. He completed two Red Sea/Mediterranean deployments onboard the USS *McInerney* (FFG-8) and the USS *Taylor* (FFG-50). He then returned to HSL-40 to be an SH-60B instructor pilot. He worked as the Flag LT for COMCRUDESGRU Twelve, working for Rear Adm. Cutler Dawson. He spent 25 months on the staff and completed a deployment with the USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65). After three consecutive tours in Mayport, Fla., he took orders to HSL-37 "Easyriders" located in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

After Hawaii, Commander Donovan worked as a Flag Aide for VADM Alfred Harms at the Naval Education and Training Command. Following this 18 month tour, he took over as the Director of Manpower and Personnel (J1) at Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT) in Tampa, Fla. During this tour, he was selected for Command and was slated for the VT-28 Rangers in Corpus Christi,

Donovan continued on page 12

From The Skipper

Congratulations, Navy Chiefs!

by Capt. T.E. Coolidge

For the past several weeks on Navy bases around the world, I expect that early morning and late afternoon sounds have attracted attention.



Coolidge

It's a Naval tradition that Navy Chiefs, when they get the list of this year's Chief selectees, take these men and women selected for advancement and re-motivate them before allowing them to join into their midst. For our 17 Chief

ing) for the newest batch of Sailors that were able to don Navy khaki last Friday.

I heard about the "Lexington Run" that began before daybreak on the cement grounds in front of the USS *Lexington* a couple of weeks ago. And that evening I saw it on the NBC news where the gathering of Chief selects from all three local bases came together and enjoyed some early morning air. I know the Force Master Chief, the Navy Region Southeast Master Chief, the Command Master Chief, as well as a host of master chiefs and all chiefs were there to encourage this year's selectees for the morning session.

I was thinking about some of the traditions that our Chiefs celebrate, and I'll tell you that I think that our Chiefs truly are the backbone of the Navy. There's been more than one time when I've worried about, or simply couldn't come up with a

solution to a problem. In mentioning it to a Chief, the answer I got both solved the problem and made me think, "Why didn't I think of that?" And there's been more than one Chief that I've told, because I believe it, that one day I'd be working for him or her.

Chiefs, all Chiefs, but in particular those of you who recently pinned on your new chevron, I salute you!

And right along with that I expect to see you at the Khaki Ball coming up this weekend. I know that you will be there sporting your new rank – in khakis.

Which bring us to next month. We here are steeped in Navy tradition, and for 232 years, we've marched step-in-step with this Nation in wartime and in peace. From the early days in wooden ships and John Paul Jones through today where laser-guided

Captain continued on page 12

Chaplain's Column

Sunday

by Chaplain Chin Van Dang

"You've got to have more recreation and relaxation," said the doctor to the over-worked businessman.

"But I'm too busy," said the businessman.

"That's silly," said the doctor. "Ants have the greatest reputation for being busy all the time, yet they never missed an opportunity to attend a picnic."

The Christian Sabbath, Sunday, has always been regarded as a day of rest from work, a day dedicated to contemplating the goodness of God and thanking him for his gifts to us. I believe it is also a day when families should do something together. We seem to be such busy people and this interferes with our doing things together as a family or doing something for others.

God's action is a model for us. If God "rested and was refreshed" on the seventh day, we, too ought to rest and let others,

especially the poor, be refreshed (see Exodus 31:17, 23:12). Taking our Sabbath rest is a way of expressing honor to God for all that he has done for us. Such rest, however, does not exempt us from our love for others. We can perform works of mercy, such as humble service of the sick, the infirm, and the elderly. And we ought to seek appropriate relaxation of mind and body, as well.

"Wonder drugs won't help you," the doctor told his patient. "What you need is complete rest and a change of living. Go to a quiet country place for a month. Go to bed early, eat lots of vegetables, drink plenty of good rich milk, and smoke just one cigar a day." A month later, the man returned to the doctor's office. He looked like a new man. "Yes, doctor," the man said, "Your advice certainly did me a world of good. I went to bed early and did all the

other things you told me. But that one cigar a day almost killed me at first. It's not easy to start smoking at my age!"

If we truly love the Lord above all else, then the love of God will overflow to love of others as well. Sunday, like all the days of the week, is God's gift to us. Sunday is a special gift of rest, refreshment and family. The joy of the Lord's Day is a great gift to strengthen us in our love of God and of neighbor (Nehemiah 8:10).

Let us not turn away from this gift we have been given.



Dang

A Message from the Fire Chief

Practice your escape plan; Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 17-24

by Fire Chief John Morris

It's that time again for Fire Prevention Week! From Oct. 17-24, NASCC's Fire & Emergency Services is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents to "Practice Your Escape Plan."



Morris

During this year's fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates will be spreading the word about the dangers of home fires and teaching local residents how

ful partnership with Flour Bluff Elementary School.

According to the latest NFPA research, 3,030 people died in 2005 in home fires – that's roughly eight people every day. Being alerted to a fire and knowing what to do to escape from one are extremely important, yet only 23 percent of households have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan.

Many times when we speak to residents who have experienced a fire in their home, they recall becoming confused and disoriented by the conditions and severity of the situation – but they realized they needed to get out fast. Sometimes there are only seconds to escape, but there's no question that having a plan in place that has been practiced saves precious time and makes survival more likely. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will prompt folks in our community to plan

and practice their escape.

Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention Mark Weil said, "Although it's difficult to prepare for the unexpected, reviewing the information and taking action based on it to plan for a fire is strongly recommended. Don't forget to practice your escape plan during Fire Prevention Week!"

Follow these helpful suggestions during Fire Prevention Week and in case of an emergency, you'll be prepared: Install working smoke alarms on every level, inside and outside of each sleeping area.

Develop a fire escape plan that identifies two ways out of each room and a family meeting place outside. Make sure your plan allows for any specific needs in your household. If everyone knows

Fire Chief continued on page 12

Wingspan

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Unique Navy volunteers appreciated and educated
 by Ed Mickley, Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command Public Affairs

At a luncheon Sept. 8 for South Texas Navy Ombudsman, the message, "Thank You," was voiced by Rear Admiral John N. Christenson, Commander Naval Mine and ASW Command Corpus Christi and echoed by Captain Tim Coolidge, Commanding Officer, NASCC.

"You do a great job for our Sailors," he added. "Thank you for stepping forward."

His remarks centered on the importance of the Ombudsman, volunteers who are willing to serve their Navy family. Through situations such as Hurricane Katrina and Individual Augmentees, the Ombudsman is a unique and important asset for each and every command in handling family and communication issues that arise from service in the Navy.

People from all over America serve in the Navy and with deployments can come stress, conflict and communication issues. The Ombudsman provides a wealth of resources for these families and commands to meet the demands of Navy life.

As he closed he asked the group what the main topic of the speech was—two words.

"Thank you," someone in the audience stated.

The event was held at the Mustang Island Conference Center and organized by the Family Services Center and the Chaplain's office aboard NAS Corpus Christi.

"We put the program together," said Tito Perez, Education Services Facilitator for Fleet Family Services Center. "But the Chaplain's office was instrumental in providing the funding."

"We have people from Ingleside, Corpus Christi, and Kingsville and even one person from Orange, Texas," he added.

The luncheon was only part of the day's program. The women were at the center for a full day of advanced training. Each Ombudsman is trained and certified before they serve in the position. Several attendees were there to get started in their training.

"I just volunteered to do this," said Becky Dickey, a former Air Force 1st Lt. and one of the new trainees. "It's something I can do to offer my skills to the squadron."

"I should be certified in October," she added. "Then I can help provide resources to those who need it."

The training seminar to help identify and solve potential problems was conducted by Dr. Mary Ann Spears-Howell, a Licensed Professional Counselor of San Antonio.

"By understanding collaborative problem solving or other topics we cover, these people become resource experts for families that might be in a stressful situation," she said. "They learn where the problem centers are and then point the person in the right direction."

Any Navy spouse is eligible to serve as an ombudsman. The commanding officer appoints the ombudsman from volunteers within the command. Good judgment, dedication, reliability, discretion, and an overriding sense of wanting to help others are among the key attributes of ombudsmen.

The ombudsman program provides a communication link between commanding officers and family members by providing timely and accurate news to family members. This increases understanding of Navy family needs for the command.

"I am convinced that family readiness is tied directly to combat readiness," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen. "Our families serve as we serve, and the Ombudsman Program is critical to making sure we recognize that."

While their servicemember is standing watch, on patrol, or performing other duties in service to their country, the families waiting at home are performing a vital function, as well. The Ombudsman plays an integral role in ensuring that the families receive all the support they need and deserve.

U.S. Navy Ombudsman and trainees pay close attention to Dr. Mary Ann Spears-Howell of San Antonio, TX who conducted an advanced training seminar. This was just part of the day's activities as they also were invited to a luncheon held in their honor during Ombudsman Appreciation Day.



Photo by Ed Mickley

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Ay, no need to cry/ for life is a carnival/ and it's sweeter to live while singing/ no need to cry/ for life is a carnival/ and singing relieves the sorrow...

-from "La Vida Es Un Carnaval" by Celia Cruz; singer, Cuba.



"I am an organizer, not a union leader. A good organizer has to work hard and long. There are no shortcuts. You just keep talking to people, working with them, sharing, exchanging and they come along."

-César Chávez; founder of National Farm Workers Association; Arizona.



"Music is the divine way to tell beautiful, poetic things to the heart."

-Pablo Casals; cellist and conductor; Spain.



And it was at that age ... Poetry arrived in search of me. I don't know, I don't know where it came from, from winter or a river.

I don't know how or when, no they were not voices, they were not words, nor silence, but from a street I was summoned, from the branches of night, abruptly from the others, among violent fires or returning alone, there I was without a face and it touched me...

-from "Poetry" by Pablo Neruda; poet; Chile



Oscar de la Hoya, 43 fights, 38 wins, 30 Knockouts; California/ Puerto Rico



Julio César Chávez, 115 fights, 107 wins, 86 Knockouts; Sonora, México

"Many people didn't even know where our country was situated. They would ask me if it was near India, or things like that. That's why I told myself, I'm going to turn the negative into the positive. I'm going to be the first internationally famous designer who comes from Latin America."

-Oscar de la Renta; fashion designer; Dominican Republic

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Captain continued from page 2

“smart” weapons are being used on our War on Terrorism, our Navy is serving proudly. We’ll be celebrating this year’s Navy Ball on October 19 at the Omni Hotel. Teresa and I had a lot of fun at the Ball last year and we plan on having even more fun this year!

Folks, get out your uniforms, try them on and make sure they fit! I’m doing the same thing and I’d like to see as many of you as possible at our Navy Ball.

Get ready for some cooler weather, but until then, see ya at the beach!

Donovan continued from page 1

Texas. Commander Donovan reported to Training Wing Four in January and assumed the duties as Training Squadron Twenty-Eight (VT-28) Executive Officer on June 1.

Later that same day, Donovan and his family received some distressful news. A recent CT scan had come back positive. He was diagnosed with brain cancer and underwent surgery shortly thereafter. This was a trying time for Donovan and his family.

The tenant commands of NAS Corpus Christi came together and provided tremendous support with meals, child care, and much more. After the successful surgery and recovery, Donovan will be medically retired after 18 years of service. Donovan and his wife, Celeste, reside in Corpus Christi with their twin children Meagan and Connor, and will retire to Jacksonville, Fla.

Commander Donovan’s personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (six awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, and Navy Achievement Medal (two awards), along with various unit and deployment awards.

Fire Safety continued from page 2

what to do, everyone can get out quickly. Practice using the plan at least twice a year. Some studies have shown that some children and adults may not awaken to the sound of a smoke alarm and may need help waking up.

If the smoke alarm sounds, go to your closest exit. If you run into smoke, turn and use another way out. If you must exit through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit. Don’t take time to pick up belongings; just get out and help others get out. Move fast, but stay calm.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years, fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record. For more information, visit www.firepreventionweek.org.

NASCC F&EMS will be promoting Fire Prevention Week at the following locations: Flour Bluff School Oct. 9 & 10 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; NASCC-CDC Oct. 11-9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; CCAD Oct 11- 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Commissary Store Oct. 12 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.; NEX Exchange Oct. 12 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

NSI CPO Selectees brighten patients’ days at Driscoll Children’s Hospital

Photos and story by Mike Antoine, NS Ingleside Public Affairs



Chief Petty Officer selectees used a gurney to deliver stuffed animals and other toys around Driscoll Children’s Hospital for the young patients.

A thankful group of young patients at Driscoll Children’s Hospital in Corpus Christi got a surprise on Sept. 14. A group of Ingleside Chief Petty Officer selectees dropped by Driscoll for a visit, carrying gifts including stuffed teddy bears, activity books and crayons.

The CPO Selectees from commands aboard Naval Station Ingleside visited the youngsters as their final community service project prior to being formally advanced to the rank of Chief Petty Officer on Sept. 21.

ENC (SW) Brad Rolle, of MHC Crew Endurance serving aboard USS *Cormorant* (MHC 57), coordinated the collection of donated items, which turned out to be three boxes full of goodies that also included blankets, clothing, toys and games. The Sailors also handed out ball caps, command coins, and pencils to the children.

CPO selectees who visited the hospital included HMC(SW) Roy Elias, QMC(SW) Chris Patrick, ENC(SW) Brad Rolle, PSC(SW) Miguel Alderete, CSC(SW/AW) Billy Hill, DCC(SW) Scott Stiverson, HMC(FMF) Gabe Tellez, MRC Jason McGlaun, MNC(SW/AW) Jesse Kenner, YNC(SW/AW) Ruben Williams, and HMC(SW/AW) Ray Manahan.

“It was very emotional and uplifting day for us,” said PSC (SW) Alderete. “To see those children and the little bit of light and hope we gave them was a great feeling. We all felt better afterwards.”

“We don’t do these kinds of thing enough,” added HMC (SW/AW) Manahan, of MCM Crew Bulwark, serving aboard USS *Devastator* (MCM 6). “It felt great to see those kids’ reactions when they see us in uniform showing that we care.”



CPO Selectee Gabe Tellez presents a teddy bear to eight-year-old Layla. The visit, while it was part of completing their community service requirements for the CPO Selectee process, brought many of them a great deal of joy and was an “uplifting day.”

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Ask Dr. Garcia

Q: My husband and I have been married for 11 years. Although I make active attempts to keep the fire burning, I don't feel that what I've done so far has been too successful. I was thinking about writing him an old-fashioned love letter, but I'm not sure if that will work either. Or will it?

A: Sometimes, written words speak louder than spoken words. Writing has helped people to resolve longstanding issues about relationships at home and work, and to put into words feelings that have been too sensitive to describe face-to-face.

Previous research studies that have focused on the effects expressive writing had on emotions and behavior are worthy of mention. For example, in one clinical trial where expressive writing was utilized as part of a psychotherapeutic approach, clients found it to be helpful when they revealed their writing to significant others. These same studies also suggest that writing about upsetting experiences, although painful, produces long-term improvements in mood and indicators of well-being. Similar studies propose that writing about emotional topics is associated with significant reduction in distress. Moreover, previous studies on expressive writing have also suggested that writing may be especially beneficial for men. A finding I'm sure you'll appreciate once you involve your husband in writing *you* a letter. In addition, behavioral changes have also been noted. In one study, for example, students who wrote about emotional topics showed improvements in math grades in the months following the study. In another study, senior professionals who had been laid off from their jobs got new jobs more quickly after writing.

I must caution, however, that writing should be only used on a short-term basis and should *not* be replaced by face-to-face interaction.

In answering your question, it is true that for couples to maintain an enduring, healthy relationship, they must carve out couple time and physically express affection. However, recent research indicates that writing your heart out regarding your romantic situation could aide your marriage to thrive and survive.

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin provided one partner from each of 86 dating couples with a three-day writing assignment. Each day, half of the research participants wrote down information about everyday events and activities; the other half of the participants committed their deepest feelings and thoughts about the dating relationship to paper. Not all of the participant's responses had to be positive.

Three months later, 77 percent of the participants who wrote about his/her relationship had romances that were actively strong, compared to the 52 percent of those who wrote about more boring and mundane matters. What was more interesting about the results of the study was that the participants who wrote about their relationship used a variety of words expressing positive feelings when it came to instant message exchanges with his/her sweetheart even days after the writing exercise. Their partners responded in kind. James Pennebaker, Ph.D., professor and chair of psychology at the University of Texas at Austin, recommends that couples should get into the habit of writing down feelings and thoughts about their relationship. Dr.



Dr. Ruben Garcia, Ph.D., is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a Clinical Counselor with the Fleet and Family Support Center. Do you have a question for Dr. Garcia? Email him at ruben.g.garcia@navy.mil.

Pennebaker proposes that couples should perform this activity for three consecutive days for a total of 15 minutes each day. He further adds that couples who complete this exercise should focus on issues that are currently on their minds whether they are minor or significant. According to Dr. Pennebaker, "Often in a long-term relationship, important issues just drift." He continues by asserting that, "Standing back and writing about them can give you perspective and helps you focus on the central topics of importance." Dr. Pennebaker notes that this process can lead to greater intimacy, honesty, and stability in the relationship.

I would like to leave you with this bit of information that may be of some added help. Always give your marriage first priority in "real" terms, not just words. Many people say the right words (written or otherwise) to their spouses about their love and devotion, but they never demonstrate that love and devotion in real terms. The spouse is seldom comforted by empty words and promises. One such "real" term is *sacrifice*. If your spouse is a priority to you, then you should be willing to sacrifice things of lower priority for him or her. If your spouse is not a priority, then he or she will be the one sacrificed for your real priorities.

The second "real" term is *attitude*. When a man and woman first meet, they not only prioritize each other, but they also demonstrate an attitude of pleasure about it. Oftentimes, however, after a man and a woman marry, they may not have priorities that are important than each other, and they may even spend a great deal of time together, but they do it with the wrong attitude. They start acting as though pursuing each other and meeting one another's needs is a "ball and chain" that they are sentenced to drag with them through life. Their attitude translates as rejection for their spouse.

Lastly, the third "real" term is *energy*. People fall in love because they do whatever it takes to give their relationship the time and energy it needs. They sacrifice. They pour into their relationship at the expense of everything else. The reason people fall out of love is because they get lazy. They stop working at the relationship and then wonder why it doesn't work. Your energy-your supply-is essential in making your relationship with your spouse successful and keeping it *first* place in real terms.

NAVFAC Southeast's Safety program to change culture and behavior among workforce

by Sue Brink, NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs Officer

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast currently holds one of the best safety records within NAVFAC and recently the Command notified all employees and supported commands that the word "accident" will no longer be in their vocabulary.

"We pride ourselves on our continuing excellence in safety," said NAVFAC Southeast Commanding Officer Capt. Michael Blount. "Yet we need to continue to make positive changes in our safety program."

In reviewing the program, Blount determined that the word "accident" was misleading. "All accidents are preventable, so let's remove that word from our vocabulary and use mishap," proclaimed Blount.

NAVFAC Southeast has an extensive safety program to ensure all employees perform work in the safest manner possible. "If everyone is properly trained and equipped to perform their work and band together, the actions that lead to mishaps will be prevented," said NAVFAC Southeast Command Safety and Health Manager David Folk.

The entire team, 1500 employees and 150 military members, proactively participates in the safety program which makes

"Safety Always," their motto, the focal point of every task. "We are committed to ensure every employee returns home each day in the same condition as when they arrive at work," said Blount.

NAVFAC Southeast has recently reorganized and wants to make sure this safety culture gets passed on to the new employees that are coming on board. "We have hundreds of vacancies we are recruiting for and it is important that we keep safety awareness alive and well throughout the command," said Blount.

Safety is a part of every employee's responsibility. NAVFAC Southeast employees must aggressively adhere to and enforce safety policies in all of their work areas and look after each other.



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New Texas state laws take effect

by MACS(SW) Brad Volkmer, Security LCPO, Antiterrorism Officer



Volkmer

A set of twenty-nine new laws took effect across the state of Texas on September the first. Several of these were aimed at stiffening penalties and tightening monitoring procedures for child sex offenders. This was done in response to the sudden increase of such crimes that have emerged recently. These new changes make Texas' laws and penalties against such crimes some of the toughest in the country.

Several of the other changes are also in response to high profile crimes that seem to be dominating the news. With the apparent increase in vicious dog attacks, House Bill 1355 is an attempt to make owners take more responsibility in securing their dogs.

HB 1355: "Requires all dog owners to properly secure their dogs on their property. The law provides that a dog owner can be held criminally responsible if the dog causes serious bodily injury or death at a location other than the owner's property in an unprovoked attack during which the owner by criminal negligence failed to secure the dog."

Included in the new legislation, are three traffic and motor vehicle laws. With the holidays right around the corner, there

will undoubtedly be more of us hitting the road for lengthy trips. House Bill 586 is intended to slow that flow of traffic down just a bit.

HB 586: "Prohibits a driver who is issued a speeding ticket and found guilty of driving at a speed of 95 miles per hour or higher from taking a driving safety class to dismiss the ticket."

Senate Bill 153 put guidelines in place for drivers who are operating a motor vehicle on a learner's permit.

SB 153: "Makes it an offense for the accompanying licensed passenger of a driver with a learner's permit to sleep, be intoxicated, or to engage in any activity that prevents the passenger from observing and responding to the actions of the driver of the vehicle."

Although such devices are still readily available at auto parts and accessory stores, Senate Bill 369 addresses license plate coverings.

SB 369: "Prohibits the use of blurring or reflective matter on a license plate that significantly impairs the readability of the state name and license plate numbers and letters; prohibits the use of material or an apparatus that alters or obscures one-half or more of the state name; and prohibits using material that obscures the license plate number or plate color."

For more information on these and other new laws of the state of Texas, the complete text and history of each bill can be found at www.capitol.state.tx.us.



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

NAS CORPUS CHRISTI REMEMBERS SEPTEMBER 11



Photo by Anne Booher, Editor

(above) Chief Petty Officer Selectee, NAME, reads the names of the US Military who lost their lives on September 11. Following each name, the NAME bell was rung by NAME.

(right) At the Fire Department's September 11 ceremony, Fire Chief John Morris spoke of the loss of 343 brother firefighters, as well as the loss of 60 officers from NYPD and the Port Authority on that tragic day in September six years ago. At 8:59 a.m., three sets of five bells rang, serving as a chilling reminder of the time that the South Tower collapsed. The bells are a time-honored tradition announcing the death of a firefighter. Fire Inspector Otis Terrell (center) then recited both the Fireman's and Policeman's prayers as personnel reflected on that day that changed everyone.



Photo by NASCC I&EMS

The Fireman's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God, wherever flames may rage, give me strength to save a life, whatever be its age. Help me to embrace a little child before it's too late, or save an older person from the horror of that fate. Enable me to be alert to hear the weakest shout, and quickly and efficiently to put the fire out. I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me, to guard my neighbor and protect his property. And if according to your will I have to lose my life, bless with your protecting hand my loving family from strife.

AROUND THE BASE IN 2007

Winging Ceremony • September 14



Photo by Hugh Lieck

Official Party (back row from left to right): Cmdr. Chin Van Dang, NASCC Chaplain; Lt. Col. Dave Portillo, MATSG-22 Operations Officer; Cmdr. Mark Springer, VT-35 XO; Cmdr. Joe Shipley, VT-31 CO; Commodore David Maynard, Training Air Wing Four; Rear Adm. Jon Bayless, Commander Navy Region Midwest and guest speaker.

Wingees listed alphabetically: 1st Lt. Veronica Baez; 2nd Lt. Jared Butler; 1st Lt. Adam Cole; 1st Lt. Paul Flesher; 1st Lt. Jacob Hess; 1st Lt. Nirav Lad; Ensign John Lawr; 1st Lt. David Milodragovich; 2nd Lt. Corey Preston; Ensign Kenneth Relethford; 1st Lt. Nathaniel Sidwell; 2nd Lt. Dakota Speidel; 1st Lt. Joseph Ward; 2nd Lt. Jason Yardley; Ensign Kerry Bistline, Jr.; Ensign Danny Stevens; 1st Lt. Ryan Szmajda; Lt. j.g. Christopher Tate; Lt. j.g. Thomas Veade



Photo by Gonzalez Liberty Center

Big turnout for Gonzalez Liberty Center's deep sea fishing trip

A deep sea fishing trip, arranged by the GLC, launched from Dolphin Docks in Port Aransas on September 15. 45 military and civilian passengers spent the day catching redfish in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Gonzalez Liberty Center will also host a Paintball Tournament on October 7 and a Halloween Party on Oct. 26 from 6 until midnight. Drop by for free food, a cash bar, and costume contest. For more information or to sign up for these events, please drop by or call (361) 961-3768.

Thank you, Girl Scouts!

A local Girl Scout Troop made a generous donation of Girl Scout Cookies for active duty servicemembers in Iraq. NASCC is appreciative of the donation and the servicemembers will be thrilled to receive the care package. (Pictured from left to right) Chaplain Chin Van Dang, RP1 Russel Foster and RP2 Paul Drachenberg were responsible for assembling the care package.



Photo by Ensign Katie Inde, Public Affairs Office



Photo by Anne Booher, Editor

Judy LeFevers (front right), chairman for the All Officers' Spouses' Club Newsletter committee, and Anissa Wakefield (back right), Treasurer, greet prospective members at their Welcome Coffee, held Sept. 10 at the home of Rear Adm. and Mrs. John Christenson. Spouses had the opportunity to sign up for the AOSC as well as various committees.



Photo by Anne Booher, Editor

STS2 (SS) Jeb Bramblett reenlisted on Sept. 14 in a ceremony conducted by CWO3 Denise Mesmer. Bramblett has been in the Navy for eight years, three of those aboard NAS Corpus Christi.

All Officers' Spouses' Club 'Spa Evening'

The next AOSC meeting will be held at the USO on Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. This will be a gown exchange and spa evening in preparation for the Navy Ball. Bring gently-used gowns and other clothing and select "new" items for yourself!

To find out more about membership, upcoming events or general information, please visit hub.cinhouse.com/aoscnasec/index.cfm or email AOSCNASCC@yahoo.com.