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# Wingspan

Vol. 13, No. 21

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • October 11, 2007

## The Combined Federal Campaign: Helping those in need

by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

During any crisis or tragedy, some of the first responders are generally the military, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. However, depending on the situation, other entities come in to assist and many are a part of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) group.

This year's annual Combined Federal Campaign drive kicked off at the Emerald Beach Holiday Inn, Tuesday, Sept. 25 during a luncheon gathering.

Shannon Chaves, CFC Director, introduced this year's Chair, NAS Commanding Officer, Captain Tim Coolidge.

"You are the key to this year's success," Coolidge said as he pointed to the assembled gathering. "Because of what you do, and how you take responsibility in talking to the people around you, that's what makes this a success."

"This year's theme highlights the fact that through CFC we can 'Help Our World Forward,'" he continued. "Through the CFC, federal employees have been helping our world forward since President Kennedy initiated a formal national-giving program in 1961. The CFC has grown into the Nation's leading workplace-giving program, and no other annual employee-giving program raises as much money for charity."

Another keynote speaker was CNATRA Chief of Staff, Capt. James "Buster" Crabbe.

"Last year we were tasked with a goal of \$700,000 for CFC," he said. "With some people leaving CCAD and other people leaving who we'd relied on in the past, we weren't sure we'd make it. But thanks to your generosity and belief in CFC, federal employees in the Coastal Bend Area donated \$805,651. That's a record amount. That's an amount that went a long way toward helping people."

A payroll contribution of a few dollars each month goes a long way toward helping people. A monthly deduction is an easy and nearly painless way of contributing for federal employees. If you don't see it, you hardly miss the amount taken automatically from your pay. Yet, at the end of the year, an employee has given a sizeable amount and has a ready-made tax deduction receipt.

"With payroll deduction," said Chaves, "the amount you choose is simply deducted from your paycheck. For example if you donate \$5 per pay period, that's \$120 per year. Most people can't write a check for \$120, but they'll never miss that \$5 each pay period."

"The CFC allows people to donate specifically to charitable organizations within the Coastal Bend, nationally or internationally," said Chaves. "We have more than 2,000 organizations that people can donate to. Cancer, research, environmental concerns, we ensure that your donation goes to where your heart

is without you having to be concerned with 'scam' artists."

Chaves, in her ninth year with CFC, enjoys the people she meets on a daily basis. "The people who volunteer to do this campaign are wonderful, and dedicated. There are volunteers from every command here, and that includes the Corpus Christi Army Depot, the Naval Hospital, US Customs and Border Protection, Training Wing 4, and others."

"There are three reasons to give," she continued. "It's easy, especially through the payroll deduction; it makes you feel good; and it's up to us, the individual, to give so that others may benefit from our hearts."

For more information, or to contact Shannon Chaves, please call (361) 443-5765.



Various awards are given to federal employees who choose to donate a portion of their paycheck to a charity of their choice. The Eagle Statue (above) is awarded for donations of more than \$1000.

Photo by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

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## Roughead appointed as Chief of Naval Operations



As Adm. Mike Mullen (right) became the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Gary Roughead (center) took over as Chief of Naval Operations as of Oct. 1. Also pictured: Commander, Pacific Command, Adm. Timothy J. Keating (left).

## Airfield construction expected to continue through Jan. '08

by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

"X" marks the spot where construction work on the main airfield aboard NASCC is being done. An asphalt overlay for the first section is underway, with convoys of trucks expected to bring in material for the runway repair.

Runway construction began during September, with heavy trucks and equipment accessing the base. "We're going to have construction trucks coming in and out for the next several months," said George Valdez, of NAVFAC.

"Initially, they'll be bringing machinery to break the concrete," he continued.

"We're at a place in time where the airfield is deteriorating to the point that if we let it go any longer, it will cost a lot more to repair."

The repair project has an expected completion date of January 2008.



Photo by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

# From The Skipper

Being a part of good things  
by Capt. T.E. Coolidge

I had the pleasure recently, of being invited to the "National Kids Day" with a group of our Boys & Girls Club members as they joined other children at the Club in Robstown. There were children from the Boy's & Girl's Clubs at NAS Corpus Christi, Naval Station Ingleside, Naval Air Station Kingsville, and the Greenwood and Robstown Clubs. It was a Saturday and, of course, the plan was for the kids to be outside for a lot of the games.

Of course, it rained. When it quit raining, Mimi Gutierrez, Youth Activities Director, and the crew erected a canopy under

which the children played games. And then the rains came again. Although there were some damp spirits, youth has a resiliency that can overcome anything! The games were moved indoors and after an opening ceremony, laughter and smiles prevailed.

There were a host of "elite" team players that made this happen. I'll step up to say, however, that our own Mimi G, and George Beyluni took the lead. They guaranteed the program would happen and that the kids had a good time.

I was happy to be a part of it. It was the first time I'd ever been in Robstown and, for a small community, it's really growing. The town doesn't seem to be content with just being the birthplace of Congressman Solomon Ortiz and NFL Player's Commission and former football great Gene Upshaw. They have a Boys & Girls Club that's impressive in size

and arrangement. It's evident that forward-thinking planning was involved when you see the placement and efficiency of the building.

I came away with the knowledge that the facility was for the kids. Everywhere I looked that morning, children were playing and having a wonderful time. One thing that brought a smile was watching Mimi. When a young child would stand in front of her, Mimi, with practiced ease, would grab a green T-shirt that said "Boys & Girls Club" and would put it over the child's head and bring it down to their waists.

The smiles and laughter were contagious and after watching the children play and the smiles on the adults, I have a new image in my head for the term "grinning from ear-to-ear!" It was a joy to watch the children run

Captain continued on page 10

# Chaplain's Column

A Patriot tells the truth  
by Chaplain Timothy Gault

A long time ago, a king went to visit another king. They enjoyed a feast together and began to discuss whether to make war against a third king. As they talked, they thought to bring in all the local "wise men" as counsel. So, they called all 400 of the local "prophets." The problem was that these men were on the king's payroll and rather liked their jobs—and their necks. So, they had a habit of telling the king whatever they thought he wanted to hear. This, as you might be thinking, rendered them useless to the kings. Some of them possessed great oratorical skill and some were incredibly brash. We might be impressed by them if we witnessed them today. Nonetheless, they were a useless bunch to the kings in the decision-making that day. The kings needed sound advice. They needed to hear the truth.

So, King Jehoshaphat asked King Ahab if there was anyone else who would actually tell the truth. Ahab responded, "Yes, there is one but I hate him for he never prophesies anything good concerning me—only bad things." After some cajoling, Ahab sent for Micaiah.

The king's court was a farcical sight. The "wise men" were giving animated presentations to the king. One had even fashioned a ridiculous set of iron horns that he proposed the king could use to gore the potential enemy. When Micaiah arrived, he faced intense pressure from his peers. They told him, "Micaiah, look here, we are all in agreement. We have all told the king to take this war initiative. Please do the same."

So Micaiah entered into the courtyard to face the kings. Gathered there were the 400 "wise men," the king's court attendees, and the two kings sitting on thrones in all their royal attire. I imagine the venue drew quiet as he approached the kings. Micaiah then voiced the opinion fashioned for him by the 400. But, the kings noticed this was not really Micaiah's opinion. Perhaps they saw it in his face. Perhaps his body language gave it away. But, they did not believe Micaiah when he said, "Go to war and God will give you the victory."

Indignant, King Ahab asked, "How many times must I adjure you to speak to me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?"

Micaiah gave a simple response that succinctly communicated to Ahab that he would lose the battle. Ahab, in response, looked over at Jehoshaphat and said, "See, I told you he never says anything good." In the end, Ahab decided for war but realized precisely what Micaiah predicted and he died on the battlefield.

Truth-telling is important for the development of the whole person. There are plenty who are willing to say almost anything to get what they want. But, speaking the truth is right and necessary for the moral development of the speaker and hearer. Had all the wise men the moral courage to tell the king the truth before this occasion, perhaps he could have come to terms with other more important personal

Chaplain continued on page 10

# A message from the Editor

Changes for the Wingspan and  
by Anne Booher, Editor

Hey y'all! I wanted to let you know that the look and feel of the Wingspan will be changing over the next couple of weeks. We'll be switching to a smaller-sized paper and our logo is being updated to a new design. I'm really excited about the switch and hope everyone likes the revised look as much as I do.

I do my best to publicize opportunities for service members and their families that are fun and unique. Often, there's something going on right here on base that's just what you need for a great weekend together. Sometimes, you want to use a couple days of leave and get out of town. For those times, you may want to check into this great organization called the Texas Veteran Project in Central Texas.

Kathy and Eldon Aydelotte, owners of Las Brisas Farm in Fayetteville, Texas, had a wonderful idea to open their bed and breakfast to returning veterans for a complimentary two-night stay. Since they started this in June, 35 other B&Bs in the Central Texas area have gotten on board as well. On any given night, you'll find that a bed and breakfast will have a room for you and your loved one. Keep an eye out in future issues of the Wingspan for more information on these "Small Towns With Big Hearts" and their kind way of honoring the troops. If you'd like to see a listing of the participating B&Bs, please visit [www.texasveteranproject.org](http://www.texasveteranproject.org) or [www.lasbrisasfarm.com](http://www.lasbrisasfarm.com).

Since I also feel it's my responsibility to keep you informed on our successes in the War on Terrorism (and make sure the sources are legitimate), I want to share the "Multi-National Force-Iraq" newsletter with you. Over the past few years, I've become slightly numb to news-media condemning the War on Terror and our President. It takes a lot to get me to read past the first few paragraphs. But a few months ago, I started receiving an email from MNF-Iraq and

it has been a breath of fresh air. If you read the last issue of the Wingspan, you probably saw the article on the Iraqi Air Force's first solo mission without U.S. assistance. This month, their newsletter has an article on the "concerned citizens group" - Iraqi citizens who assist Coalition Forces in defeating al Qaeda by helping them find weapons and IEDs as well as providing vital information and intel. It's might not be something you'll see on tonight's news or read in tomorrow's national newspapers, but these accomplishments are happening. If you'd like more information or to sign up for their newsletter, visit [www.mnf-iraq.com](http://www.mnf-iraq.com).

Lastly, I'm always interested in new articles, so if you've got an idea for a story or would like to test out your journalism skills, get in touch with me. In a couple months, we'll have a Photo Contest (more information to come) and the winner will be featured in the Wingspan. If you've got any comments, questions, or ideas, I'd love to hear them: [anne.booher@navy.mil](mailto:anne.booher@navy.mil). Enjoy the weather as it "cools off" and have fun getting ready for Halloween!

# Wingspan

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Capt. T.E. Coolidge

Public Affairs Officer  
Robert D. Torres

Assistant Public Affairs Officer  
Lt. j.g. Caleb H. Booher

Editor  
Anne Booher

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**Winkler bids farewell to TW-4; Brown becomes new RCC**

by Lt. Bill Coombs, Reserve Department Head

On Oct. 5, Training Air Wing Four bid farewell to the Reserve Component Commander Captain John K. Winkler as he relinquishes the post to Commander James H. Brown.



Winkler

Wing Four and I am proud to have worked with a great group of people, under the leadership of Commodore Maynard, who have truly embraced the CNO's vision of Active/Reserve Integration," said Winkler. "As I finish up my Navy flying career, I want to say that it has been a truly memorable experience and I will

always miss working with the great people who truly make Naval Aviation a national treasure." Winkler will now travel to Fort Worth to be the Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Unit Carrier Strike Group Five.

Captain Winkler was commissioned on May 22, 1985 after graduating from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Upon completion of flight training, he was designated a Naval Aviator on Nov. 6, 1986 at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas.

In Feb. 1994, Winkler transferred to the Navy Reserve and was ordered to the Defense Plant Representative Office at the McDonnell Douglas Corporation. He qualified as the Government Flight Representative and served as the Aviation Safety Officer. He was also assigned as a member of the T-45A and AV-8B aircraft program quality assurance and engineering team.

In February of 1996, Winkler transferred to the VAW-77 "Night Wolves" and served as the squadron Safety, Training, Operations and Executive Officer. During this period, he completed numerous counter-drug deployments to Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Panama and Curaçao. Selected for squadron command in 1999, Winkler served as "Night Wolf" Commanding Officer from June 2002 until Dec. 2003. Under his leadership, VAW-77 was awarded both the Noel Davis Battle "E" and CNO Safety Award for 2003.

After command of VAW-77, Winkler reported to the U.S. Transportation Command, Scott AFB, IL for joint duty. He reported as the Wing Reserve Component Commander for Training Air Wing Four in Oct. 2004.

Winkler has flown more than 13,000 flight hours in numerous military and civilian aircraft,

including more than 3,000 hours in the E-2C Hawkeye and 2,000 hours in the T-34C Turbo Mentor. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (two awards), and numerous service and campaign ribbons.

Winkler resides in St. Louis, Missouri with his wife Kathleen and children John Paul, 10, and William, 7. In his civilian career, he is a B-737 Captain with Southwest Airlines.

**COMMANDER JAMES H. BROWN**

Commander Brown is a native of Stark City, Missouri. He attended East Newton High School and Southwest Missouri State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1987. After gaining his commission at Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, he was designated a Naval Aviator in September 1989 following training in VT-4 at NAS Pensacola and VT-27 and VT-31 at NAS Corpus Christi.

In 1996, Brown reported to Carrier Air Wing Seven as the CVW Staff LSO. His responsibilities included the safe and expeditious recovery of all fixed wing aircraft aboard ship and the training of air wing aviators in aircraft carrier operations. He deployed aboard USS *John C. Stennis* in 1998 for her maiden deployment to the Arabian Gulf and flew missions over Iraq in support of "Operation Southern Watch" in both the E-2C Hawkeye and the EA-6B Prowler.

After leaving active duty in 1999, Brown joined VR-59 "Lonestar Express" as a Selected Reservist (SELRES) where he served as a C-40A Clipper Aircraft Commander, Mobilization Officer, Maintenance Training Officer, Administration Department, Operations Department,

and Maintenance Department Head, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer.

Brown has accumulated more than 4,200 accident free flight hours in eight different aircraft. His personal decorations include the Meri-



Brown

torious Service Medal, Strike Flight Air Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal (with Combat V), Navy Achievement Medal (two awards), as well as numerous unit awards.

Brown is married to the former Sheri Tynes of Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina. They reside in Fort Worth, Texas with their two sons, Gordon and Jackson.

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## LCS Minemen unveil cutting-edge mission packages in Panama City

by Ed Mickley, Naval Mine and Anti-submarine Warfare Command Public Affairs

At 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 14, moments after Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, Dr. Dolores Etter shouted the words, "Men, man your mission packages," the Sailors of Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Detachments One and Two sprinted down the aisles. They ran past an audience of high ranking officers and government officials to their designated display inside ARINC's cavernous facility in Panama City, Fla.

The exhibit, including nine standard ISO containers each measuring 20 feet long by 8 feet wide by 8 feet tall, surrounded the 600-plus attendees. Each container (or Mission Module) with doors open wide, displayed various automated and remotely operated manned and unmanned high tech mine countermeasures (MCM) systems. An array of command and control displays impressed at front and center, while poised in the rear, a MH-60S Seahawk helicopter stood by, configured to deploy several of the mine hunting and mine neutralization systems on display. Several Sailors manned each well-lit module.

"Today, the Naval Surface Warfare Center introduced to the fleet the first modular capability to the surface Navy," said Jim Thomsen, Senior Executive, Program Executive Office for Littoral Mine Warfare. "They've introduced multiple unmanned systems from surface, subsurface and aviation."

Initially designed to be loaded upon surface combatants to work with the dedicated mine warfare ships and airframes in the Fleet, the mission package's main use is now aboard the LCS, though separate modules can be deployed when and where needed.

This organic capability empowers surface warriors to have "in-stride" mine countermeasures resident within forward deployed battlegroups using the latest MIW technology without dedicated platforms on station.

"They will take the Sailors out of the minefield, allow us to rapidly engage hostile submarines and defeat attacks from swarms of small boats," Etter said. "While our future environment is uncertain and unpredictable, we are prepared to evolve to meet the challenges." The Mine Warfare (MIW) Mission Package is the first of three modular warfare packages being delivered to the Fleet. An Anti-Submarine Warfare Package is due for delivery in early 2008 and a Surface Warfare package is scheduled for mid-2008.

"The modules' standard interface and open architecture provides various options for maintainability and affordability," stated Rear Adm. Kevin McCoy, Chief Engineer Naval Sea Systems Engineering Directorate. "The modules can be deployed on multiple naval platforms."

A Mission Package is a functional grouping of systems that, when installed onboard LCS, provides capability to execute a focused mission. Similar in concept to today's desktop computers, each Mission Package includes standardized interfaces and open architecture allowing "plug and play" capability. The flexibility and scalability provided by this modular design allows any LCS to hold any mission package. The reconfigurable payloads can be changed out pier-side in just a few days.

Noted in the 2007 LCS Report by the RAND Corporation, "Its modular, focused mission capabilities—including MIW, ASW, and SUW—may be leveraged to 'kick in the door' of a developing crisis, adding a persistent presence, surveillance capability, and situational awareness when first on the scene."

Captain Michael Good, Program Manager for the LCS Mission Modules said the LCS's force packages are "tailored to meet the specific mission requirements in the littorals and offer greater warfighting versatility." "It will usher in a new era of flexible, scalable combat power for our surface Navy," Good added.

Specially trained detachments will deploy with the vehicles and sensors in support of Mine, Undersea and Surface Warfare missions. "The ships will be very capable," added Rear Adm. Vic Guillory, Director Surface Warfare. "But the teeth will come from these boxes and the Sailors who are trained to exploit them when necessary."

Each MIW MP will have a detachment of 19 Sailors assigned, consisting of one officer and 18 enlisted personnel who will operate and maintain the various systems. Training as a team for the past 18 months, they're cross-trained to handle various pieces of equipment.

"This is a very special bunch of Sailors. This is what gives you the confidence to move out on ideas like this and know it is going to be successful," Etter added. "They are the very first crew assigned to the mission module for LCS so that means they are paving the way for lots of folks behind them."

Thomsen noted that there are more than sixty-three MIW packages in various stages of research, design or testing that have yet to reach the Fleet.



The Sailors of LCS Detachments One and Two sprinted down the aisles past an audience of high-ranking officers and government officials to their designated display inside ARINC's facility in Panama City, Fla.

Photo by Ed Mickley

## Jr. Girl Scout Troop 632 supports deployed servicemembers

Photo and article courtesy of Jr. Girl Scout Troop 632



Troop 632 from L to R: Jackie Salazar, Brandy Tillman, Caroline Schwing, Alyssa Ruiz, Hannah Bratton, Miranda Johnson, Bridget Clapp, and (kneeling) Hanna Roberts donated cookies and wrote cards to deployed troops in Iraq.

Junior Girl Scout Troop 632 of Corpus Christi made a second donation of Girl Scout Cookies to deployed troops through the Gift of Caring Project and NASCC's Chaplain's Office. Girl Scout Troop Leader Cindy Schwing said, "Receiving Girl Scout cookies in October is probably like having Thanksgiving in July! We hope the servicemembers enjoy the cookies."

"For those people who didn't want to buy cookies for themselves, we suggested that they buy a box for the troops," said a girl scout mother. The idea was a success and multiple cases of cookies were collected and delivered

to the Chaplain's office.

The girls also included notes with lots of positive and encouraging wishes. "We would like to thank everyone who supported this effort while also supporting Girl Scouts," said Schwing.

Troop 632 has moved on to its next service project to help the Ronald McDonald House of Corpus Christi. They have started gathering items including beverage tabs, travel-sized soap and shampoo, new and gently used children's books, toys, and games. For further information on Troop 632's activities, please call Cindy Schwing at 853-8088.



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## NAS Corpus Christi remembers September 11



Photo by Anne Booher, Editor

AT1 (AW) Jeremy J. Most reads the names of US Military servicemembers who lost their lives on September 11. Following each name, a bell was rung by Flour Bluff Constable Jerry Bacher. AT1 Most is the HM-15 Sailor of the Year for 2006\*.

*\*In the previous issue, this caption was misprinted. We sincerely apologize for this and all oversights.*

## Base Housing offers residents incentives for completing survey

Photo and article by Gale Dyckman, Housing Installation Program Manager



Base housing recently mailed out satisfaction surveys to residents. Those who complete it will be entered to win one of three prizes.

The RSS is coming to NAS Corpus Christi PPV Housing in mid-October. The REACT® Resident Satisfaction Survey (RSS), developed by CEL and Associates, Inc., is used by the Navy to monitor the level of customer satisfaction with the quality and level of housing services and facilities provided to unaccompanied and accompanied military personnel. CNIC uses the results and findings of the RSS in decision-making processes to evaluate performance and improve business practices at all installations in CONUS and OCONUS for Family, Bachelor, and Private Public Venture (PPV) Housing.

Letters were mailed out via U.S. Postal Service by CEL and Associates to PPV residents around October 10th, inviting them to participate.

The survey will be conducted on-line this year, and the letter will contain instructions for accessing your survey. Residents who don't have access to a computer with internet access will be allowed to use the customer computer at the Navy Family Housing Office, Building 3600, Housing Welcome Center, to complete their survey.

Because your time is valuable, South Texas Military Housing (STMH) has elected to participate in an incentives program for residents who complete the survey. Incentive prizes will be awarded to three randomly-drawn participants from STMH residents at NAS Corpus Christi. Prizes include: (1) Dinner for 2 at Nikko's Steakhouse Restaurant, (2) Spa package certificate to a local, luxurious salon, and (3) \$75 gift card to HEB.

CEL and Associates will randomly select three addresses from the returned surveys responses - names are not necessary. Individual survey responses are anonymous and CEL will not disclose the responses of any individual. CEL and Associates will provide the PPV Property Manager at South Texas Military Housing with the addresses only of the three winners!

Only residents who complete their online survey are eligible for the prize drawings!

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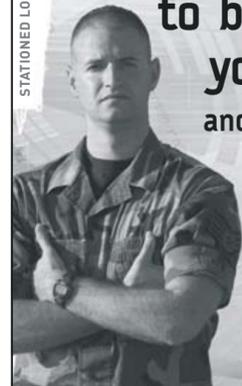
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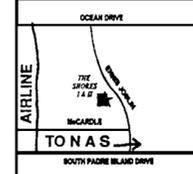


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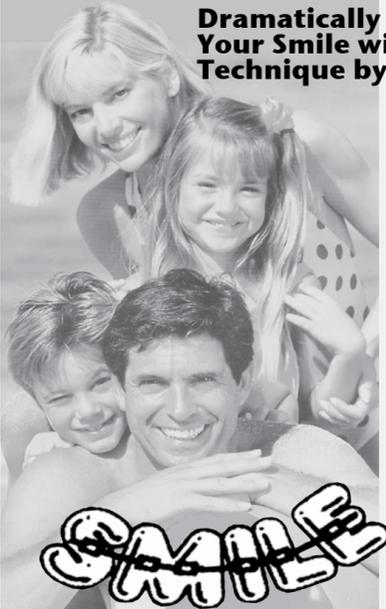



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## A HUMBLE HOMECOMING... Flight instructor returns from major success in Ramadi

by Lt. J.G. Caleb Booher, Asst. Public Affairs Officer



Photo contributed by Mike Hilton

Six months after Lt. Mike Hilton arrived in Ramadi, one of the most dangerous areas in Iraq, his Army battalion had practically eliminated any threat of IEDs in addition to the take-over of an insurgent stronghold. Hilton says he was "just a cog helping the Army machine."

One of the single greatest success stories coming out of the conflict in Iraq is that of Ar Ramadi. In the summer of 2006, the level of insurgent violence in Ramadi was the highest in the country.

Lt. Mike Hilton had just arrived at VT-28 and was well into the IUT (Instructor Under Training) syllabus when he was selected for an IA (Individual Augmentee) billet. By December, Hilton was in Baghdad, on his way to the capital of the large western Al Anbar Province, Ar Ramadi.

"I augmented Task Force 19 of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division [at Camp Corregidor]," said Hilton. "Since it was a task force, they could add all kinds of other units to it; we had Bradley's (M2/M3 tanks); we also had SEALs. We were the 'big stick' of the Ramadi area.

"I served as Electronic Warfare Officer," he continued "and also as Counter-IED (Improved Explosive Device) Officer for the battalion. Any time something new came down that could help in the counter-IED fight, they'd come to me. I'd figure out how it worked and decide whether it should be implemented into the command. From the Navy side, we'd develop tactics and go out [with the Army] on patrols and teach them."

Hilton, a native of Houston, is very proud to have been a part of the success in Ramadi. "I'd say the highlight was that when I arrived, Ramadi was the most dangerous place in all of Iraq—and Afghanistan for that matter," he says. "By the time we left, we'd gotten them down to nothing, as far as IED's.

"Obviously, I didn't do that by myself," he continued. "I was just a cog helping the Army machine. But Intel, operations officers, and individual soldiers did an outstanding job while we were over there. Going from the most dangerous place in Iraq to the safest place in six to nine months was a pretty awesome goal to attain while I was there."

It isn't likely you will hear about the extent

of the success in mainstream media, though. There is a striking difference between the stories from reporters who have spent weeks in the field and warriors who have spent years.

In September, US forces threw their support behind a group of local tribal leaders, who had become outraged by al Qaeda, spurring an awakening in the Anbar population. Support for the insurgent forces began to weaken severely.

"There's been some coverage and we even had reporters come out there," said Hilton. "To our credit, for the first six months, it was just too dangerous to put them in that territory. There was a particular neighborhood in Ramadi that was [the insurgents'] stronghold, and once that neighborhood fell, it was like the whole house of cards for insurgents. Once that fell, we could take more reporters out there.

"We'd take them out, show them how it is, but they're only there on a two week deployment," Hilton continued. "[The reporters] see Ramadi and, even though there are bombed out buildings, there's nothing going on here. They didn't see how bad it was before. So we kind of got short-changed on media coverage there.

"What they don't realize is that what we're doing in Ramadi affects Baghdad," he continued. "A lot of the al Qaeda insurgents live and train around Ramadi and work their way in through Fallujah and then they blow up a mosque in Baghdad.

"They don't see the big picture," said Hilton, "how it's turned around. If you've been watching news coverage, it's been a whole lot more calm in Baghdad." But that, says Hilton, is not the result of US and Iraqi success Baghdad alone. "It's been collaboration on everyone's part," locking down all the sectors surrounding Baghdad.

"It's been frustrating," says Hilton regarding the media's coverage of this fact. "Some of

Hilton continued on next page

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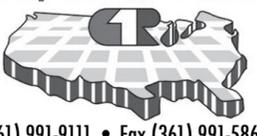
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#### Captain continued from page 2

from event to event, winning prizes and enjoying the company of their parents and Boy's & Girl's Club staff.

As most of you know, NASCC kicked off this year's Combined Federal Campaign. I have the privilege to serve this year as the Chair for campaign. I don't have to tell you how important I think this program is – and how important it is for everyone to consider making a contribution if you're able to do so.

I'm amazed at the standards that you have set in the past. Last year we, South Texas, had a goal of \$700,000 to raise for CFC and that goal was exceeded. This year, the goal is \$750,000.00 and I know we can top that, too! As the Chair for this year, I'm asking each of the volunteer coordinators to meet with everyone in their organization – 100 % contact is the goal. Folks, if you have the means and heart to contribute, CFC makes it easy for you to give the amount you choose to the organization you want to help out.

Before I close, I want to mention the passing of Jeanne Iturre. Jeanne served as the Secretary for last 12 NASCC CO's and XO's. For the past 25 years, Jeanne made sure the base leadership did our jobs, kept the paperwork mill moving, and made sure we didn't forget who we worked for – everyone on base! Jeanne was a character who could make you feel so very important because you were the CO or XO... and a moment later bring you spiraling down to earth by pointing out how you misspelled a word or didn't turn a phrase correctly. She was a joy to work with, efficient and confident. After working with Jeanne for the past two years, while I knew I was in charge, it was Jeanne who was really in control!

I'll see you on the beach... where I'll be thinking fondly of Jeanne and how much she contributed to the success of all of us at NAS Corpus Christi.

#### Chaplain continued from page 2

matters. Perhaps the nation could have realized a greater national life. But they did not and he did not. Ultimately, these "wise men" betrayed their own nation by lying to the king. If we lie to our leadership we are doing no better.

Truth-telling is against the popular stream and it requires integrity. Though Micaiah initially followed the crowd, it was not his habit. His habit of telling the truth earned him a reputation with Ahab. He was unpopular with the other "prophets" and the king hated him. One might argue that Micaiah was ineffective in the king's court. But that person is wrong. The idea that we can manipulate the truth to our benefit appeals to our pride. But, it is still morally and spiritually wrong. To make matters worse, we may set in motion a whole series of events based on a falsehood. Telling the truth is a superior practice and ought to be the standard for our daily interactions. It made Micaiah useful to the king. It makes us reliable resources for all who depend on us each day; especially our co-workers and our kids.

Truth-telling aids a willing listener. One who is willing to consider truth is better equipped to make sound judgments. It sometimes requires courage, sometimes modesty, and willingness to put aside our prejudices for the benefit of doing the right thing. Micaiah received confinement with bread and water for telling the truth. But, Ahab in his delusion suffered a humiliating death. He locked truth away rather than to live in it. Embrace the truth and be a good steward of it.

## ...AND A DUTIFUL DEPARTURE Frazier reflects on family, duty as he prepares for IA deployment

by AC3 Jamie Rae Wright, Wingspan Contributing Writer

Air Traffic Controller First Class Saddi Frazier was recently chosen for the Navy's Individual Augmentee Program. Petty Officer Frazier, originally from Detroit, Mich., checked into NAS Corpus Christi four years ago and has been an asset to the command ever since. He has had numerous collateral duties that have improved his division, department and the command including serving as Command Financial Specialist, Command Training Team, ADAMS Facilitator, and Volunteer CPR Instructor. Along with his Command collaterals, he also enhanced his division by becoming a Facility Watch Supervisor and a Section Leader.

Frazier will serve a 365 day tour with 270 days "boots on ground" in Iraq and will leave Oct. 29 for training in San Diego, Calif. Subsequently, he will depart to Ft. Lewis, Wash., for an additional three months of training. After completion of his training, Frazier will serve as a Squad Leader in Iraq.

"I think it is good that the military has a second volunteer system inside of an already volunteer Navy," said Frazier. "I think it is a good way of getting the right man, woman, Sailor or Marine for the right job. By volunteering, vice a forced deployment, you get people who want to go to war and they are more productive."

He went on to talk about his family's view on the program. "My family feels great about the deployment and is 100 percent behind me; they are just as excited as I am." Frazier has been married to his wife, Kazuko, for eight years and they have three children. Their old-

est daughter, Ira Haruka, is seven years old and is currently in the first grade at Dawson Elementary. Raena Midori is four years old and is in Pre-Kindergarten at Sander's Elementary. Their youngest son, Daiichi Ryu, is two years old and likes candy.

"I know that he has strong beliefs in family. It says a lot for him that he's put his life on the line for his Navy family even though he cares so much for his family at home," said AC1 Eric Anderson, Frazier's Lead Petty Officer. Anderson continuously emphasizes to his troops that the work environment should be viewed as "a family away from home." He added, "They always say you can't make a best friend in a three year tour, but Frazier is one of my close friends and I want to see him off well. He will be missed."

Frazier believes that this opportunity will be a "milestone for bigger and better things" in his career. He is enthusiastic to enhance his career by working with a diverse group including Marines and joint forces. When asked, "Why volunteer?" Frazier contemplated, "With 12 years of service under my belt, I am excited to take on new forms of leadership with in the military. This occasion will add variety to an already successful Air Traffic Control career."

Frazier feels no greater since of patriotism by going to Iraq; his patriotism comes from joining the Navy. After completion of his tour in Iraq, Frazier's future plans consist of going back overseas to Sasebo, Japan, and hopefully going underway onboard a ship.



Photo by Anne Booher, Editor

AC1 Saddi Frazier and his wife, Kazuko, hold their son Daiichi, 2. Frazier will leave in late October for a year long IA assignment.

#### Hilton continued from previous page

[the reporters] come with an agenda, some don't." But in Hilton's experience, it seems the more positive a reporter makes his story, the less likely he is to get it published. "Some of them were writing good stuff, but the big news media didn't see it as a priority to report it."

However, positive media coverage is by no means the main objective in any important military endeavor. In spite of the failures of the American media, successes like that in Ramadi will continue to take place wherever our men

and women are deployed. That's what makes "unsung" heroes.

Hilton, however, is the first to downplay any kind of suffering on his part. "It's hard to get down when the people you're around are going through a whole lot more than you. In four years, they've been there for two and a half," he said. "Yeah, I missed Christmas and Thanksgiving, but they're going to miss two of them consecutively. It's not my place to bitch when some of them have it worse than I did."

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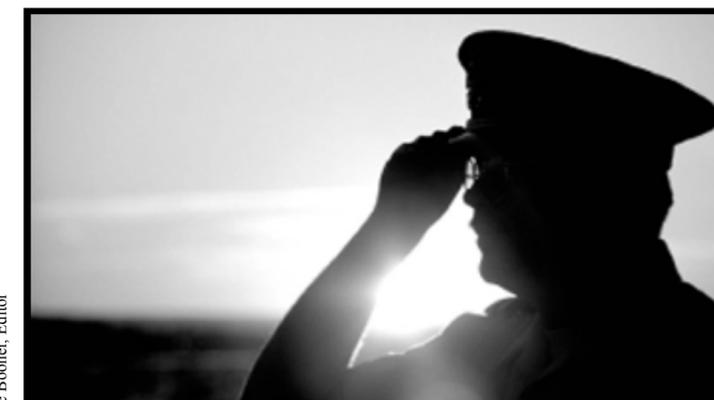
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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## National Housekeeping Appreciation Week



A luncheon held at the Bay Club on September 25 honored the housekeepers at the CBQ and the Navy Lodge. Base XO Bruce Emery (left) was there to present gift baskets to each housekeeper as Jim Rickert (kneeling), CBQ Manager, and Maria Gonzalez (3rd from L) announced them. The awardees are listed alphabetically: Bachelor's Quarters Room Attendants - Irena Alderete, Elfida Armendariz, Norma Chila, Viola Cortez, Ruben Fonseca, Josefina Garcia, Imelda Garnes, Maria Granillo, Pramon Healy, Travis Reynolds, Leticia Rodriguez; Housekeeping Work Leaders - Rong Ross, Maureen Williams.

Navy Lodge: Housekeeping Supervisor Rachel Lovette; Room Attendants: Anna Barrera, Erica Cruz, Leonides Thomas, Jessica Motes, and Yoko Evins

## MWR employee awarded for 35 years of service



Photo courtesy of MWR

Jose (Tony) Ramirez, who works at the Auto Skills Center, received special recognition and his 35 year pin from Travis Johnson, Director of MWR, for his years of dedication as an MWR employee.

## Welcome Home!



Photo by Barbie Baker, Base Ombudsman

CS2 Brian Ford returned to Corpus Christi in late September from a 15-month deployment to Iraq. He was welcomed back with a Community Appreciation Basket, courtesy of Barbie Baker, base Ombudsman and local businesses.



Photo by Bill Love, NHCC Public Affairs Office

Captain R. B. Sorenson, MC, NHCC CO, shakes hands with HM2 (FMF) Jason E. Comparan, DHCO, Customer Relations. He and two others, HM2 Duane A. Watts, DFA, Bio Med Repair, and HM3 Charles E. Steen, BHCC (unable to attend), will deploy in support of OIF with 1st Battalion, 9th Marines. Staff assembled in the CO's conference room at NHCC to honor Comparan.

## AM3 Jones upholds Blackhawk tradition

by Steve Mason, HM-15 Public Affairs Office



Jones

Every month, HM-15 recognizes those sailors whose attention to detail and assertive attitudes help keep small issues from becoming big problems. Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Ronald Jones is one of those sailors.

On May 8, Jones was welcoming AM1 Williams onboard HM-15 with a short introduction in Basic Aircraft Maintenance Safety. During the introduction, Jones took a few minutes to demonstrate to Williams the proper way to crawl and climb around the MH-53E safely. As they were finishing the introduction, Williams began to climb down the port side of the aircraft and almost jumped down onto the hangar bay floor into a puddle of hydraulic fluid. Foreseeing the potential for accident, Jones immediately notified Williams of the problem and directed him to wait before getting down. Jones then climbed across the aircraft to the starboard side of the aircraft and directed Williams to do the same. They both came down onto the hangar bay floor safely and cleaned up the hydraulic fluid.

In Blackhawk tradition, Jones was looking out for his shipmates. Most importantly, he recognized an unsafe situation and stopped it from becoming an accident. Jones and those who follow his example continue to make HM-15 and the Navy a safer place to live and work.

# AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Winging Ceremony • September 28



Photo by Hugh Leick

Official party (back row, L to R): Cmdr. Joe Shipley, VT-31 CO; Lt. Col. Dave Portillo, MATSG-22 Operations Officer; Lt. Col. Jon Ullman, VT-35 CO, Capt. David Maynard, Commodore TRAWING 4 CO; and guest speaker Capt. Bill Mosk, Fleec Forced Command Operations Officer

Wingees listed alphabetically: Lt. j.g. Jennifer Albert, 2nd Lt. Bryan Alfredo, 2nd Lt. Roswell Atkinson, Ensign Daniel Bradley, Lt. j.g. Zachary Conatser, Ensign Joseph Dolan, 1st Lt. Joel Duvivant, Lt. j.g. Jacob Huffaker, 1st Lt. Nathan Jacob, Ensign Jason Kardos, Lt. j.g. Patrick McCarthy, 2nd Lt. Jeremy Presley, 2nd Lt. Jeremy Reynolds, Lt. j.g. Joseph Russo, Lt. j.g. Robert Shary, Ensign Benjamin Wilson, Ensign Jayne Wilson



Photo by Richard Stewart, Base Photographer

Capt. David Maynard, Commodore TRAWING 4, presents a certificate of retirement to Cmdr. John M. Donovan (right) during a ceremony at Hangar 58 on September 28. Donovan is medically retiring following 18 years of service.



Photo by Bill Love, NHCC Public Affairs Office

The Director for Branch Health Clinics, Cmdr. Holly S. Bennett, NC (left), was promoted to Captain on Oct. 1 in a ceremony at Naval Hospital Corps Christi. NHCC Commanding Officer, Captain Robert B. Sorenson, MC, administered the oath during the promotion ceremony. Captain Don Cenon B. Albia, MSC, the executive officer, and Bennett's daughter, Heather (right), helped attach the four-striped epaulet shoulder boards.

## All Officers' Spouses' Club to host Trade Show Nov. 12

The AOSC has begun preparations for the 2007 All Hands Trade Show. This year's event will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on November 12 at the Gulf Stream Recreation Center. The admission price will be \$2, which will be donated to charities, or bring a toy for the Toys for Tots program, sponsored by the U.S. Marines. The AOSC sponsors this event as a showcase primarily for military members and dependents with small businesses.

If you're a vendor, this is a great venue for selling and cheap advertising all in one bundle. If you're a shopper, it's the perfect time for early holiday shopping, stocking up on teacher's gifts and supporting a great cause. There are approximately 50 generously-spaced booths available this year, which means there should be something for everyone. Due to the number of available spaces, the trade show will be open to non-military members as well, at a slightly higher fee. Vendor's fees are as follows: \$10 for AOSC members; \$15 for military members (non-AOSC); and \$20 for non-military. Snacks and drinks will be available to enhance your shopping experience. To reserve a booth or for more information, please call Luanne at (360) 200-2667 or Frances at (361) 949-3366 or visit [hub.cinhouse.com/aoscnascc/index.cfm](http://hub.cinhouse.com/aoscnascc/index.cfm).