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WINGSPAN



Vol. 13, No. 26

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

December 20, 2007

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, NAS Corpus Christi!



NASCC prepares for Christmas
Page 8



Remembering Pearl Harbor
Page 6

Freedom Facts

Under the former regime, Baghdad got 24 hours of free electricity daily, while large parts of the rest of the country received none. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division is helping the Government of Iraq jumpstart its electrical infrastructure. In August, electrical production of megawatts exceeded 5,000 for 25 days – producing enough power for approximately 450,000 homes. More than 500 electrical projects have been completed thus far in areas of generation, transmission and distribution. Courtesy of MNF-Iraq.com



In preparation for Christmas caroling, the children's choir from the Catholic Chapel aboard NAS Corpus Christi practice "O, Come Little Children" with their director, Richard Alegria.

5K/10K run on Jan. 5 will raise money for Wounded Warrior Project

by Anne Booher, Editor

The Wounded Warrior Project Charity Run/Walk and Command Challenge will begin at 9 a.m. on Jan 5, 2008. The two categories, under 34 and over 35, will start and finish the race at Sunfish Beach. The theme is "Warriors Helping Warriors," since most participants will be active duty or retired military personnel with access to the base. Participants can run/walk the 5K or run the 10K race along the bay.

The command challenge awards specially designed pub glasses to the command or organization with the most participants. The \$20 entry includes a t-

shirt (when you sign up by Dec. 20), and through sponsors' support, 75-80 percent or more of that entry fee will go to the Wounded Warrior Project. "It's a worthwhile charity," said event coordinator Lisa Waterson. "I work with a lot of veterans and they've told me there just wasn't the support they needed when they came back [from war]. This charity directly supports wounded, disabled and paralyzed veterans. It's a way for people here on base to help our own." The Wounded Warrior Project provides unique projects to help injured service members transition from their rehabilitation into civilian life. According to their website, a majority of the affected service members are in their twenties. "From the time [injured service members] enter the hospital, the Wounded Warrior Project provides care packages," explained Waterson. "And when they

come back home, [Wounded Warrior] helps them find a job and also provides counseling. They have a lot of morale-building, athletic-centric activities to help them feel normal." Other programs include WWP Outdoors, which holds fishing, hunting, and activities across the country; a Sports Project in conjunction with Disabled Sports USA; and they also help families with costs that accumulate while visiting their service member in the hospital (in the US and overseas). The WWP Charity Run/Walk hopes to sign up 350 participants, which should raise more than \$5000 for the Wounded Warrior Project. If you are interested in signing up, sponsoring a runner/walker, or participating as a volunteer to help with setup and water stations, please contact Lisa Waterson at (361) 961-6819 ext. 482, (361) 728-3496 (mobile) or email her at: lisa.waterston@sikorsky.com.



WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

Skipper's Column

by Capt. Timothy Coolidge

A few weeks ago, I went to the Robstown fairgrounds and was impressed by the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce's "Salute to the Military." This is the first time an event like this has happened there. It was good to be in the audience as service members, their families, veterans and retirees were honored.



Coolidge

I think a program like this came at a good time - in the middle of the holiday season. A poignant moment was when one of our local Sailors, HM1 Juan Rubio, was featured in a short video clip and then introduced to the audience. Rubio received the Silver Star Medal while serving as a corpsman with a Marine unit in Iraq.

When Rubio stood and the spotlight hit

'Tis the season...

him, he was surprised with a standing ovation and an extended round of applause.

Honoring our service members is not just for Memorial Day and Veteran's Day - it's always a good time. This is especially true during the holidays when some of our finest service members are serving in harm's way. What they do, they do for us so we can be with our families.

As we go on our bustling way of getting things done, I encourage everyone to take a moment and consider our shipmates and their families. Maybe this year, you can decide to do a little something special for someone in our Navy family, outside your immediate family. One simple and easy idea is to write a card to a service member serving overseas who you haven't seen or talked to for a while. Imagine the surprise and smile you'll bring because you took the time to say hello!

There are a lot of traditions we make with our families and some of them are cherished

long after we become adults. One thing that's almost unique to NAS Corpus Christi is Santa's fire truck ride through our military housing areas. I can imagine a young child's thoughts as the jolly guy in the red suit with the white beard goes driving by with the help of our firefighters. Maybe his dreams this year will be of a fire truck instead of sleigh pulled by reindeer.

Folks, we build traditions each time we do something special with our families. Let this holiday have special meaning to your family, your children and our service members. I know that the Navy Exchange and the Commissary have extended hours to ensure we get what we need - even those of us who wait until the last minute. The NEX is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Dec. 21 through Dec. 23, hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and then it will be closed on Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. They will reopen on

Captain continued on page 12

Chaplain's Message

Sharing and caring for others

by Cmdr. Chin Van Dang, NASCC Chaplain

We live in the best of times and the worst of times. The Global War on Terrorism; border control; drugs and alcohol cripple millions of adults and youth. Amidst budget cuts and denial of the problem, countless homeless live on our streets. Churches, civic organizations, and city leaders strive to meet their needs. Indeed, these are the best of times and the worst of times; times of confusion and crisis. In the midst of tumultuous times, God speaks a word to us. It is our faith that will enable us to hear God's message and to do our part.

A wealthy businessman sees a poor little girl with torn clothes, dirty face, standing in a corner begging. He does not have any small bill to give her so he turns the other way. As he sits down at dinner with many delicious dishes on the table, the image of the poor little girl keeps coming back and bothering him. He complains to God: "God! Why did you let that

poor little girl starve? Why can't you do something about it?" Suddenly he hears a voice booming, "I did. I created you!"

Some are called to serve the poor; others to care for those who are elderly or ill. Some respond by directing their energies to providing housing for the homeless. Others reach out to those who suffer addiction and to their families. All of us are called to be truthful and just in our business dealings and caring in our relationships with others, however different they might be. Together we must do our part so that God's presence and saving power will move us forward into a new era.

In this season of celebrations, block parties, and street festivals, the image of crowds gathering and being fed might seem especially real. And we know that the hungers which are being met in these joyous events are many. The nourishment of companionship, joyful

celebration, and leisure activity is food for the spirit, as necessary as anything served in plates or cups. These are happy, joyous images of a generous God in the midst of his people.

A chairman of the charity organization went to see the richest man in town to ask for some donation. The rich man invited him into his private office and said, "You know why I am not giving to charity? Well, let me tell you: My mother is dying after a long illness, and



Dang

Chaplain continued on page 12

From the Fire Chief

Avoid a Christmas catastrophe!

by John Morris, NAS Corpus Christi Fire Chief

With the Christmas season in full swing, most people have their houses fully decorated, inside and out. What's a holiday party

or the traditional Christmas morning scene without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities, as 33 million other American homes do, take to heart the sales person's suggestion: "Keep the tree watered." That's good

advice and not just to create a fragrant indoor winter wonderland atmosphere.

Christmas trees account for 200 fires annually, resulting in six deaths, 25 injuries and more than \$6 million in property damage. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames

from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. Dry and neglected trees can be.

As we enter this traditionally dangerous time of year, Christmas decorations, natural trees and candles coupled with the potential for cold weather increase the risk of household fires. Real and artificial Christmas trees are the first items ignited in an estimated 210 home fires annually, according to the most recent National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) statistics. Additionally, Christmas Day has the highest number of fires started by candles, though in an average year, there are 15,600 home structure fires caused by candles. These fires caused an estimated 150 deaths, 1,270 injuries and \$539 million in direct property damage. Your individual risk profile increases more when you consider the increased use of space heaters and fireplaces for supplementary heating.

We recommend that if you put up your

Christmas tree right after Thanksgiving, it needs to be taken down the week after Christmas. After New Year's, even well-watered trees can become a fire hazard. While the tree is up, consumers need to commit to taking care of a live tree and keep flame sources away from plastic ones.

Because of this high risk, Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and the NFPA urge people to practice a few safety precautions before, during and after their celebrations. Regularly check your tree for fresh, green needles. Trees that have dried out over the course of several weeks burn faster than fresh, well-watered trees, so remember to keep your tree watered at all times.

Always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children, and don't leave children unattended in a room with lit candles. Look for the holographic UL

Fire Chief continued on page 12

Wingspan

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Wingspan is published every other week by D.J. Young Publishing, 3601 Tripoli, Corpus Christi, Texas 78415, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas.

The editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas. Stories and photos not otherwise attributed are written by the Wingspan staff. The address is: Commanding Officer, NAS Corpus Christi, Attn: Wingspan, 11001 D St. Suite 143, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78419-5021. All news releases should be sent to the above address. Please call (361) 961-2674 for deadline information.

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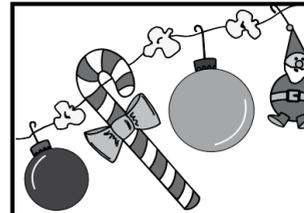
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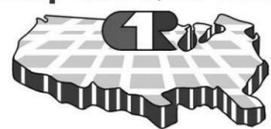
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Texas A&M class 'giving back to those who risk it all for us'

by Anne Booher, Editor

Students from Dr. Karen Middleton's Leadership and Managerial Effectiveness course gathered for their final class of the semester on Dec. 4. What could have been a typical end to another college course was anything but.

One course focus was a Service Learning Project; a chance to develop and learn the dynamics of a management team. Each session, students would take turns as leaders, finding out how individual responsibilities change and ultimately, how successful businesses are run.

In the past, students have reached out to the local community, but this year, they decided to focus on the military community.

After Dr. Middleton was put in touch with Barbie Baker, NAS Corpus Christi's base Ombudsman, it was clear that this would be a huge success.

"I was contacted by Myra Brown in September to meet with Dr. Middleton regarding an opportunity to partner her class and the ongoing Individual Augmentee support mission," explained Baker. "After hearing her descriptions and examples of service learning projects, I was ecstatic. The potential for this group was almost limitless."

The first project, "Christmas in November," was to fill 25 Christmas Care packages for service members serving overseas. Utilizing connections from work, home and the community, students were able to collect more than \$1000 to make these packages.

Sergio Delgado, a student from this group, asked his wife, a 2nd grade teacher at Sanders Elementary School, to collect "Thank You" cards from her class. He says he never expected the outcome. "Instead of just her class writing thank

you notes, all the 2nd grade classes at the school wrote letters and included ornaments for the service members," said Delgado. "There's not enough we can do to thank these people. But we are giving something back to those who risk it all for us."

The second project was to put together materials for the Community Appreciation Baskets that are presented to veterans at the airport as they return home. The generous support of local businesses meant there was money left over to add DVDs, games, and puzzles to the baskets. "We wanted these folks to enjoy being a family," a student explained.

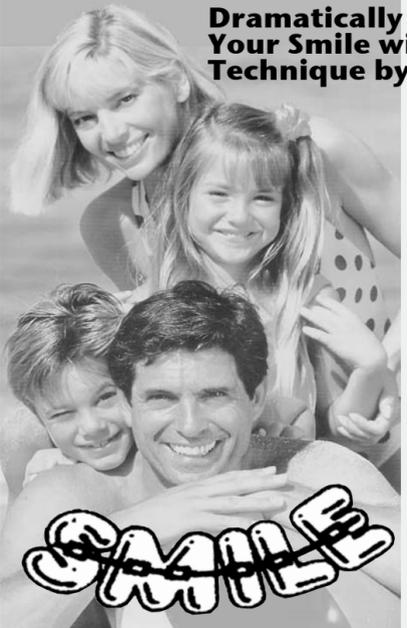
The next group worked with an IA spouse who is a foster parent to toddlers from abusive and neglected environments while her husband is serving in Iraq. The students' goal was to make the home a safe, fun environment for the children who are placed with her. The group landscaped the backyard, redesigned the patio area, rearranged and refurbished the nursery, and installed a brand new playset. In addition, the



Dr. Middleton's Leadership and Managerial Effectiveness class at Texas A&M Corpus Christi reached out to the military community with the help of Barbie Baker, base Ombudsman (third from right). Cmdr. Bruce Emery (far left), NASCC's Executive Officer, personally thanked each student for their efforts and presented them with certificates of appreciation.

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

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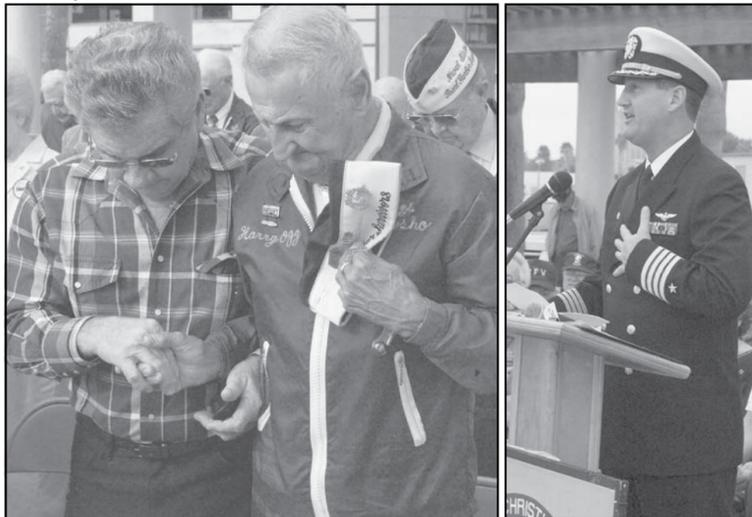
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Remembering Pearl Harbor Day

Photos by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer



(left) Two Pearl Harbor survivors pray together as the invocation is given on Dec. 7 at the Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony. (right) NASCC Commanding Officer, Capt. Tim Coolidge was the guest speaker at the ceremony held at Sherrill Park, which was named after a Corpus Christi native killed in the Pearl Harbor attack.



Photo by Lt. jg. Caleb Booher, Asst. PAO

On Nov. 29, the following Sailors were frocked to 3rd Class Petty Officer: (L to R) AM3 Christopher Brengman, AC3 Amir Johnson, AC3 Jordan Haldeman, AC3 Aaron Klein, MA3 Michael Cote, OS3 Angela Avant, PS3 Jessica Dimmick, and MA3 Caitlyn Sams.

Recycling aluminum cans helps Shields Park residents enjoy their stay

by Anne Booher, Editor

Francis Fowler, a Camp Host for Shields RV Park aboard NAS Corpus Christi, has been a can collector for years. When she gets enough cans to fill up her Jeep, she takes them to a recycling facility in town. "While some people may think the money I get for the cans goes straight into my pocket, it actually goes to buying items for the RV Park," said Fowler. In the past, she has used the money from can collecting to buy an iron, ironing board, cooking utensils, a grill, coffee, paper goods, and many other things. In addition, every Thursday the RV park enjoys a community breakfast. "Every Thursday from 7-9 a.m., we cook breakfast with the money I get from can collecting," said Fowler. If you are interested in recycling, take your aluminum cans to the blue drop-off bins at the Gonzalez Liberty Center or at site number 68 in Shields RV Park.



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Captain continued from page 2
p.m., and Sundays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Commissary is open from 7 a.m. for early bird specials and will resume regular hours with the exception of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day when they will be closed.

I know a lot of you are planning on traveling during the holidays. I don't mean to sound like a father (although I am for two extraordinary boys), but I'd like every one of you to plan your travels with safety as the primary concern. I hope that each of you and your families has a great holiday season and that you have many warm memories that bring smiles to your faces again and again. When the New Year comes, I hope to see you all smiling because you remained safe during these holidays.

See ya on the beach and in the New Year!

Chaplain continued from page 2

has medical bills that are several times her annual income. My brother, a disabled veteran, is blind and in a wheelchair. My sister's husband died in a traffic accident, leaving her penniless with three children. Besides all that misfortune, there is my mother-in-law. She's an invalid. She has been bedridden for years. "Oh, I'm sorry that we didn't know what you have been through!" the chairman said. "Well," said the rich man, "since I don't give any money to them, why should I give any to you?"

We are called to use what we have to express our care for those in need. We are called to stop isolating ourselves from the pain of life to make our possessions, our fortune not a barrier that shuts others out but a bridge that unites us.

God speaks a word to each of us in our own circumstances. It is for us to place before God the burdens we bear, the feelings our life circumstances evoke, lest they overcome us. Then we will be able to discern what God is asking us to do at this moment in our lives so we might be a saving presence for others.

Fire Chief continued from page 2

Mark on light strings and electrical decorations. The UL Mark means that UL engineers have tested samples of the product for safety hazards.

A green holographic UL Mark indicates the product is for indoor use only. A red holographic UL Mark indicates indoor and outdoor use.

Carefully inspect each electrical decoration, whether new or old, before plugging it in. Cracked sockets, frayed, bare or loose wires can cause a serious electric shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items with new, UL-listed decorations. Take down holiday lights after 90 days of use to prevent damage from weather conditions and neighborhood animals.

During this high-risk time of the year, take preventative steps to avoid hazards and reduce your chances of being affected by a fire. Be proactive and follow these suggestions so you can rest assured that your home and family are safe throughout Christmas and the New Year.

Mine Countermeasures exercise sweeps Arabian Gulf

by MCC (SW) Craig Strawser, USS *Wasp* Public Affairs

The U.S. Navy conducted a mine countermeasures exercise (MCMEX) to demonstrate its ability to counter potential mine-laying and to maintain open sea lanes and anchorages in the region, an important mission of Maritime Security Operations (MSO).

The MCMEX, conducted Nov. 12-15, brought together Mine Countermeasures Division (MCM DIV) 31, the "Blackhawks" of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 15, USS *Wasp* (LHD 1) and USS *Gladiator* (MCM 11).

Commodore Scott Davies, commander of MCM DIV 31, stressed the importance of teamwork in carrying out the MCM evolution.

"The MCM triad consists of air units, surface units and underwater units, all working together with an afloat command element," said Davies. "By forging these three branches of the MCM process into one cohesive team, COMCM DIV 31 is able to meet the U.S. 5th Fleet objectives of maintaining open sea lanes throughout the region."

During the exercise, HM-15's MH-53E helicopters towed MK-105 Magnetic Influence Minesweeping Systems, better known as "sleds," which are high-speed catamaran hydrofoil platforms. From the sleds, an electrically-charged cable streams and creates an electromagnetic field, which tricks mines into thinking it is a ship.

As part of the exercise, *Wasp* demonstrated its ability to launch and recover the sleds from its well deck. Once the sleds were launched, rigid hulled inflatable boats towed them away from the ship where they were then connected to a hovering MH-53E and towed in a notional mine threat area.



A MH-53E "Sea Dragon" Helicopter tows a MK-105 Magnetic Mine Sweeping Sled during MCMEX 08-1. The "Blackhawks" from HM-15 participated in the exercise along with the USS *Wasp* and USS *Gladiator*.

"The ability to run continuous flight deck operations, while simultaneously launching additional MCM assets in the well deck, allows us the flexibility to put the right minesweeping equipment where it's needed," said Cmdr. Frank Dowd, commanding officer of HM-15.

USS *Gladiator*, the surface element of the triad, provided real-time clearance information to the command staff aboard *Wasp*. "This exercise was the first to emphasize tactical sweeping, vice hunting as its primary mine countermeasure tactic," he said.

Davies said MCM ships such as *Gladiator* conduct mechanical and influence sweeps of Sea Lanes of Commerce (SLOC), or the "highways" used by commercial shipping traffic to move material around the world.

"These various elements are all very important to this exercise," Davies added. "Without the support they all provide each other, the MCM triad would be very limited in both its capability and capacity."

This is the sixth MCMEX in the Arabian Gulf in 2007 in support of MSO. It also supports the US Naval Forces' new "Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower" rolled out in October by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead.

At the heart of this new Maritime Strategy, regional security and global economic interests are best served by forward deployed maritime forces capable of deterring, localizing and mitigating disruptions in the global system. This global system of trade, finance, law, information and immigration works to the benefit of partner nations, and is uniquely sustained and protected by maritime forces.

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Continued security helps Adhamiyah markets prosper

by Spc. Angel D. Martinez, 113th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Adhamiyah, a northeastern district of the Iraqi capital, was once a violent hotspot where residents were afraid to go to the store. However, with the help of concerned citizens and volunteers, Iraqis have once again begun to fill the market streets.

"When we first got here and rode around in the evenings it was like a ghost town," said High Point, N.C. native, Sgt. 1st Class Steven Pizzino, the platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon, Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment. "Now, when we ride around, the streets are full of people, hundreds of people."

Not long ago there was a security issue concerning local merchants. Local thugs and terrorists were taking advantage of small markets and extorting shop owners, collecting a "fee" in order for them to keep their businesses open, said Pizzino.

In addition to the extortion, locals were afraid to go shopping in the streets due to random attacks by terrorists.

The security issue has been gradually improving thanks to a joint effort by the Iraqi Army, the local Iraqi Security Volunteers and the troopers from 3-7 Cavalry, who have been a constant presence in the streets of Adhamiyah.

The improvement in security is starting the money flow in the neighborhoods, and that is going to give a fresh start to local citizens, said 1st Lt. Zachary Hoover, the executive officer for Troop A, 3-7 Cav.

It is not just a boost of the economy of Adhamiyah. The picture of people shopping in the streets will give residents a feeling of security, passing that feeling along to others. Contractors are constantly calling, offering their services to see how they can help

bring their city back to normal, he added. "For the first time, in the last couple of weeks, we have people calling to work with us," said Hoover. "Where, as before we had to find them."

The fact that abandoned houses are being reoccupied by people who moved out of town because of the violence is a sign of life flourishing in Adhamiyah, said Pizzino. Locals are calling family members, friends and old neighbors to invite them to move back in.

Pizzino gives all the credit for the town's success to its people. The locals are helping the Iraqi Security Forces and Volunteers as well as Coalition forces by pointing out where the bad guys are and notifying them of anything that looks suspicious.

"The people of Adhamiyah are the 'big plus' factor in the whole area getting better," said Pizzino. "We are helping them to help themselves, and it is working."

"If it keeps going the way it's going now, it'll be like it's a totally different city," said Pizzino. "Six months from now there should be no violence, really, whatsoever. All the trash will be cleaned up and the (electrical) power should be better than what it is now."

Troop A has many projects scheduled for Adhamiyah. A contractor is being hired to clean and repair sewer systems throughout the city. A school in the middle of the market area has been identified for repair by a contractor as well. They are trying to expand the market zone and place more trash bins in strategic points throughout the commercial area.

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Photo by Spc. Angel D. Martinez, 113th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Dallas native, 1st Lt. Zachary Hoover, the executive officer for Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, listens to a shop owner's concerns during a patrol through the market sector of northern Baghdad's Adhamiyah District on Dec. 1.

Problem regarding telephones

by Tom Stokes, Manager, Base Communications

Starting a few months ago, the Base Communications Office in Fort Worth, TX started receiving bills from a 3rd party vendor for Voice Mail. A 3rd party vendor is someone who is not the US Government nor is the local CLEC, AT&T. We have received bills from: Empire Voice Mail Systems, Nations 1st Communications Voice Mail, USA Voice Mail, ICA Voice Mail, Nationwide Assist Emergency Voice Mail, and VoiceExpress Voice Mail.

These bills range from \$4.65 to \$38.85 each. Someone from the base is using a computer and logging on to various web pages which advertise free coupons, a contest, sweepstakes, prize giveaway, etc. In that web page is something that asks for your phone number. When you respond, it automatically signs you up for different Voice Mail systems around the country. You do not need voice mail as the base provides it free of charge. But these national voice mail companies charge quite a bit for it.

The one we have identified is coolsavings.com. It offers free coupons to 'SAVE BIG'. There are many things to save on, and it is not all a scam. But somewhere within the web page, it gets your phone number, and signs you up for national voice mail.

Please advise all of your employees not to log on to these pages and not to use your government phone number. Right now, we are trying to get the word out. If this does not work, the next steps will be very unpopular.

TAMUCC continued from page 3

for this South Texas climate. After experiencing the military family dynamic, most of the students agreed that the work didn't feel like a grade.

"One of the most amazing and heart warming outcomes from these projects, was the reactions from the students," said Baker. "It literally brought tears to my eyes. There are no words for how thankful I am for this class."

NAS Corpus Christi's Executive Officer, Cmdr. Bruce Emery, was present to thank the students for their hard work and present them with certificates of appreciation, provided by Myra Brown.

"You have all touched people's lives and made a difference," said Emery. "These projects won't just be a memory of the day. This will be remembered. We have chosen to serve, and we are fortunate and honored to do so."

NASCC would like to thank each student for their efforts: Juan Alaniz, Abraham Arevalo, John Atkinson, Joel Barrera, Olivia Beltran, Tarah Boehle, Andrew Bond, Brad Callendar, Anthony Ciccarelli, Michael Collier, Danielle De Vacque, Sergio Delgado, David Flinn, Jonathan Floyd, Andrew Garner, Heather Gaston, Robert Gill, Christina Haderer, Brenda King, Leah Kowald, Armando Martinez, Lorenzo Martinez, Stephanie Martinez, Jon McRee, Peter Melve, Amanda Munoz, Blake Overall, Anthony Perez, Clayton Pocius, Erin Reed, Johnny Reyes, Jessica Roach, Teresa Sanchez, Louis Serrata, Jeremy Stinson, Michelle Swistak, William Wagner, Jacob Whitley, and Jeffrey Whitley.

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

Fire Chief John Morris (left) takes CMDCM Pat Flavin (center) and Cmdr. Bruce Emero, NASCC Executive Officer, on a tour through their new fire truck as Capt. Joel Davis tests out the siren.



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- Vegetable Kabab**
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Photo by Bill Love, NHCC Public Affairs

Santa and Mrs. Claus pose with their elf helpers at Naval Hospital Corpus Christi at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Nov. 29.



Photo by Bill Love, NHCC Public Affairs

Children yell as loud as they can to light up the Naval Hospital's Christmas tree on Nov. 29. Santa arrived soon after on a brand new fire truck.

The Bay Club Staff



Photo by Anne Booher, Editor



Photo by Anne Booher, Editor

(above) Residents of Shields RV Park celebrated Christmas with a tree trimming party at the Marina on Dec. 5 and were joined by Lt. j.g. Caleb Booher (2nd from right).

(left) The staff of the NAS Corpus Christi Bay Club wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Back row (L to R) Donna Brown, Dagmar Haskew, Tony Rillo, Frank Mattis, and Cliff Little. Front row: Crystal Erwin, Jesse Dela Cruz, Earleen Martinez, Nancy Watson, Josephine Fisher, Jason Price, Debra Yost, and Tina Cervantes.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Winging Ceremony • November 30



Official Party from left to right: Cmdr. Chin Van Dang, NASCC Chaplain; Lt. Col. Dave Portillo, MATSG-22 Ops Officer; Cmdr. Joe Shipley, VT-31 CO; Lt. Col. Jon Ulmann, VT-35 CO; Maj. Gen. Irving Halter, Commander 19th Air Force and guest speaker; Capt. David Maynard, Commodore TRAWING-4; Capt. Robert Paulison, USCG Sector Corpus Christi CO

Wingees listed alphabetically: 2nd Lt. Phillip Chapman; 1st Lt. Christopher Coffman; 2nd Lt. Jason Deas; Ensign Lane Drummond; 2nd Lt. Matthew Eddy; Lt. j.g. Garrett Faulkner; Lt. j.g. John Gerweck IV; 1st Lt. Michael Gordan; 2nd Lt. Dustin Hall; Lt. j.g. Karl Murray; 2nd Lt. Stephen Music; 1st Lt. Jay Palmer; 2nd Lt. Kristopher Putnam; Ensign Bradley Roberts; 2nd Lt. Clayton Schuety; Lt. j.g. Gregory Siegert

Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

CCAD is winner of 2007 Captain's Cup

by Mike McClure, MWR Athletic Director

The Captain's Cup sports program is intended to promote physical fitness, provide wholesome recreation, and Unit "esprit de corps" to the personnel aboard NAS Corpus Christi. Points are accumulated during the season based on the results of each sport. The traveling Captain's Cup trophy is presented to the unit with the most points at the end of the year. When the traveling trophy is won three consecutive times, the cup is retired and given to that unit to keep.

This year marks the third year that Corpus Christi Army Depot has won the trophy and a ceremony was held on Dec. 6 in front of the Depot. NASCC Commanding Officer, Captain Tim Coolidge, presented the trophy to Colonel Joe Dunaway during the ceremony. The unit athletic representatives from CCAD, Lt. Col. Dave Edson and Sgt. Maj. Charles Beckman, were also present.

The Captain's Cup sports program is conducted from the E-Street Gym. The program is open to all male and female military members, military dependents 18 years of age and older, DOD/NAF employees and full time contractors aboard NASCC. Commands compete in tournaments such as racquetball, soccer, softball, golf, running, tennis, football, bowling, and basketball.

(right) Capt. Tim Coolidge, presents Col. Joe Dunaway with the Captain's Cup trophy, marking the third consecutive year CCAD has won the challenge.



Photo by Jamey Giddens, CCAD Public Affairs Office

Col. Joe Dunaway, Corpus Christi Army Depot Commander, (left), and Staff Sgt. Joe Renteria (center), listen as Santa (aka Sgt. Maj. Charles Beckman), turns over an envelope with more than \$500 donated by CCAD employees for the USMC Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. CCAD employees donated 233 bikes complete with helmets for a total of \$10,000 in toys. "The campaign has been slow this year," said Renteria. "This is a big boost to our efforts. We were wondering if you would come through again and you did!" This is the second year that CCAD employees have donated to the USMCR Toys for Tots campaign in this manner. "I am amazed at your generosity," said Dunaway, addressing the employees. "Of course, there are a couple of stores that have no bikes or toys left because you bought them all!"



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