

## Saratoga Cove

Quality lifestyle and a prime location on Wooldridge Drive, just minutes from NASCC, entertainment, shopping, dining and so much more!

Featuring four swimming pools  
Eight bar-b-que/picnic areas  
Euro Washer/dryer combination in unit\*  
Fireplaces\*/wet bar  
Washer/dryer connections  
Pets welcomed • Private patios/balconies  
Sand volleyball/tennis  
Clubroom rental  
\*In selected plans

5757 Wooldridge Drive  
Corpus Christi, TX 78414  
361-991-9184

Value  
pricing  
starting  
at \$495

Coming Soon! Granite countertops, European-style sinks, fixtures, ceiling fans, light fixtures and framed mirrors. A state-of-the-art physical fitness center and business center are all part of this exciting new renovation!

## BRACES

for  
children  
and  
adults

- No Down Payment
- Affordable Monthly Payments
- Most Insurance Accepted

Please Call for a Free Exam and Consultation

(361) 993-2288

Padre Palms Square • 6500 S. Padre Island Drive, Suite 25

Coastal  
**Orthodontics** 1-800-4BRACES

**DANIEL TORRES, D.D.S.**  
ORTHODONTIST



# Wingspan

Vol. 12, No. 14

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • July 7, 2006

## CNATRA announces Flight Achievement awards for 2005

By LT. Sean Robertson



The Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA), Rear Adm. Donald P. Quinn, recently announced the winners of the 2005 Naval Air Training Command Flight Achievement Awards.

"Our mission is to produce quality aviators for the joint forces engaged in combat in the War on Terrorism," said Quinn. "These

awards recognize the young officers who set the standard in their training, as well as the instructors and organizations who attained the highest levels of performance in executing our mission. I take great pride in recognizing their achievements. They should be equally proud of their accomplishments."

The Orville Wright Achievement Award, sponsored by the DeAdalian Foundation, recognizes the student with the highest overall grades for the preceding six months. The January-June 2005 winner is 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Michael D. Templeman, USAF, winged at Training Squadron Thirty One (VT-31), NAS Corpus Christi, Texas and currently stationed at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio. The July-

December 2005 winner is Lt.j.g. Marc J. Lanore, USCG, winged at Helicopter Training Squadron Eight (HT-8), NAS Whiting Field, Fla. and currently stationed at CGAS Los Angeles, CA.

The top Navy and Marine Corps pilot graduates who excel in the air combat maneuvering stage during the past year are awarded the McCampbell and Foss Awards, respec-

tively. The American Fighter Aces Association sponsors these awards. This year's winners are Lt. Shawn C. Kirlin, USN and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jonathan D. Schaafsma, USMC. Kirlin was winged at VT-7, NAS Meridian, Miss. and is currently assigned to VFA-106. Schaafsma was winged at VT-9 and is currently assigned to VMAT-203.

The Rear Adm. Thurston H. James Memorial Award recognizes the top Naval Flight Officer (NFO) graduate of the year. The award, sponsored by the Naval Order of the United States, is named in honor of the late Commanding General of the Order who was designated a Naval Aviator in 1928. This year's winner is Ensign Cale W. Johnson, USN of VP-30. Johnson received his wings at the 562<sup>nd</sup> Flying Training Squadron, Randolph AFB.

The Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty of the United Kingdom established the Britannia Award in appreciation of the assistance by the U.S. Navy in training British Naval pilots. This year Lt.j.g. Mark E. Bair, USN received the award for attaining superior grades in weapons delivery while training at VT-22, NAS Kingsville, Texas. Bair, currently serving with VFA-106, received his wings while he was assigned to VT-22.

This year's recipient of the National Society, Daughters of the American Colonists Honor Award is 2<sup>nd</sup>Lt. Nicholas J. Molder,

USMC. Molder attained the highest overall flight and academic scores of any pilot graduate in the past year and is currently assigned to HMT-303. Molder received his wings from HT-18, NAS Whiting Field, Fla.

The George M. Skurla/CNATRA Naval Flight Officer of the Year Award recognizes Naval Air Training Command's (NATRACOM) top NFO instructor. Sponsored by the Northrop Grumman Corporation, the award recognizes all-around performance, leadership, safety, character and effectiveness as an instructor. This award honors Mr. Skurla's long association with, and contribution to, Naval Aviation. The 2006 winner of the Skurla award is Lt. Eduardo E. Salazar, USN, assigned to the 562<sup>nd</sup> Flying Training Squadron, Randolph AFB.

The CNATRA Flight Instructor of the Year Award and the Reserve Flight Instructor of the Year Award recognizes the top active duty and reserve instructor pilot in NATRACOM. Selection criteria considers all around performance and effectiveness as an instructor, contributions to safety, leadership, civic involvement, and strength of character and personality. This year the winners are Capt. Richard H. Parrish, USMC, assigned to VT-6 and Lt. Cmdr.

*CNATRA continued on page 4*

## GOMEX Prepares Mine Warfare for Deployment and Fleet Integration

By Dan Broadstreet, NSWC PC Public Affairs & Tony Fuller, CMWC Concept Development

The U.S. Navy's Mine Warfare (MIW) community organized air, surface, and underwater Mine Countermeasures (MCM) assets to conduct the Gulf of Mexico (GOMEX) 06-2, May 1-9 in coastal waters off Panama City Fla., to train and assess MCM mission-readiness and operational capabilities. GOMEXs are a regular part of the Navy's advanced-phase MIW pre-deployment preparations.

"I commend Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City for outstanding support," said Capt. Jonathan Tobias, Commander of Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three. "I mean, not only are the waters here ideal for testing airborne, surface, and sub-surface forces, but we also have most of our technical Mine Warfare experts resident in a centralized geographical area."

Supporting Tobias's remarks, Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City's (NSWC PC) Branch Head for Airborne Fleet Readiness, Allen Hawkins – also serving as In-Service Engineering Agent for Airborne MCM systems – described NSWC PC's wealth of expertise as one-stop-shopping for this type of naval preparation.

"Collectively speaking, my personnel have approximately 319 years of Airborne



The COMINEWARCOM Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) Platoon equipment is loaded onboard USS Pioneer (MCM-9) pier-side at Naval Support Activity Panama City in preparation for Mine Countermeasures (MCM) operations during GOMEX 06-2.

MCM experience. So, our community of scientists and technical experts are serving as a dependable and constant knowledge-base for the Sailors who will be MCM trained; but, may

likely rotate out of the community after a period of two to three years," Hawkins said.

While monitoring and coordinating GOMEX operations from NSWC PC's Expedi-

tionary Warfare Integration Facility (EWIF), Tobias said the facility and personnel provided a Command and Control (C2) capability that included readily-available technical support in case of any unforeseen equipment failures.

EWIF personnel described, in particular, the support lauded by Tobias.

"We provided access to the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET), Non-Classified Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNET), Tactical Satellite Communications, laptop computers, overhead projectors, and office space, all in a secure environment, including technical support if any problems arose," said EWIF Electrical Engineer David Silnutzer. "I think having all this available in our facility makes Panama City an economically efficient place to conduct Fleet exercises like GOMEX."

MIW and MCM expertise has long resided within this small and specialized community, according to Matt Prager – a specialist from Commander, Mine Warfare Command's (CMWC) Concept Development and Experimentation Division. Prager added that this particular GOMEX would incorporate off-

*GOMEX continued on page 10*

## Dramatically Improve Your Smile with the "Super Smile" Technique by Dr. Joseph Coniglio

Quality Treatment with

- Reasonable Fees
- Free Initial Exam
- No Down Payment
- Low Monthly Fees

Less Treatment Time  
Fewer Treatment Visits  
Computer Assisted Technology  
with Fixed or Invisible Braces  
to Shorten Treatment Time and  
Achieve the Best Possible  
"Super Smile" with Minimal  
Discomfort and Lower Costs

Neighborhood Offices:

- Corpus Christi
- Kingsville
- Portland
- Rockport
- 5 Points

**SMILE**

Dr. Joseph Coniglio, D.D.S., M.S.  
Orthodontist  
(361) 993-2333

5756 S. Staples • Corpus Christi

Military Provider and most other major insurances accepted

Get 15% Off  
your Total Food Bill  
with your Military ID

Valid at participating Landry's locations only.

One coupon per table. Must present valid military ID with coupon. Alcohol, tax and gratuity not included.

Not valid with any other offer, discount or promotion.

**Landry's**  
Seafood  
HOUSE

Corpus Christi • 600 North Shoreline Drive • 361-882-6666

## From The Skipper

If you're here anyway – stay here for a good meal!

By Capt. T.E. Coolidge

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable 4<sup>th</sup> of July long weekend. And I hope to hear that having Monday off was a good thing and not just doing a lot of work on the house and no play. I know, who am I kidding, right?



Coolidge

I make it a point to go to the Bay Club for lunch when my schedule allows and I also try to pop into the Navy Exchange and Commissary during the week to check things out. I'll also go by the Sub Pub, McDonald's and Subway to see if anyone is having lunch there. Overall, I'm pleased with what I see but I want express an opinion or two.

There are days that there seems to be no cars and no one at the Bay Club. At noon time, it seems that the Sub Pub parking lot is full, yet there's not a great deal of pizzas being sold. I know the commissary and the exchange are working hard to bring you "specials" and try to bring in the products that you want. So my question to myself is, why aren't we doing better fiscally, and where are people on the Base spending their money?

I know we have a McDonald's, a Subway and even a barbecue place on the base. Although they're contracted to be here, I can't accept that our servicemembers and civilians are spending the majority of their time and money there. As I said at the beginning of this column, I eat at the Bay Club when I can. The meals that I get for the price are, in my opinion, very good. I know there's a daily buffet that includes a dinner entry, condi-

ments, tea or coffee, and dessert for less than \$7. Or you can opt for a good salad selection with soup of the day. Again at a nominal price. If you look at the monthly calendar for the Club, there are special days set aside for some real nice dinner and breakfast entrees.

The Commissary, in it's "What's in your Closet?" program, is making an extra effort to remind you of what you should have in your home during hurricane season. When you go to the Commissary, look at the display to determine if what they suggest is in your home and, if not, then maybe you should get some of what's available to ensure your families' well-being...if/when we get a hurricane this year. I know that a lot of you take the time to shop around for the best buys on food. Some of the best prices I've seen anywhere are in the Commissary!

And what about the Navy Exchange? Jeff, the manager, is making good on his claim

*Captain continued on page 13*

## Chaplain's Column

You are not alone.

By Chaplain Chin Dang

A woman who has just got a driver license was driving to the city for the first time. Arriving at an intersection, she saw all kinds of vehicles speeding toward her. She was too much in a panic to know what to do. Finally she closed her eyes, raised her hands and said, "OK, God. You take the wheel!"

There is so much turmoil in our lives. We all experience it. Just when we think things have quieted down, more turmoil erupts. Your doctor informs you that you have cancer. Your wife tells you she has been seeing another man. Your husband tells you he's found a younger woman and is going to marry her. You son announces that he has AIDS. Your boss tells you that you were not selected for promotion. Any number of events can bring your life crashing down. People of faith do not necessarily have trouble free and painless lives and people with little or no faith at all can be found living wonderful, prosperous, and trouble free lives, or so it seems on the surface.

Life's blows come to us all no matter what things may seem like on the surface. What happens within our hearts and souls when we find ourselves in the midst of life's storms? How lonely we feel? How painful our lives seem to be:

I have become a little older since I saw you last, and a few changes have come into my life since then. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old gal. I am seeing five gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charlie Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Art Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with BenGay.

You and I wonder, how much more can I really take? Well, we can't take much more, but the thing is, we are not alone. The Lord is with us. He can and will protect us. We have to be aware of God's Presence in our lives. We have to waken ourselves up to his con-

suming desire to care for us. We are the ones who are dozing off, not recognizing His power in our lives. We have to trust in him to quell the turmoil. He loves us. No matter what our present fears are, no matter what suffering we endure now, no matter what crisis we fear for the future, he is there to keep us from falling apart. He is there for us. There is nothing beyond his power.

So when life deals you its cruelties, its blows, and your life seems to be collapsing all around you, don't immediately jump to the conclusion that God is punishing you, or testing you, or that He doesn't care about you. He may be a lot closer to you than you think. You may even come to realize that He's in the same boat with you. It is only in the power of faith and in the presence of God that we overcome all of life's cruel trials.



Dang

## Health Watch

To tan or not to tan?

By Lt. Murphy Wayne

The summer has officially arrived and many are making plans to go to the beach. But how safe will your skin be in the sun? It's a question few think about, but we should all be more aware of the dangers presented by the sun.



Wayne

The real danger behind the sun is its UV or ultraviolet rays. We have known for some time that UVB rays injure our skin and lead to skin cancer. Through research we now know that UVA rays, which are used in tanning beds, also cause skin injury and increase one's risk for skin cancer. Tans and sunburns are signs of this injury and are not safe. Both lead to premature aging of your skin and increase your risk for skin cancer.

Every year more than 1 million new cases of skin cancer are diagnosed in the U.S. and several thousand Americans die as a result of the three different types of skin cancer: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma. By far the most awful of these is melanoma because it metastasizes early with deadly results. However, all skin cancers can be life threatening if not properly treated. Skin cancer can vary considerably in its appearance, ranging from obvious skin growths to less obvious colored irregular freckles. This underscores the importance of regularly monitoring your skin and seeing your doctor if you have any new or changing freckles or moles. A good rule to remember is to "check your birthday suit on your birthday". Some skin cancers run in families so find out if you are at risk and let your doctor know at your annual exam.

How can you avoid these dangers? First, you must protect yourself year round. UV rays can reach the earth during any season and at any temperature so don't be fooled by the weather. You should also avoid the most in-

tense UV rays, which occur from 1000-1600 every day. UV rays also reflect off surfaces, which means you may not be safe even under the cover of shade. Proper protective wear is also essential. A broad-brimmed hat and wrap around style sunglasses that protect against UVA and UVB rays are a must. Loose fitting clothing with tightly woven fabrics also protect against the sun's UV rays. Lastly, but perhaps most important you should always apply sunscreen when going outdoors. Choose a sunscreen that has an SPF of at least 15 and blocks both UVA and UVB rays. Apply it generously and reapply every 1-2 hours.

With a little caution you can keep your skin looking healthy for longer and prevent skin cancer. Have a safe and enjoyable summer and be sure to take all the necessary precautions when outdoors. I'll see you on the beach... and you'd better be wearing your sunscreen. For more information about the dangers of sun exposure, ask your doctor or visit a reputable website such as the American Academy of Dermatology (www.aad.org).

## Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi  
"Exceeding Expectations Through  
Pride In Performance"

Commanding Officer  
Capt. T.E. Coolidge

Public Affairs Officer  
Robert D. Torres

Layout/Production Editor  
LII Janell Alvarez

Writer/Photographer  
LI2 Paul Hewitt

Wingspan is an authorized publication for members of the military services, civilian personnel and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Navy or the Department of the Army, and do not imply endorsement thereof. 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.

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Army, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, or D.J. Young Publishing, of the products and services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

To advertise in Wingspan, please call D.J. Young Publishing at (361) 774-4162.

## Worship Services

### CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Catholic Chapel  
Sunday Mass - 8:30 a.m.  
Daily Mass:  
Monday - Friday - 11:30 a.m.  
Religious Education: Sunday - 9:45 a.m.

### PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Protestant Chapel  
Protestant Worship Service:  
Sunday - 10 a.m.  
Sunday Bible Study - 8:45 a.m.

### JEWISH WORSHIP SERVICE

\*Temple Beth El (4402 Saratoga Blvd.)  
Friday at 7:30 p.m.  
(with dinner to follow)  
For further information call  
Temple Beth El at 857-8181

### ISLAMIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Islamic Society of South Texas  
(7341 McArdle Rd.)  
Jumah Service - 1:30 p.m.  
For other worship service times,  
call 992-8550

## Michelle L. Jones Attorney at Law

Practices exclusively in the  
area of family law and devotes  
her entire practice to

- ◆ SIMPLE AND CONTESTED DIVORCES
- ◆ CUSTODY CASES
- ◆ ADOPTIONS
- ◆ VISITATION RIGHTS
- ◆ CHILD SUPPORT CASES
- ◆ PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENTS
- ◆ GRANDPARENT'S RIGHTS
- ◆ ESTATE PLANNING
- ◆ PROBATE MATTERS
- ◆ WILLS

Practicing in all  
Counties in Texas



First Consultation is Free  
(361) 885-0080  
BARGAS, RODRIGUEZ & JONES

1127 2nd Street • Corpus Christi  
Not Certified By The Board of Legal Specialization



Wingspan is published bi-weekly. Rates listed are per insertion.

Space	open rate B & W color	12x rate B & W color	24x rate B & W color
Full page.....	\$475.....*	\$425.....*	\$395.....*
3/4 page.....	\$375.....*	\$345.....*	\$315.....*
1/2 page.....	\$260.....*	\$230.....*	\$215.....*
1/4 page.....	\$135.....*	\$120.....*	\$115.....*
1/8 page.....	\$85.....*	\$70.....*	\$65.....*
1/16 page.....	\$55.....*	\$45.....*	\$40.....*

Inserts: Preprinted insert provided by advertiser. Insertion Cost: \$43.75 per 1,000.

Minimum: 8,000.

National Advertising Rate: \$15.00 per column inch.

\*Color rates: B&W rate plus \$100.00 per additional color.

Rates subject to change without notice.

Ad size/technical requirements:

Ad Space	Size
Full page.....	10 1/4" w x 11 1/2" h
3/4 page horizontal.....	10 1/4" w x 8 7/16" h
3/4 page vertical.....	7 5/8" w x 11 1/2" h
1/2 page horizontal.....	10 1/4" w x 5 5/8" h
1/2 page vertical.....	5 1/16" w x 11 1/2" h
1/4 page.....	5 1/16" w x 5 5/8" h
1/8 page horizontal.....	5 1/16" w x 2 3/4" h
1/8 page vertical.....	2 7/16" w x 5 5/8" h
1/16 page.....	2 7/16" w x 2 3/4" h

Artwork:

D. J. Young Publishing will provide camera-ready art, in most cases at no extra charge. We can also accept your camera ready advertising in InDesign, Photoshop, or MS Word file format. pdf is the preferred file format method supplied on compact disc or via e-mail. For additional information or questions regarding artwork call (361) 945-1468. [production department] E-mail address for Art Department: wingspannewspaper@yahoo.com. Placement not guaranteed.

- Hairstyling ● Facials
- Waxing ● Perms
- Hilites ● Colors ● Nails



*Boutique Byu Four*  
Total Image Salon

Quality is not expensive... It's priceless!

1220 Airline (Next to Toys 'R Us)  
855-2323

**50% OFF**  
ANY ONE SERVICE  
AT BOUTIQUE DU JOUR  
1st Time Clients Only.  
Offer good Tues.-Friday only.  
One coupon per person.  
Not valid with any other specials.  
Expires 12/31/06.



FOR PETE'S S O K E

City of Corpus Christi  
Animal Care Services

Administration 361-882-6082  
after 5 pm emergency only 361-886-2600  
Barking Dogs 361-886-2600  
Bites and Attacks 911

**George's**  
Seafood & Steaks  
Since 1974

*Everything Is Home Made!*

- Daily Lunch & Dinner Specials
- Greek Nights Every Friday & Saturday 5:00 to 10:00 pm
- Char-Grilled Steaks & Chicken
- Serving The Best Pizza In Town!

361-937-4690  
10210 S.P.I.D  
Open Daily 11a.m. - 11:00p.m.  
We Deliver on NAS-CC, Flour Bluff  
& The Island \*  
\*Minimum Order Required Please

EST. 1949

# HOWARD'S

## BAR-B-Q

### New Weekend Hours

### Friday & Saturday 11am - 8pm

**"Best Dang Bar-B-Q In Texas!"**

Friday Night & Saturday Only  
Buy 1 Plate, Get Second Plate Half Off\*

Must present coupon at time of order.

\*Restrictions Apply  
Mon-Thur. 11am-3pm - Fri-Sat 11am-8pm

## 1002 ANTELOPE - 882-1200

ALSO VISIT US AT:  
AMERICAN BANK CENTER AND  
WHATABURGER FIELD



**Premier Mortgage Funding, Inc.**

The puzzle is not complete without Premier Mortgage!

Call today for your FREE pre-qualification!

We do VA Loans

Your Home...Your Dream...Our Passion  
Let us make your dream a reality today!

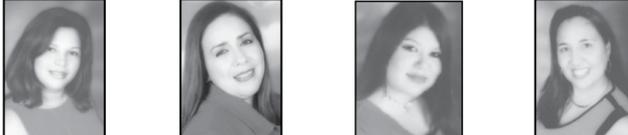
5844 S. Staples St. • Corpus Christi, TX 78413  
361-992-8282 • Toll Free (888) 992-8282



**CHARLES C. SMITH**  
Attorney at Law  
Former Judge Advocate US Navy

- Personal Injury
- Car Accidents
- Divorce
- Bankruptcy 7 - 13
- Child Custody
- Merit System Protection Board
- Sexual Harassment

615 North Upper Broadway Suite# 510  
(361) 883-1055  
*Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization*



Missi Trejo-Andrade Realtor  
Mary Alvarez Realtor  
Emily Gomez Realtor  
Becky Salinas Realtor/Owner

**Colonial Unlimited Realty, L.L.C.**  
5959 S. STAPLES • SUITE 229 • CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78413

We Make Dreams Come True!

LET US SAVE YOU MONEY! (361) 334-2280

AVAILABLE 24 HOURS

CALL US FIRST

**THIS SIDE OF THE 950 INSURANCE**

GRAND OPENING



Friendly Service • Knowledgeable Agent  
Visit our website: fsoinsurance.com

SR 22's Same Day • DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE  
ACCURATE QUOTES  
IMMEDIATE COVERAGE

Carl Weber - Owner / Agent  
937-SAVE (7283)  
2136 WALDRON Road

**Del Mar College Transportation Training Services**

(West Campus) Old Brownsville Rd. & Airport Rd.

Earn your Class A CDL in just 3 weeks!

Classes starting every 2 weeks  
M-F 7am to 5:30 pm  
Night and refresher courses also available.

✓ Tuition reimbursement from sponsored companies  
✓ Military tuition assistance available  
✓ Government Grants assistance  
✓ Job placement assistance

Call Now To Register  
(361) 698-2707  
www.delmar.edu/trucking

Ask about our new Bus Program



6802 Saratoga Blvd.  
Corpus Christi, TX 78414  
(361) 985-9999  
Fax (800) 934-9691

John Orr Broker/Owner  
TMB#58507

"Specializing in VA Loans"

Conventional, VA, Stated Bad Credit, Investment Condo, Multi-Family Existing and Construction

Quick Credit Approvals Rate/Term Reduction Home Equity/Cash-Out First Time Homebuyers

Certificate in Ministry Training  
Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies  
Master of Divinity

The South Texas SCHOOL of CHRISTIAN STUDIES

offers a variety of academic opportunities in association with Howard Payne University and Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons University. If you are interested in a Christian Studies education from a fully accredited SACs and ATS institution here in Corpus Christi come see us. Our tuition is remarkably reasonable, our professors are eminently qualified, and our location is convenient. Many of our classes are taught in the evening, typically one night a week.

You will find our class schedule on our Web Site at www.stscs.org  
Come see us at 7000 Ocean Drive, just past TAMU-CC, or call us at 991-9403

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**FOR SALE:** "300 lb weight set, squat cage with dip/pull-up bars, bench (incline/decline/flat) with leg attachment. Package deal, paid over \$1,000 asking \$700 obo. 877-3628.

**FOR SALE:** BOAT \$13,500 or best offer for 1992 Nautique Excel Correct Craft 351HP, 22FT. With Trailer. Call 361-658-3801.

**HOME:** 4/2.5/2 2-story, quiet cul-de-sac in Village at Lakes. Tile/wood laminate floors, ceiling fans, fireplace. Beautiful yard. Luther Jones Elementary. Energy efficient. \$1575/mo or \$185,000. 361-985-7424.

**FOR LEASE:** Island home 2,200 sq ft. with boat dock \$1,300.00 month to month lease. 361-949-3177. Free moving boxes, all sizes, good quality.

**PADRE ISLAND BEST PRICED 3/2/2 ON CANAL**

\$289,900. Contact Dorothy at GMAC Real Estate 2000, Inc. 361-949-8486. 2/2

**ROOM MATE WANTED:** for great furnished house on Padre Island. Pay grade O1 to O3 (361) 737-1945 - Ricky

**FOR RENT -** 2637 Meadwood 4/2/2, carport, fenced yard, WD hookups. FBISD walking distance. Gas WH, furnace. Electric storm shutters. 1200/mo., 1200 deposit. Lease purchase avail. Bkgd/references required. Appt only 361-945-0709 or 361-739-9618.

**ROOM MATE WANTED!** 3/2 House to share near Roddfield. \$450 + 1/2 Electricity/cable. Please call Sandy 254-855-1835.

**FOR SALE:** Like new HEST FITNESS M9.35 PRECOR Treadmill \$800 OBO. Call 361-815-2963.

**FREE!** AKC Registered female Golden Retriever, 6 yrs old. Free to a good home, very friendly and loving dog, very good with children. If interested call 361-937-2288 after 5pm or leave a msg.

**TRANSFERRING OVERSEAS ?** Dual voltage, dual system (PAL and NTSC) Panasonic 19" Color TV and VCR. Excellent condition \$200 for pair or best offer. 361-816-9750 after 5PM.

**FOR RENT:** "Nice, clean 3/2/2 home for rent. Available now, walking distance to school, 10 min. from Base, \$985, \$850 deposit, 361-249-8091"

**FOR RENT:** -1 bedroom apartment. 1 bath, CH/A, carpeted, appliances, patio and storage. \$435 per month. 937-3375.

**HOW TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD**

Free classified ad in Wingspan, for all Military and DoD Personnel (non-commercial ads only) submit via e-mail to: wingspannewspaper@yahoo.com or fax to 361-884-9019. No phone calls for free ads please. Please restrict free ads to 25 words or less.

**Paid Classified Ads** 50 cents per word - with a 24 word minimum. Mail your ad copy along with a check payable to D.J. Young Publishing, 145 Naples, Corpus Christi, TX 78404 or call 361-814-0866.

# Navy Region South Chaplain Chin Dang arrives at NASCC

Story LI2 Paul Hewitt



Dang

"During the war I had to leave my family behind," said Commander Chin Dang, our new chaplain with Navy Region South and Command Chaplain. "I lost a lot of good friends and relatives. I led a life of hardship, of homesickness, of insecurity and of high anxiety."

Commander Chin Van Dang was born on June 5, 1950 in Hanam, Vietnam. Dang later fled from Communist regime to South Vietnam where he graduated at Saigon's Holy Redeemer High School in June 1966. Upon graduation, Dang went to St. Joseph's Seminary in Saigon until 1968 right after the "Tet Offensive," when he was drafted into military service and was chosen to attend the School of

Naval Officers' in Nha Trang, Vietnam from 1968 to 1970.

He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade one year after graduation and in his third year, was promoted to Lieutenant. Graduating from the School of Naval Officers' he reported to a PBR squadron, Special Task Force, Fourth Riverine Region in Can Tho. Later he was assigned to UB-458 in Danang.

After the evacuation from Danang to Saigon in 1975, he reported to the flagship HQ-1 awaiting further instruction from his Navy Headquarters, when the new president of the Republic of Viet Nam surrendered to the North Viet Nam.

His naval fleet decided to flee the country in route to Subic Bay, (Republic of the Philippines) and turned over the ships to the US Navy and Dang later took refuge in Guam.

While at the refugee camp in Guam, Dang expressed a desire to his sponsor, a priest from the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia that he would like to study for the priesthood. He traveled to attend St. Joseph's Seminary College, St. Benedict, La. from 1975 to 1979 where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree.

"The hardest thing about school was learning how to catch up with the professors' lectures and trying to guess what they were talking about!" said Dang. "I knew French but I had no prior lessons in English. It is very difficult to understand the idioms, slang and local colloquialisms."

Dang then attended St. John's University & Seminary in Collegeville, Minn. and received his master's degree in 1983.

After his Ordination on May 14, 1983, by the Most Reverend Walter F. Sullivan, Dang

served as an Associate in several parishes and then became a pastor in Richmond, Virginia for the next five years.

While there, Dang was constantly receiving numerous letters and brochures from the military Chaplain's Corps asking him to join.

"After a while I thought back into my war time in the Vietnamese Navy remembering how much I myself and other shipmates needed a person to turn to in time of need," he said. "I remembered times of hardships, loneliness and danger. And I thought of others when they were away from their families and loved ones."

"I always remember that we were engaged with enemy's fire almost everyday while patrolling our rivers and we were losing our shipmates in every ambush," he continued. "Each night, when we started out to patrol, we all knew that some of us might not return in one piece!"

In responding to the shortage of Catholic chaplains in the US Military Services and willing to share his vast experience as a Sailor, Dang decided to join the Chaplain Corps and was commissioned on July 6, 1988 as Lieutenant Junior Grade, CHC, USNR, and attended Naval Chaplains' School in Newport, R.I. from July until August 1988.

Dang's first tour of duty in the US Navy was with Amphibious Squadron-2, Little Creek, Va., where he served from August 1988 until June 1991 as Phibron Chaplain. He was promoted to Lieutenant on Aug. 1, 1989.

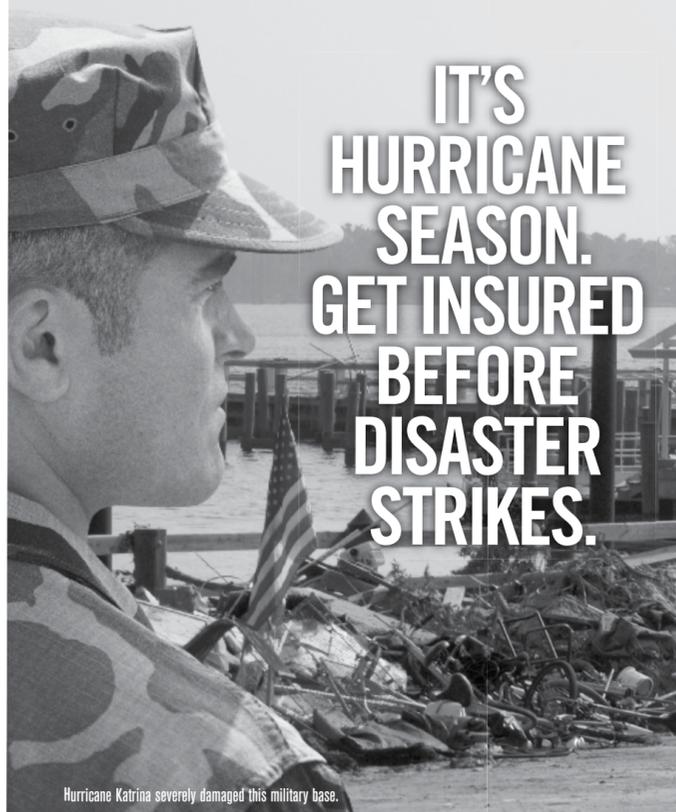
Lt. Dang's next duty station was with Third Force Service Support Group on Okinawa, Japan from March 1991 till June 1992. He was then assigned as Ship's Chaplain at

the USS Essex (LHD-2) in San Diego, Calif.

He made two Western Pacific deployments during '93 & '95 with the 15<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> MEU and then served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, in Camp Pendleton, Calif. until August 1995. When asked about his thoughts about being the NRS Chaplain, Dang replied, "It will be a challenge to be the Command Chaplain, Catholic Chaplain as well as the NRS Chaplain. I'll need to manage my time well in order to offer a quality-of-time, service and support to our commands and personnel here in Corpus Christi and throughout Region South. I'll be busy, and I will always make time for those who need a piece of my ear."

During his time in the US Navy, CDR Dang has received, the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (05), Navy Expeditionary Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (02), Joint Meritorious Unit Award (02), Southwest Asia Service Medal (02), Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Fleet Marine Force Ribbon, Navy "Battle E" Ribbon (02), National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, War on Terrorism Expeditionary, War on Terrorism Service, Sea Service Ribbon (10) - Overseas Service Ribbon (04).

These do not include the Medals that he earned while in the Vietnamese Navy. While in the US Navy, Dang has served eight years, 10 months, and 10 days on sea duty. He has earned 10 Sea Service Ribbons. From an Ensign in the Vietnamese Navy in 1970, it has taken Cmdr. Dang 32 years of patience, endurance, perseverance and commitment to make it to a rank of Commander in the US Navy.



IT'S HURRICANE SEASON. GET INSURED BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES.

YOU'RE PRE-APPROVED.\* ALL SERVICEMEMBERS QUALIFY.

USAA Personal Property Insurance protects your belongings from floods at no additional cost, plus it covers hurricanes, fires, theft and more. Getting insured is fast and easy. Answer a few simple questions and you're done.

And because you serve, you deserve a higher level of service.

usaa.com 800.250.5235

We know what it means to serve.®  
USAA INSURANCE • BANKING • INVESTMENTS • MEMBER SERVICES

\*This is not a firm offer of insurance. Pre-approval applies to eligibility for USAA property and casualty insurance. Underwriting restrictions still apply. Calls will be answered by USAA New Member Solutions, a service of USAA Financial Planning Services Insurance Agency, Inc. (known as USAA Financial Insurance Agency in California, License #0E36312), a registered investment advisor and insurance agency. Eligibility restrictions apply to purchase of property and casualty insurance. To remain eligible, military personnel must purchase property and casualty insurance underwritten by USAA by December 31st of the year following the year they leave active, reserve or NG military service. Once eligibility is established, it is generally ongoing. Eligibility may change based on factors such as marital status, rank or military status. Customers must be in good standing and meet underwriting guidelines. Use of the term "member" does not convey any legal rights, eligibility rights for USAA property and casualty insurance or ownership rights in United Services Automobile Association. USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. Personal property insurance provided by the renters policy and is issued by United Services Automobile Association. USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company and USAA Texas Lloyd's Company. © USAA 2006. All rights reserved. 1635-15304

### CLAIM YOUR FUTURE AT SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY



- Education designed for adult learners
- Convenient class schedules
- Online classes available
- Affordable academic excellence
- Personal attention
- Regional accreditation
- Military or Civilian

Saint Leo University knows the military. As one of the world's largest providers of education to the military, Saint Leo has long understood the need for an affordable, flexible education with small classes for active duty military members and the military community. Experience the difference of a university focused on you, right here in Texas.

#### PROGRAMS

**Associate of Arts**

- Liberal Arts
- Business Administration

**Bachelor of Arts**

- Business Administration with specialization in:
  - Management
  - Technology Management
- Criminal Justice
- Entrepreneurship & Family Business
- Human Resources Administration

**Graduate Programs-Online**

- (MBA) Master of Business Administration
- (MAT) Master of Arts in Teaching
- Master's in Criminal Justice

#### TERM DATES

1. **SPRING 1** - January 30 - March 25, 2006
2. **SPRING 2** - April 3 - May 27, 2006
3. **SUMMER** - June 5 - July 29, 2006



What you need for where you're going.

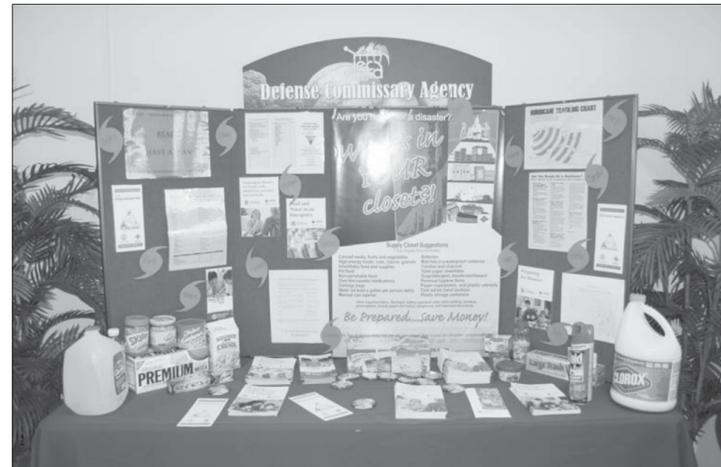
**CLASSES FORMING Call today for more information!**

Naval Station Ingleside: 361-776-2808 e-mail: sara.heydon@saintleo.edu  
 NAS Corpus Christi: 361-937-1452

[www.saintleo.edu](http://www.saintleo.edu)

## Commissaries remind customers to be prepared with hurricane essentials

By Capt. Audricia McKinney and Bonnie Powell



NASCC Commissary gives you information on hurricane preparedness as you enter through the main entrance. (Photo by L12 Paul Hewitt)

During this Hurricane Season, military families are being encouraged to "load up their pantries" as the Defense Commissary Agency launches an awareness campaign to keep non-perishable foods, water and other necessities on hand for emergencies.

DeCA is teaming with the Armed Forces Emergency Services Branch of the American Red Cross to raise awareness of disaster preparedness throughout the military community.

The "What's in Your Closet?" campaign kicks off this month and is intended to get military families thinking about how prepared they are for a disaster. Customers will see posters and handouts in stores, and reminder buttons on employees.

"With the beginning of hurricane season, military families in coastal areas at home and abroad need to be ready," said Patrick Nixon, chief executive officer and acting director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "We want to raise awareness of keeping emergency supplies on hand - and that shoppers can realize savings of 30 percent or more by using their commissary benefit to supply their emergency closet," he added.

The media has also heightened awareness of the possibility of a pandemic, an out-

break of infectious disease that has the potential to spread worldwide.

"Disasters can take on many forms," said Joseph Moffat, executive director, Armed Forces Emergency Services. "From blackouts to blizzards, to tornadoes and earthquakes, everyone should be prepared with enough emergency supplies to last seven days." Nixon said, posters in commissaries would list suggestions of supplies to have on hand. "The commissary disaster preparedness posters have a list of basic items people might want to consider," he said. "But there may be many more items such as shelf-stable milk or favorite snacks that people might want to include. This is simply intended to get people thinking and get them to take action - now."

Red Cross representatives can provide commissary customers with information and answer questions about disaster preparedness. The type of information and events offered varies according to location, and in some cases customers will be able to sign up for volunteer services and classes, such as first aid or disaster preparedness, DeCA officials said.

For more Department of Defense news, visit [www.defenselink.mil](http://www.defenselink.mil).

### CNATRA continued from page 1

Kenneth A. Clark, USNR, assigned to VT-2. At the core of the flight training program is hard work, dedication, and teamwork within the various squadrons of the NATRACOM. The CNATRA Training Excellence Award identifies the best overall primary and advanced training squadrons. The CNATRA Training Excellence Award (primary squadron) winner is VT-10, Wildcats. The CNATRA Training Excellence Award (advanced squadron) winner is HT-18, Vigilant Eagles. Both squadrons are stationed at NAS Whiting Field, Fla.

Reserve components play a critical role in the NATRACOM. The Vice Adm. Goldthwaite Award for Training Excellence and the CNATRA Active Reserve Integration Excellence Awards recognize the outstanding

achievements of these units. This year's recipient is VT-10, Wildcats. The CNATRA Active Reserve Integration (ARI) Excellence Award is presented to the active component squadron and reserve component squadron augment unit team that best represent ARI in the NATRACOM. The CNATRAARI winner is VT-6, Shooters.

"Competition for these awards was keen. Everyday I am impressed by the professionalism and dedication on display throughout the Naval Air Training Command," Quinn said. "The winning instructors, students, and organizations represent the very finest we have to offer. Congratulations to all for a job well done."

### MWR continued from page 12

#### Auto Skills Center

The intense South Texas summer heat is just around the corner. Is your vehicle cooling as good as it should be? If not, stop by the Auto Skills Center to have one of our Certified Air Conditioning Technicians have a look. Just come in and ask for an AC Service and we will check all of the following:

- Proper high & low side pressure readings
- Ensure refrigerant flow through all components
- Check all AC hoses and belts
- Check for proper operation of fans
- Check for signs of leakage

The Auto Skills Center is offering this service for only \$15.00 plus the cost of freon. Service

is delivered on a first-come, first-serve basis. So come in early and take advantage of the top notch expertise of the Auto Skills Center technicians. You don't even have to wait around while the work is performed on your vehicle. You can simply drop off your vehicle and pick it up once the work is done.

#### Hours of operation:

Tuesday-Friday 1000-1800  
 Saturday-Sunday 0900-1700

The Auto Skills Center is located to the west side of the Navy Army Credit Union in Bldgs 1713 and 1737. The Auto Skills Center has most of the tools you will need to make repairs to your vehicle.

**For more information on this and other services provided by the Auto Skills Center: call 961-3470.**

### Captain continued from page 2

that "if you want it - he'll get it." Some of the products you now see in the Exchange are things that people have asked for. And some items that were in the inventory a couple of years ago, are no longer offered. It's because he's listening to what you want to buy. What will sell in South Texas is probably not what will sell in Iwakuni, Japan. At least not all of it. That's why the Exchange staff works hard to get what you, the consumer, wants and needs.

I see an effort by people in all our "service" entities to make this a better place to work and play. I applaud you for your efforts and I'm proud to be a part of this community!

And one final thought. Folks, I know that sometimes the lines at the Bay Club are a little long, or at times ordering food can take a few minutes, especially if you're on a time-

crunch. I recommend that if you're sincerely in a hurry, let the Servers know you're time is limited. They'll make an effort to rush your order. But I wouldn't do it every time you're ordering a meal. That's an imposition on the Server and the rest of the people waiting for their order, too.

I urge everyone to use the facilities that we have on base. I realize that we have servicemembers and civilians that commute from surrounding areas including Alice, Taft, Beeville, and even some coming in from San Antonio. With all that driving and the price of gas, do some of your shopping and eating right here on base. It'll save you money on gas and you'll find a quality product or meal at prices you won't find off base.

And remember, all profits made on the base are returned to our own people on base. Stay cool, and - see you at the beach!



### WILLIAM A. THAU III, P.C.

*"Former U.S. Navy Lawyer"*

- Divorce & Separation
- Child Custody & Support
- Adoption/Guardianship
- Paternity Cases
- Wills & Probate
- Military Law
- Auto Accidents
- Personal Injury
- DWI
- Criminal Defense
- Bankruptcy
- Debt Relief Attorney

9708 S.P.I.D., SUITE A-101 • CORPUS CHRISTI  
 (361) 937-5513 • Toll Free 1-877-888-1369

Licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas

Former President of the Corpus Christi Family Law Association (1999-2000)  
 Selected as a Texas "Super Lawyer" in November 2003, October 2004, and October 2005 issues of Texas Monthly



### NUECES MORTGAGE

6802 Saratoga Blvd.  
 Corpus Christi, Tx 78414  
 (361) 985-9999  
 Fax (800) 934-9691

John Orr Broker/Owner  
 TMBS#58507

**"Specializing in VA Loans"**

- Conventional, VA, Stated
- Bad Credit, Investment
- Condo, Multi-Family
- Existing and Construction
- Quick Credit Approvals
- Rate/Term Reduction
- Home Equity/Cash-Out
- First Time Homebuyers

### FREE SERVICE

## AA APARTMENT FINDERS

*"Apartment Hunting is for the Birds"*

**Island Living Brand New!**  
 3 bedroom  
 2 bathroom  
 2 car garage!

Office (361) 993-7368

# APARTMENT Living

**Come visit any one of these three popular communities professionally managed by ARI and you will feel right at home!**

**Don't Forget to Ask About Specials!**

**Let's Make A Deal...**

**Woodbury Place Apartments**  
 802 Barry St.  
 (361) 853-2161  
*FREE electric, trash and cable*

**Sunchase Apartments**  
 5445 South Alameda  
 (361) 991-7720  
*FREE extended basic cable, water and gas*

**Windrush Apartments**  
 4322 Kostoryz  
 (361) 854-9951  
*\*ALL BILLS PAID  
 \*electric, water, trash and free extended basic cable*



*If you care about her... encourage regular check-ups.*

## Women's Clinic

OBSTETRICS • GYNECOLOGY • INFERTILITY 851.5000

### 1st COMMERCE MORTGAGE

Your Friendly "Full Service" Hometown Lender



Lawanda Skrobarczyk

**FREE Pre-Qualifications Construction/Perm Texas Veterans Conventional/FHA/VA In House Processing Underwriting • Closing**

(361) 993-3223 • Cell 765-9840  
 2037 Airline Road  
 Corpus Christi, Texas 78412  
 www.firstcommcormortgage.com



**We Cater To Cowards With Bad Breath and Crooked Teeth**

- Gentle Family Dentistry
- Financial Arrangements
- Delta Dental & United Concordia
- Medicaid Accepted
- Non-Surgical Gum Treatment

**ORTHODONTIC EVALUATION FREE**

- 0 Down Payment
- \$88.00 Per Month WITH COUPON First Visit Only.

**EXAM & X-RAYS \$19.00**

- WITH COUPON First Visit Only.

**TOOTH WHITENING \$199.00 WITH COUPON**

*Pleasing You Is Our Primary Concern*

Evening and Saturday appointments available

**SUNRISE MALL FAMILY DENTAL CENTER**  
 994-GUMS (4867)

Dr. Scott Barton

### Attention ALL Military Personnel

Are you looking for a new or pre-owned vehicle? Call retired MA1 Thomas (Bill) at Champion Chevrolet/Cadillac. 361-654-2100 or at his direct line 361-549-5534 for details about special pricing.



Military personnel must bring this AD to qualify for special pricing and/or rebate. Rebates apply to new vehicles ONLY and special pricing will apply to all vehicles new and pre-owned. Call TODAY!

Champion Chevrolet, Cadillac 6650 South Padre Island Drive • At The AutoMall • Between Airline & Nile NEW CARS CALL 1-866-242-2709 STORE HRS: MON-FRI 8:30-6 • SAT 9-6 • SERVICE HRS: MON-FRI 7-6 • SAT 8-4 10,000 VEHICLES. 22 BRANDS. 1 CLICK. ChampionDealers.com From Sales To Service, Nobody Beats a Champion

### MWR News and Events

By Laurie Garcia, NAS MWR

#### Gonzalez Liberty Center July Programs:

July 14 - Last Buck Night & Movie - On your last buck? Don't worry!! The Liberty Program will be providing a free meal starting at 1700 at the Gonzalez Liberty center for all Active Duty Service Members.

July 15 - San Antonio River Walk Trip - Come take a road trip with us to beautiful San Antonio, Texas. Relax while touring the historic Rive Walk, enjoy shopping at the River Center Mall, or take a ride on the river tour boat. There is so much to see and do, that one day is hardly enough time to take it all in, but we will try. Come by the Gonzalez Liberty Center and sign up today. Deadline to sign up is July 7. Price for the trip is \$10 per person, which includes round trip transportation from NASCC to San Antonio. Must be at least 18 years of age to participate. Minimum number of people needed to participate is 12. Departing GLC at 0700 and will arrive at the Mall at 1000. We will be departing the Mall at 1800 to be arriving back at the GLC at 2100. For more information call 961-3768.

July 28 - Last Buck night & Movie - On your last buck? Don't worry!! The Liberty Program will be providing a free meal starting at 1700 at the Gonzalez Liberty center for all Active Duty Service Members.

Navy Motion Picture Service "New Releases": Now showing at the Gonzalez Liberty Center: Staying Alive; Inside Man; Slither; Ice Age 2; Basic Instinct 2; Larry the Cable Guy; Take the Lead; Lucky Number 7; The

Benchwarmers; The Wild; Scary Movie 4. The Gonzalez Liberty Center is located at Building 1260 E Street. Hours of Operation are: Sunday thru Saturday 1100-2200. For more information on these or any other GLC events, please call 961-6405.

ITT Is Your Ticket Connection Your ITT office has tickets to the hottest local and surrounding area sporting events. Hooks Baseball: Get your ticket vouchers to watch the Corpus Christi Hooks in action. Ticket prices are: ITT Gate Y o u Save Adult/Child \$5.50 \$9.00 \$3.50

Hammerhead Football: Get your tickets to watch the Corpus Christi Hammerheads take on other semi-pro indoor football teams at the American Bank Center. Tickets are: ITT Gate You Save Adult/Child \$14.25 \$25.00 \$10.75

July 15: Hammerheads vs. LA Swasbucklers Friday and Saturday Kickoff at 7:05 pm. Sunday kickoff at 3:05 pm

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus: Appearing July 5 -9 at the American Bank Center. Call ITT for prices.

Ripley's Haunted Adventure: in San Antonio. 3 Wax museums in one. ITT has your tickets available.

For more information on schedules, ticket prices and other services available, please call ITT at 961-3961 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

MWR continued on page 13

### Making a difference by volunteering at Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

By Wendy Olson Killion

Years ago when I was attending college I received an Air Force Aid Society scholarship. This helped me considerably in paying for my education and I knew that someday I wanted to give back to the Society. As fate would have it, I married a Sailor and was once again living the life of a military dependant. As many of you know, it is often difficult to get a job right after a PCS move. I searched and searched, but in the meantime was going crazy sitting in the house all day. Someone mentioned that the local Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society was looking for volunteers. I immediately knew it was for me and that I could repay in volunteer hours the gratitude I felt for Air Force Aid Society, a sister organization of Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Now my story may be unique, but many aspects are not. Volunteering is often misunderstood and while everyone has their own reasons for doing it, they all get the same great rewards. While I was giving back as a way of thanks for a reward given to me years ago, I was still being constantly rewarded with the benefits of volunteering. I met new friends - many that will be with me for a lifetime, gained valuable skills that I can put on my resume, felt great about helping others and simply got out of the house for some much needed adult conversation and interaction.

Do you have kids, but would love to get out for a few hours during the week? Navy-Marine Corps Relief society reimburses for childcare and mileage while you are volunteering. If have children and need to use a baby sitter to come into the office, it is covered. Do you live in Kingsville and have to drive to Corpus to volunteer? We'll pay for your mileage! The Society also is very generous with volunteer recognition ceremonies and rewards for hourly milestones you achieve.

Does this sound like something that would interest you? We would love for you to become part of our NMCRS family. Volunteer opportunities exist for anyone who is inter-

ested regardless of service affiliation - active duty service members and dependent spouses across all services, civilians, you name it. Also, the jobs available take as much or as little time and responsibility as you want to commit. Even if you will only be on station for 3 to 6 months, we have a place for you!

Some of the volunteer jobs currently available at NAS Corpus Christi include receptionists, caseworkers, thrift shop clerks and chairpersons of some Society programs. We also would love to have some volunteers who could assist in the case of a hurricane evacuation.

Call Tambi Parker at 361-961-3482 or stop in and say hello. The office is now located next to the Ceramics Shop on E Street building 1738. Also we are holding an open house on 11 July from 10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. for a chance to learn more about volunteering, our local programs and the Society in general. See you there!

#### Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Invites All to Open House

Come help the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society dedicate their new location, learn about hurricane assistance and volunteering for the society while having some yummy refreshments! The staff and volunteers of NMCRS are holding a dedication and open house on 11 July from 10 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Captain Coolidge will cut the ribbon and dedicate the building in a ceremony beginning promptly at 10:30 A.M.

We encourage anyone who is curious about what the society does to stop in. There will be information and people on hand to answer questions regarding the visiting nurse and Baby's First Seabag programs, as well as the Society's financial and hurricane assistance, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities.

There is no need to RSVP, just show up! If you have questions, feel free to call Tambi Parker at 361-961-3482.

### FCPOA supports Coupus Christi Students

By AO1 (AW/SW) Richard Zule

OPERATION SUPPLY OUR STUDENTS FCPOA COLLECTION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS & KRIS TV FROM: NOW TILL 28 JULY 2006 ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT AO1(AW/SW)ZULE 961-5218

The United Way and KRIS-TV Communications to benefit our city and nine surrounding counties. The FCPOA will monitor boxes and turn in all donations on behalf of the base. The FCPOA was recently given an award plaque in June by the Multiple Sclerosis Society for our volunteer efforts at the latest MS Walk. We will have many other volunteer opportunities throughout the rest of the year. This includes canned goods collection for the base food locker, a toy drive collection, and work the Angel Tree booth at the mall.

The NAS Corpus Christi First Class Petty Officer Association is a group filled with members that enjoy giving back to the city of Corpus Christi. We do this in many different ways. For example, many of us volunteer at the Humane Society, Boys and Girls Club, and Drug Education For Youth. We also will coordinate various donation collections throughout the year.

Our first major donation collection we are doing is Operation Support Our Students. This is a school supply drive coordinated by

Charles C. Robertson, Realtor 15217 South Padre Island Drive # 100 Corpus Christi TX, 78418 Cell: 361-443-0357 Toll Free: 866-376-1656 Visit me at: www.corpushomesearch.com 8 year U.S. Navy Veteran GMAC Premier Service Agent VA loan information available Quality Service Certified® Free house hunting services SPECIAL INCENTIVES FOR ACTIVE DUTY RESERVE • RETIRED MILITARY

F & T BODY SHOP ELECTRONICALLY LINKED TO ALL MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES Complete Auto-Body Repairs & Paint Frame Repair • Insurance Claims 937-1831 721 N.A.S. Drive (@ The Y) e-mail: astaup@msn.com Frank Staup, Owner Serving Flour Bluff, Padre & Mustang Island and Port Aransas Since 1984

Krabby Kathy's Seafood Market Clean Fresh Market with a large variety of seafood! Gumbo to go! 9450 SPID • Suite 7 Oso Bridge Plaza between Flour Bluff Drive and the Oso Tamaround (361) 937-0000 Tue-Sat 10-6 • Sun 11-4 Closed Monday Sunday Only 10% Discount with DoD ID

NUECES MORTGAGE 6802 Saratoga Blvd. Corpus Christi, Tx 78414 (361) 985-9999 Fax (800) 934-9691 "Specializing in VA Loans" Conventional, VA, Stated Quick Credit Approvals Bad Credit, Investment Rate/Term Reduction Condo, Multi-Family Home Equity/Cash-Out Existing and Construction First Time Homebuyers

FOR SALE - Whiteley Cove Townhomes Prime Location in Flour Bluff 4141 Whiteley Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas Quality lifestyle and just minutes from NASCC Featuring: Open living and dining areas, ample closet space, granite countertops, tiled floors and bathrooms, washer/dryer hookups, ceiling fans, dishwasher, range, microwave & refrigerator with ice maker, central heat & air, pool & gazebo. Whiteley Cove Channel access to the Laguna Madre and ample mooring for 25 boats. Open House: 10 am - 5 pm daily - Call 361-737-9234 One Bedroom starting at \$89,900 Two Bedrooms starting at \$109,900 Neeley & Associates

ecpi COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY NAVAL AIR STATION CORPUS CHRISTI Fall 2005 Winter 2006 All classes are eligible for Tuition Assistance and Montgomery GI Bill NETWORK PLUS PREPARATION COURSE Friday, 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM (13 weeks course) NET 156 - NETWORK PLUS PREPARATION: 18 Nov05 - 24 Feb 06. This course provides a fundamental understanding of computer networks. Through hands-on training, students learn the networking skill and concepts that affect all aspects of networking, Internet Addressing, and User Management concepts of Data Protection, Network Security, and Network Troubleshooting and Maintenance. Room215. Instructor: TBD "A" PLUS PREPARATION COURSE Tuesday's and Thursday's, 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM (10 weeks) CET 100 - "A" PLUS PREPARATION COURSE: 80 clock hours, 5 credit hours. 10 Jan 06 - 16 Mar 06. The course is designed to provide students with in-depth understanding of the operation and basic maintenance of personal computers and various PC operating systems with emphasis placed on DOS and Windows 95/98NT/2000. Students are instructed in the methods and procedures required to upgrade, maintain and repair personal computers. Emphasis is placed on the use of diagnostic software, memory expansion, and hard drive replacement. Laboratory activities include upgrade and maintenance of PC systems. Room215. Instructor: TBD FIBER OPTICS DESIGNER COURSE BY ETA Monday and Wednesday, 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM (5 weeks course) CET 108 - FIBER OPTICS DESIGNER: 40 clock hours, 2 credit hours. 13 Feb - 15 Mar 06. This new course will provide an in-depth knowledge of optical local area networks. This course covers all aspects of a successful fiber optic system design from network protocols, network configurations, optical cabling, industry communications standards, determination of fiber count, hardware selection, splicing/termination methods, and cable system testing and documentation. All that is learned in class is put into practice through multiple and intensive case studies. Room211. Instructor: Mr. Tim Erickson. FIBER OPTICS INSTALLER COURSE BY ETA Thursday, 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM (5 weeks course) CET 105 - FIBER OPTICS INSTALLER: 24 clock Contact: Phil Salcido (361) 937-6382

Children's Clinic Since 1952, we've been helping Coastal Bend kids grow up healthy. That's a lot of fevers, skinned knees and things stuck up noses. You learn a thing or two about how to help a child in 50 plus years of healthcare. That's why three generations of parents and children have let us be part of their families. It's a record we're proud of and it's experience you can count on. www.thechildrensclinic.com • Since 1952 SOUTHSIDE 992-6458 5945 Saratoga Cross from Spohn Hospital South ALAMEDA 855-7346 3435 S. Alameda Next to Driscoll Children's Hospital BAY AREA 985-1418 7121 SPID In the Bay Area Medical Office Building CALALLEN 241-9541 13725 NW Blvd Cross from Calallen High School PORTLAND 643-2518 1929 W. Hwy 181 In the Crescent Center Building New Patients Welcome. Appointments preferred. We speak Spanish. We take all local providers, including Blue Cross/Blue Shield, CHIP, Humana, and Eetna, and a Medicaid Provider is on site to determine eligibility.

## LET EMBRY-RIDDLE HELP YOU REMOVE OBSTACLES AND ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS



Today, a degree isn't a "nice to have". It's a "must-have". Life gets complicated as you get older, but your goals don't go away. At Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Corpus Christi Center we want to help you achieve those goals and advance your career even if work, responsibility and family obligations preclude you from attending classes on a traditional college campus. Condensed classes are 8 weeks for undergraduate and 9 week for graduates. Military, dependants, and civilians are welcome. ERAU accepts military transfer credit, employer tuition assistance, and financial aid.

### All programs offered on base and online

#### Associate of Science

- Professional Aeronautics
- Aircraft Maintenance
- Technical Management

#### Bachelor of Science

- Professional Aeronautics w/minors in
  - \* Safety \* Management
  - \* Logistics \* OSHA
- Aviation Maintenance Management
- Technical Management w/specializations in
  - \* OSHA \* Logistics

#### Graduate Programs

- Master of Science in Management
  - \* General Management Specialization
  - \* Integrated Logistics Specialization
- Master of Aeronautical Science
  - \* Management \* Safety Systems
  - \* Operations

New on base classes starting  
August 14, 2006  
October 16, 2006  
January 15, 2007  
\*Online classes start every month

Are your co-workers attending ERAU?

Navy	CCAD	Sikorsky
Coast Guard	Boeing	DLA
Air Force	AMCON	LSI
Army	L3	Robbins
Marines		Gioia



**CLASSES FORMING Call today for more information!**

Jessica Parra or Toni Cox 361-937-4951 Bldg. 1731 Rooms 211 & 212  
www.erau.edu/corpuschristi corpus.christi.center@erau.edu

## CCAD Security moves to Navy Pass and Tag

By Jamey Giddens, CCAD Publicist



(from left to right) CCAD Security Officer Kelly Beauchamp, Petty Officer Mickey Muza, Corp. Bill Pieri and Personnel Security Assistant Alma Olivarez show a united front as CCAD's Security Visitors Center joins forces with NAS Pass and Tag.

CCAD Security and Naval Air Station-Corpus Christi's Pass and Tag have become a one stop shop of sorts with CCAD moving its Visitors Center and Security Clearance personnel to Navy Pass and Tag, located adjacent to the NAS South Gate.

According to Cpl. William "Bill" Pieri, CCAD Security, the move came about in an effort to combine CCAD's security efforts with that of the Navy.

"We wanted to consolidate our efforts [with the Navy] in hopes of providing a more secure entry to the NAS/CCAD area," said Pieri.

Pieri said CCAD security officers and Navy security have been working together to make the transition go as smoothly as possible and credits open dialogue between himself-as CCAD's POC on the project-and MA1 John Burch, Lead Petty Officer for Navy Pass and Tag, as well as their respective subordinates with making the move possible.

"Between our CCAD security officers and the Navy security officers there have been many talks to work out of the particulars of the move," said Pieri, "and MA1 Burch and I have been working together closely to address any issues that arise."

MA1 Burch concurred with Pieri's sentiment.

"From the Navy's perspective, I think this move is very important because security is the first line of defense," said Burch. "I think the Navy and the Army working together is a unique situation and it will provide us the opportunity to work together to catch anything suspicious right here on the front lines."

Pieri said the move will make the task of providing badges for CCAD guests less of a hassle for both his office and CCAD officials needing to bring guests onto the installation.

"We have a new badging system called Easy Lobby," explained Pieri. "With this system directorates and division chiefs wanting to bring guests aboard-once the guest has been approved-can enter his or her driver's license information into the Easy Lobby system, and then when the guest shows up at the gate he or she will be directly forwarded to us. The guest will then produce his or her driver's license, which will be scanned into the system and if it matches the information provided

by the CCAD official we will then be able to issue a picture badge for the visitor's stay."

Pieri said being located in such close proximity to the South Gate will make implementing a feature such as Easy Lobby much more effective than had CCAD Security attempted to make such a change at its former post at Headquarters Building 8 lobby.

Other changes CCAD security plans to embark on in the future include the use of Live Scan technology, which uses finger prints to run FBI, State of Texas and Office of Personnel Management (OPM) checks on new hires, contractors and others wanting to gain access to CCAD.

"In the past we've had to mail those finger prints off," said Pieri. "Now thanks to Live Scan we can know immediately who we are dealing with."

Pieri also touted the use of National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) technology which will also be easier to facilitate by combining forces with the Navy.

"With NCIC we will be able to do record checks, criminal histories and look for warrants right away as soon as someone attempts to gain access to the Naval Air Station," said Pieri.

When asked how the move would affect security's presence at CCAD Pieri clarified that only the Visitor Center and Security Clearance personnel had moved. CCAD Security is still very much a presence in Building 8 as well as throughout CCAD.

"The Command Center in Building 8 is still the heart of our operation," said Pieri. "Our administrative staff is still there and we actually now have more security officers there than we had in the past. They are all over, on patrol, walking through the buildings, the hangars, checking for badges and other security or safety violations. But it isn't just the responsibility of the security officer to check badges. It's the responsibility of every CCAD employee. If you see someone walking around without a badge, you should ask the individual where his badge is and report it to security immediately. The security of our workforce is important in order to provide the CCAD employees with the best possible environment to do their job, which is to serve the Warfighter, is our top priority."



NCCS(SW) Terri Green

## Do you know how to volunteer for Individual Augmentation

By NCCS(SW) Terri Green

Do you have any interest in going overseas, ever heard of (IA) Individual Augmentation? It's a program designed to assist a command that does not have enough personnel to meet mission requirements'. Once identified to the service HQ.

It evokes the Individual Augmentation procedure to assist a combatant command. The IA system is setup to include the active and reserve component (RC) of military manpower resources. Individual Augmentation has become a vital tool in the battle against terrorism. Enabling combatant commands to meet and support assignment using Individual Augmentation requirements.

Here is brief description on how (IA) works, so you have an understanding. Combatant commands determine and validate billet requirements to support specific National Command Authority (NCA) mission tasking. If the combatant command does not have sufficient personnel then shortfall is identified. After being identified it was sent to the service headquarters, which initiates the Individual Augmentee procedures.

Individual Augmentation (IA) is not to be used to increase manning, or to fill in permanent manning shortfalls. Any request for Individual Augmentation will receive flag level review at the component commander level prior to submission to CNO. If you are interested in volunteering for IA inform your immediate chain of command. Submitting a special request chit stating your intention will help start the ball rolling and especially if you have a critical NEC or rate always helps.

Once you have been assigned to participate, or if you volunteer expect to be deployed for duration of 179 days. However, OPNAV (N065) retains the discretionary authority to adjust reserve force orders duration as necessary to meet both operational commander requirements and accommodate the employment requirements of the member.

If you are interested in learning more about (IA) you can find more information in OPNAVINST 1001.24 Individual Augmentation (IA) Policy and Procedures or log on to Navy Knowledge Online (NKO). On the home page of NKO there is a big box that says "If you are an individual augmentee, Click here" That link will give you lots of information on what you should expect, different courses to do to help prepare you and information about the training prior to departing the US.

This is a great experience for anyone that is looking to broaden their horizons in both rate and leadership. If you have any questions about the contact your Divisional Career Counselor, or visit the Command Career Counselors office.

Career Counselor's Corner

Help...only a phone call away

If you are considering a move - or know of someone who is - I can help.



Lora Marksburry

Military Relocation Specialist

Lora specializes in Military relocation as her 26 years of military life offer a unique insight and understanding of the complexities and frustrations of relocating and home ownership.

Please call me today.

Office: (361) 992-9231 or (800) 825-5050

Home: (361) 993-8648 or (800) 992-3439

Mobile: (361) 533-8648

E-Mail: lmarksburry@corpuschristi-homes.com



PACESETTER STEEL REALTORS

5034 Holly Road • Corpus Christi, TX 78411

**FRESH SHRIMP at Good Prices**

**THE CRAB STORE**

9842 S.P.I.D. 937-6618

- Soft Shell Crabs
- Live Crabs
- Stone Crab Claws
- Crab Meat
- Stuffed Jalapenos
- Crab Fingers
- Deviled Crabs
- Stuffed Flounder

**Fresh Fish, Oysters & Scallops**

Open Mon-Sat 10am-6pm • Sun 11am-6pm

FOR PETE'S SAKE

**DON'T LITTER... SPAY OR NEUTER**

## Countrywide leads the way as the #1 VA lender.<sup>1</sup>



Countrywide® is the nation's #1 VA lender for a very good reason. We have over 30 years experience in streamlining the VA loan process. Enhanced VA guidelines mean we can offer you more:

- No down payment required with full entitlement
- Loans to \$417,000 with 100% financing
- Seller contributions allowed up to 4%
- More flexible income, employment and savings requirements
- Fixed and adjustable rate programs available

Plus, as part of your local Countrywide team of VA loan experts, I can offer you personalized service, from application to closing. See for yourself why we're the "veteran lender." Call me Today!

**No one can do what Countrywide can SM.**

**DONNA MENARD**

Branch Manager

361-985-6222 ext. 225

361-230-3366 cell

1-888-252-7838 toll

donna\_menard@countrywide.com

6537 S. Staples #110

Corpus Christi, Texas



**Countrywide Financial Corporation is America's #1 home loan lender\* and a member of the prestigious Standard & Poor's 500 and Fortune 500.**

1. Based on 2000 Peer Mortgage Data which includes loans originated and purchased.

\*Source: As ranked for 2005 by Inside Mortgage Finance (Jan. 27, 2006) Copyright 2006.

Equal Housing Lender ©2006 Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., 4500 Park Granada, Calabasas, CA 91302. Trade/servicemarks are the property of countrywide Financial Corporation and/or its subsidiaries. Arizona Mortgage Banker License Number BK8805; Licensed by the Department of Corporations under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act; Georgia Reg. #5929; Illinois Residential Mortgage Licensee; Massachusetts Mortgage Lender License No. ML 1623; this is not an offer to enter into an interest rate lock-in agreement under Minnesota law; Countrywide Home Loans of Minnesota, Inc. makes all HELOCs of \$100,000 or less; licensed by the New Hampshire Banking Department; New Jersey (818) 313-6526, Licensed Mortgage Banker, NJ Department of Banking and Insurance; Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Department; Registered with the Pennsylvania Banking Department; Rhode Island Lender's License. Some products may not be available in all states. This is not a commitment to lend. Restrictions apply. All rights reserved. 060112 (02/06)

**Corpus Christi CYCLE Plaza**

**Sales & Service Are One**

**2937 S.P.I.D.**

**KAWASAKI YAMAHA**

**(361) 852-7368 • Fax: (361) 851-2460**

**Humpal Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine Centers**

www.HumpalPhysicalTherapy.com

- Comprehensive Physical Therapy Outpatient Treatment
- Provider for Champus, ChampVA, and TRICARE
- Aquatic Therapy in Large Indoor Pools
- Free Injury Screening

1700 Wildcat, Ste.#C 2150 W. Wheeler  
Portland, Tx 78374 Aransas Pass, Tx 78336  
361-643-8243 361-758-5199

5026 Deepwood Cir  
Corpus Christi, Tx 78415  
361-854-2278

(also located in Calallen and Alice)

**PCS TO BEAUFORT S.C.?**

**Need a reliable local realtor who "KNOWS" the demands of a military move?**

**Call: SAMANTHA McKENNA**

**(843) 505 0046**

**(866) 831 9010 (Toll Free)**

sam.mckenna@realliving.com

**The Food Port.  
Only at Sunrise Mall.**

**ANNA'S ICE CREAM**  
**COOKIES & MORE**  
**DELIGHTFUL DELI**  
**EN ROSA**  
**GYROS & KABOB**  
**JUANITO'S**  
**LA DUENA**  
**LA VIDA**  
**ORANGE JULIUS**  
**ORIENTAL EXPRESS**  
**PRETZEL WORLD**  
**WENDY'S**

**Sunrise  
MALL**

Airline at S. Padre Island Drive  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
(361) 993-2900

SEARS • BURLINGTON COAT FACTORY • STEIN MART

### GOMEX continued from page 1

board testing of some Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) mine-hunting technology, which would ultimately be mainstreamed into the Fleet.

"Mainstreaming mine warfare into the Navy's Fleet as part of Expeditionary Strike Groups and Carrier Strike Groups is, in part, the Navy's way of reducing mine-hunting and neutralization timelines," Prager said. "Building platforms such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) that incorporate more automation and use of UUVs, will help create an in-stride - or organic - MIW/MCM capability for our Fleet."

Operating tactically from *USS Pioneer* - an MCM-1 Class Ship that also participated in GOMEX 06-2 - was Lt. j.g. Melissa Flores, Officer in Charge of the CMWC UUV Platoon. Flores explained how the technology played a significant role during the exercises.

"We were part of the ship's combat system and embarked just like divers embarked on the *USS Chief*. The Surface Mine Countermeasures Commander tasked us as one of the Captain's assets," Flores said. "We were fully integrated - everything we did was part of the GOMEX tactical scenario. And obviously, it turned out to be very effective because we ended up getting a lot of time in the water."

"Initially we weren't sure how much they were going to employ the UUVs, but we ran the vehicles for 98 hours with six people," Flores said. "We were identifying issues in operating off-board sensors like how much situational awareness is needed; and, whether or not the system provided enough information. Also, we assessed our capability to using these UUV systems in multitasking."

Flores explained that multitasking meant UUVs were deployed in certain areas for mine-hunting purposes, which enabled the ship to travel elsewhere to conduct other MCM tasks.

"We tested whether the ship could hunt while the UUVs hunted; because, basically our UUVs operate as off-board sonars," Flores said. "Then, we simply picked up the UUVs later. We are definitely providing inputs to Panama City on our data sets so they can continue improving unmanned systems."

According to Prager, this type of collaboration in the testing and evaluation of UUV technology will help shorten MCM timelines and will help in developing ships with reconfigurable mission-module packages.

"In many cases, we did find additional mines," said Flores. "So, had the ship been hunting in those areas, hopefully they would have detected them, but it's much safer having a UUV do it and, very effective in helping us keep ships out of those danger zones."

This is an important capability to achieve, according to Lt. John Porter, who explained that had this been a real-world threat scenario, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Units (EODMU) would have to, and in many cases still do, dive to personally neutralize mines.

"EODMU SIX Detachments TWO and FOUR participated in GOMEX 06-2 by diving on various exercise-mine contacts and visually identifying them as mine or non-mine-like objects," Porter said.

Consequently, developing UUV technologies to reduce MCM timelines and risk - to both diver and fleet platforms - remains a high priority, according to Karl Morris, Head of NSWC PC Fleet Readiness Branch.

"It is one of the highest priorities of today's and tomorrow's Navy," Morris added. "That is, to automate ships with UUV technologies."

### Knowing Your Rights Under the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)

By LT Heather Cassidy & LTJg Murse, NLSO Central, BROFF Corpus Christi

#### What is USERRA?

When a service member or reservist returns from deployment or call to activity duty, one of the first concerns they may face is reemployment in a civilian position held prior to deployment or activation. In 1994, Congress enacted the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) in an attempt to protect service members from suffering financial losses when returning to civilian work following uniformed service. Under USERRA, individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment to undertake uniformed service have the right to be reemployed in their civilian job, provided that certain eligibility requirements are met.

In order to qualify for the protections under USERRA, the member must be leaving the civilian employment to undertake uniformed service. Uniformed service is defined as active duty, training for active or inactive duty, National Guard duty under federal control, or an examination to determine fitness for such National Guard duty. Participation in other services, such as funeral honors duty, the National Disaster Medical System ("NDMS") and an authorized training program, may also qualify as service in the uniformed services.

In addition, the member must have held the civilian job prior to leaving for service in the uniformed services. Furthermore, the member must have provided notice, to the employer that they will be leaving the job to participate in the uniformed service. Notice can be oral or written, but written notice is always preferable for documentation purposes. Notice can be provided by the individual in the service, or by the appropriate officer in the branch of service in which the individual will be serving. There are few exceptions to the notice requirement when either military necessity prevents it, or when it is otherwise impossible or unreasonable. These exceptions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. USERRA requires that the cumulative length of the absence, and all previous absences resulting from the member's uniformed service, not exceed five years.

Most types of service will be cumulatively calculated. There are, however, eight categories of service that are exempt from the five-year rule. The most common categories include: (1) required training for Reservists and National Guard members who participate in monthly and annual required drills, and (2) service under an order to remain on active duty because of war or national emergency declared by the President or Congress is also exempted.

Certain kinds of disqualifications from the service eliminate an otherwise eligible service member from receiving protections under USERRA. Separation from the service with a Dishonorable Discharge, a Bad Conduct Discharge, or an Other Than Honorable Discharge will disqualify an individual. Dismissal of a commissioned officer by reason of a court martial or by order of the President in a time of war is also disqualifying. Finally, an individual who has been dropped from the rolls of service due to unauthorized absence for more than thirty (30) days or who is imprisoned by a civilian court is disqualified from USERRA protections.

If the above listed conditions have been met, USERRA provides protection so that the member will be reemployed and restored to

the position and benefits the member would have attained if not absent due to uniformed service. The statute provides that if the service lasted less than ninety-one (91) days, the individual is entitled to return to the position he or she would have retained had there been no interruption due to service, so long as they are qualified to perform the duties required for that position. If the service lasted more than ninety (90) days, the individual should be restored to the position they would have retained had there been no interruption due to service, or a job of like seniority, status and pay, so long as they are qualified to perform the duties required for that position. In both of the situations mentioned above, if the individual is not qualified to perform the duties of the position described, they are to return to the position they held the date of the commencement of the service in the uniformed service, and if they served for more than 90 days, a job in like seniority, status and pay.

USERRA also allows eligible members to continue their existing employer-based health care coverage, including dependent coverage, for up to twenty-four (24) months while performing uniformed services. Even if the service member elects not to continue coverage during service, the member can reinstate coverage when reemployment occurs, normally without any waiting period. Additionally, USERRA limits the amount a service member may be required to pay for continuing health care coverage while participating in uniformed service. Currently, USERRA limits the cost to the service member to no more than one-hundred two (102) percent of the full premium for the coverage, except for members performing services for thirty (30) days or less who may not be required to pay more than the employee share for health care coverage.

In addition to protecting a service member's reemployment and benefits, USERRA has established clear guidelines to shield against discrimination and retaliation. If a person is a past or present member of the uniformed service, has applied for membership in the service, or is obligated to serve in the service, an employer may not discriminate against that person by denying initial employment, reemployment, retention, promotion, or any benefit of employment based on that status.

Furthermore, USERRA also contains whistleblower protections that prohibit retaliation against individuals who assist in the enforcement of USERRA, regardless of that individuals' connection to the military or uniformed services. Assistance can include reporting violations of USERRA, testifying or making statements regarding violations, or participating in an investigation. Proving a violation of USERRA based on discrimination or retaliation is a burden that falls initially on the individual seeking USERRA protection. The Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) of the U.S. Department of Labor has been authorized to investigate and enforce violations of USERRA.

If you believe your rights under USERRA have been violated, or if you have questions regarding your right under USERRA, contact the NLSO at 361-961-3765 for more information.

**You've Kept the  
Military Rolling.  
Now Do the Same for Us.**



If you have experience maintaining diesel engines or military vehicles, there's a career opportunity near you. Across the U.S., we have over 500 dealers who appreciate the sacrifices you've made, the training you've received and the dedication you've shown.

Tell us about your experience at [www.freightliner.com/military](http://www.freightliner.com/military). We'll forward your information to the dealer near where you plan to live.

**FREIGHTLINER®**  
LLC  
A DaimlerChrysler Company

Copyright 2005, Freightliner LLC. All rights reserved. Freightliner is a DaimlerChrysler company.

**TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN  
THE WINGSPAN  
MILITARY NEWSPAPER  
CALL (361) 814-0866**

A great buy on Kings Crossing Golf Course! Over 2400 s.f. home features 3-car garage w/wkshop area, hardwood in formal dining, large open kitchen, 4 bedrooms plus office, surround sound. **Best price on the golf course! \$269,500.**



Victoria Prince (Veteran)

(361) 991-3145 or (361) 442-3436 (Cell)  
www.victoriaprince.com  
RE/MAX Metro Properties  
5242 Holly Rd • Corpus Christi, TX 78411 • (361) 994-9393



6802 Saratoga Blvd.  
Corpus Christi, Tx 78414  
(361) 985-9999  
Fax (800) 934-9691



"Specializing in VA Loans"

Conventional, VA, Stated  
Bad Credit, Investment  
Condo, Multi-Family  
Existing and Construction

Quick Credit Approvals  
Rate/Term Reduction  
Home Equity/Cash-Out  
First Time Homebuyers

★ MEGAMERICA MORTGAGE GROUP, INC. AFFILIATE ★

# AROUND THE STATION

Corpus Christi Boy Scouts raise the morning colors



Boy Scout's John Balderston and Scott McQuien assist in raising morning colors for the Base on June 13. They were part of the Troop 40 contingent from Fort Worth, Texas enjoying Summer Camp here. (Photo by Bob Torres)

The Boys and Girls Club arrives at HM-15



With attentive eyes and open minds surrounding HM-15, Lcdr. Todd Evans (Top) teaches them how HM-15 safety procedures is the most valuable part when performing an operation, While Lt. Ben Bowersox (Bottom) shows and explains what equipment might be used and why they are needed during a flight operation. (Photos by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

NASCC Chief Petty Officers Association supports single sailors



(Top)The NASCC Chief Petty Officers Association makes a home cooked meal for the single sailors, and prepare the banquet at the Gonzalez Liberty Center, (Bottom) many single sailor that live on and off base have come to enjoy a good home cooked meal offered by the CPOA, they enjoyed movies, and games that we available as a side dish. (Photos by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

Sea Cadets throughout the U.S. arrive at NASCC for Training



Sea Cadet Seaman Apprentice Morgan Morgan, from Clarksville, Iowa (laying in gurney) and PO1 Austin Phelan, of Katy, Texas (in cage) demonstrate devices used by the U.S. Coast Guard to lift individuals from water into their Search-and-Rescue aircraft. This was part of a two-week summer training evolution where 20 Sea Cadets visited South Texas. While at NAS Corpus Christi, the cadets participated in "wet training," did hands-on training in flight simulators, toured a Customs P-3 Orion aircraft, and visited Training Wing-4, and the U. S. Coast Guard facilities. (Photo by Bob Torres)

# AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Student Pilots advance to aviator status



The following student pilots received their "wings" designating them as aviators, during a "winging" ceremony Jun 16. It was held at the Corpus Christi Bay Club on board NASCC. In alphabetical order they are Ensign Daniele Arona FOREIGN; Ensign Andrea Bernardi, FOREIGN; Ensign Marco Cantu, FOREIGN; Lt. John S Ciaravin, USN; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Michael R Fanning, USAF; Ensign Giorgio S Favitta, FOREIGN; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Devon A Fitts, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Brent D Gordon, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ken L Guinto, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Court T Hampton, USAF; Lt. j.g. Amanda M Henry, USN; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jacqueline D Higgins, USAF; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Marci A Hoffman, USAF; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John D Huntsman, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Joel B Kingdon, USAF; Ensign Disma Malgarini, FOREIGN; Lt. j.g. Caleb R McDonald, USN; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Philip A Ries, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Samuel P Robino, USAF; Ensign Angelo Schembri, FOREIGN; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Susan A Sedgwick, USAF; Ensign Massimiliano Tarlazzi, FOREIGN; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Sarah E Towler, USAF; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dana M Tschirley, USAF; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Amy C Wilson, USAF. (Photo by Hugh Lieck)

HM3 Toby Boswell earns Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal



(Left) Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (Fleet Marine Force) Toby D. Boswell earned a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal while serving with the Marines at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism from September 2005 to January 2006. Boswell is assigned to the Naval Hospital Corps Christi, and the Commanding Officer, Capt. J. P. Rice, MC, made the presentation at morning formation in front of the hospital. U.S. Navy (Navy photograph by Bill W. Love)

HM2 Carbajal earns third Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal



NASCC wishes fair winds and following seas to AGCS (AW/SW) Kesselring



AGCS(AW/SW) Matthew V. Kesselring retired after 23 years of honorable active duty service. He was joined in the ceremony by his wife Donna, and his two sons, Jonathan and Brandon, and his extended family onboard USS LEXINGTON. He was the Leading Chief Petty Officer at Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment Corpus Christi, TX. (Photo by Richard Stewart)

(Left) Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (Fleet Marine Force) Hector R. Carbajal earned a third Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal while serving with the Marines at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism from September 2005 to January 2006. Carbajal is assigned to the Naval Hospital Corps Christi, and the Commanding Officer, Capt. J. P. Rice, MC, made the presentation at morning formation in front of the hospital. U.S. (Navy photograph by Bill W. Love)