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United States Senators give CCAD the thumbs up

Story by Jamey Giddens



CCAD Commander, Col. Timothy Sassenrath (center), introducing visiting U.S. Senators James Inhofe, R-Okla. (left), and John Cornyn, R-Texas (right), during a press conference held in honor of their visit at Hangar 44. The senators, both members of the Armed Services Committee were at CCAD to see what they could do to help the Coastal Texas Army aviation depot continue providing quality service to the war fighter and other customers. (Photo by Gus Gonzales)

U.S. tax payers are really getting a “bang for their buck” at Corpus Christi Army Depot, according to Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. Cornyn toured CCAD Wednesday, Aug. 9, with fellow Republican Sen. James Inhofe from the neighboring state of Oklahoma. Both men, members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, met with depot leaders to discuss what their offices could do to help CCAD continue in its efforts to provide top quality products to the war fighter and CCAD’s industry partners.

Inhofe’s visit to CCAD came at the invitation of Cornyn, who wanted his colleague to see for himself the type of work that is being performed at CCAD on a daily basis in spite of problems relating to funding for depots DoD-wide.

“We all know there is a problem within our depots due to funding short falls,” said Inhofe. “However you are doing just great here [at CCAD]. The results, the numbers that you have like the [Turn-Around-Time] for the T-700 Engine dropping down from 261 days to 77 days, that’s phenomenal.”

Inhofe also cited Turn-Around-Time (TAT) for the T-55 Engine dropping down from 400 days to 100 days as a reason CCAD should be very proud.

T-700 engines are repaired at CCAD for use in Blackhawk and Apache helicopters. T-55’s are used in Chinooks.

“Then the amount of money you guys

are saving us on Blackhawks,” began Inhofe. “You have found work processes for the job you’re doing here that have cut [production costs] down to about \$3 million as opposed to \$12 million for a new one. As you know, right now funding is a very difficult thing [to come by], and so I am down here at John Cornyn’s invitation to see just how good things are going. Some of the places we will go after this won’t have the success stories that you have here in Corpus Christi for AMC (Army Material Command). So we appreciate what you are doing.”

This was the third trip to the Coastal Bend depot for Cornyn who said he continued to be amazed, not only at the quality of work done at CCAD, but also by the display of patriotism shown by the workforce.

“We see many folks who are Veterans themselves and some of whom have children who are currently serving in the Global War on Terrorism,” said Cornyn. “While it may seem like we spend a lot of money through the Department of Defense on our military, it is important to remember that National Security is Job Number 1 for the Federal Government.”

Cornyn continued saying sometimes people here in the U.S. take for granted what the war fighter is doing in theater to protect the basic freedoms so many take for granted.

CCAD continued on page 11



Congratulations to the following Sailors who have been chosen as Chief Petty Officer Selectees. They are in listed in alphabetical order. ATC(SW)(Sel) April Alexander, AMC(AW)(Sel) Thomas Andrews, AWC(NAC)(Sel) Cory Appling, AEC(AW)(Sel) Thomas Camillieri, SKC(AW/SW)(Sel) Jose Diaz, MNC(SW)(Sel) David Fuhrman, MAC(SW/AW)(Sel) Misty Galang, AOC(AW)(Sel) James Henry, ATC(AW)(Sel) Nelson Gonzales, HMC(FMF)(Sel) Jorge Lafuente, YNC(Sel) Alvin Lozada, HMC(Sel) Richard Manriquez, MNC(SW)(Sel) Billy McKay, AMEC(AW)(Sel) Lisa Musick, AMC(AW)(Sel) Keith Nickell, AMEC(Sel) Trinidad Perez, HMC(AW/SW)(Sel) James Siwert, ACC(AW/SW)(Sel) Byron Sterling, HMC(Sel) Craig Stokes, MNC(SW)(Sel) Bradley Vonnahme, HMC(FMF/SW)(Sel) Dale Woods. And Congratulations are also in order to their spouses: Susan Appling, Jodi Lynn Camillieri, Sandra Diaz, Pamela Fuhrman, Manuel Galang, Kimberly Lafuente, Zayneb McKay, Ken Musick, Tammy Nickell, Nancy Perez, Sallie Siwert, and Monica Woods, who are embarking on a new journey with them. (Photos by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

From The Skipper

About those gas prices...

By Capt. T.E. Coolidge

Recently I've been asked one question over and over again. "What's up with the gas prices at the NEX-operated Citgo station on base?" Well, I don't have all the answers so I went to someone who does. That's Jeff Dougall, the NEX Manager. Apparently I'm not the only one being put on the spot to answer this question - he's been getting hit, too.

First question, the same that I'm getting from a lot of you, is why does it cost more for gas on base, than say the Citgo outside the Flour Bluff gate?

"We actually are mandated to take a price survey within a 5-mile radius," said Dougall. "What we do is go out and look for the lowest

price of gas outside the gate. I can actually go to my screen for updates. We have people going out at 6 to 6:30 a.m. daily to do price surveys. We also have someone that does the same thing in Kingsville and Ingleside." Then the NEX adjusts the price to reflect the lowest cost.

"Recently, the price of gas off base has been below the NEX cost in this area of Corpus Christi," continued Dougall. "We will never sell gas at a price below our cost. We take the lowest price from our surveys and sell it at that price but never below our cost."

Well that gave me an answer but it wasn't one that I was really satisfied with. One of the things I know is that the price of gas for a military installation can be predicated on the proximity of supply, possible supply disruptions, and competition in the local market. We might be a little spoiled because the Citgo refinery is here in Corpus Christi. We EXPECT a lower price. Because of local competition we do get a lower price than, say, San Antonio or Dallas. Recently there's been news of

bad pipes in the oil fields of Prudhoe Bay in Alaska and how that's going to raise the price of gas worldwide. Occasionally I'll see on television that the price of gas is going to go up or down and I'm beginning to think that they're taking lessons from our weather prognosticators - they're almost always wrong (okay, just kidding about the weather folks).

Now, to get back to the NEX Citgo. I told Jeff that I'd like to see the prices lower than in town or, at the very least, the same price as in town more often. He assured me that he will make them as competitive as he can - without going below NEX cost. He also said that the contract with Citgo is coming up soon. He's going to try to negotiate a better discount price for our station on base. Now, it's not a promise that prices will be lower but Jeff is going to do the best he can for the folks here on base. That's exactly the answer I was looking for!

Captain continued on page 5

Chaplain's Column

When Fishing, be content with the fish

By Lt. Tim Gault, CHC, USN

One of the members in my church in Florida told me one day that he was having some fun in his backyard. Occasionally, he would go "fishing" from his backyard. He would toss his line right in from behind his chain-link fence. Then one day he landed more than he could handle. You see, there was an alligator in the waterway behind his home. And, the alligator latched on to the fish that he had been reeling in. The gator, he said, held on tightly enough that he came all the way onto the bank and nearly up to his fence before the line snapped. He told me that the dogs were barking, his kids were crying and his wife was yelling, "Cut the line!" It was really quite a story and he told it well. Perhaps the best "fishing" story I had ever heard anyone tell with a straight face. Maybe it was

true. Maybe it was not. His brother and wife assured me that it really did happen. They even told me that he had done it several more times on purpose and that they had all given the poor creature a name.

As you may imagine, I had a difficult time believing this account. Then, one day, I heard on the radio that a large alligator had been taken from that same body of water as it had become increasingly too aggressive with residents in the neighborhood. Could it be true that this fellow had been flirting with disaster by dragging an alligator up to his fence with bait? Could he have been so foolish? I was never certain about the truth of the matter but I was thankful that the authorities removed that alligator before someone got seriously hurt or killed.

This brings me to the moral of the story— *When fishing, be content with the fish.* Fascinating diversions can detour us from accomplishing our purposes and can sometimes have disastrous consequences. So, let us all stick to the task at hand and enjoy the fruit of our labors. After all, a fish fry is a whole lot more pleasant without the company of alligators.



Gault

Health Watch

Flesh Eating Bacteria is on the Rise!

By Lt. Tricia Slattery

Flesh eating bacteria? It sounds like something you would only ever see in the movies. However, it is a real medical condition that is caused by a specific drug resistant bacteria referred to as Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus, or MRSA. This drug-resistant bacteria was once a rare cause of skin infections in the United States. Even within the past decade it has been an infection usually only acquired by patients during a hospitalization or by residents of nursing homes.

However, a recent study found that of all skin infections that were treated in emergency rooms across the country, 59 percent was caused by MRSA. Surprisingly, these were all cases of infections acquired in non-institutional type settings. Such bacteria are im-

pervious to treatment with antibiotics in the penicillin family, which is a group of drugs that have long been used in the treatment of skin infections. Many physicians are unaware of the surge in prevalence of community acquired MRSA skin infections and unknowingly prescribe drugs that will be ineffective. MRSA infections that are not treated with the right antibiotic can lead to bloodstream infections, severe cases of pneumonia and the dreaded "flesh eating" skin infection, all of which can be life threatening.

MRSA still thrives primarily in health care settings where people have open wounds and tubes. However, outbreaks have occurred in prisoners, children and athletes. It is speculated that the germ is spread via direct skin contact, or even through shared towels. There have also been reports of MRSA infections originating from tattoos.

The good news is that MRSA infections that were acquired outside of an institutional setting are easier to treat than if acquired within a hospital or nursing home. These infections, while not sensitive to treatment with Penicil-

lin type antibiotics, can effectively be treated with other antibiotics in different families, primarily those of the sulfa variety. It is important to note, that in addition to antibiotic therapy, lancing and draining any pocket of pus is integral in the treatment of any skin infection.

Like most conditions, prevention is paramount. To decrease transmission and infection with drug resistant staph bacteria several simple steps can be taken: Wash hands thoroughly and often with soap and water, keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until completely healed, avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.

do not share towels, wash cloths, razors, soap, ointments or other personal items, and always wipe down athletic gear and gym equipment with alcohol or antiseptic solution after another person uses it. Lastly, promptly seek medical care if you have any type of sore or boil, and never try to drain it yourself at home.

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Public Affairs Officer
Robert D. Torres

Writer/Photographer
LI2 Paul Hewitt

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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

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Warning: Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, is designated off-limits to all military personnel in UICs 00216, 31457 and 42094 by the Commanding Officer, NASCC, and Commander, Navy Region South. The ban, in effect since March 4, 2005, is in response to increased violence due to drug trafficking, kidnapping and murders along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Operation Paintbrush Program is searching for volunteers. This program paints homes for elderly residents or people too seriously ill or injured to maintain their homes. For more information, contact AC2 Ashley Drange at 961-2503.

Classified Control located at Headquarters Building 2, will complete Fd-258 fingerprint cards for security investigations on NAS military and DOD civilian personnel. This service is provided only from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information, contact Assistant Security Manager Estella Jimenez at 961-3370.

Military Personnel Homes For Sale

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Space	open rate B & W color	12x rate B & W color	24x rate B & W color
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3/4 page.....	\$375.....*	\$345.....*	\$315.....*
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1/4 page.....	\$135.....*	\$120.....*	\$115.....*
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The new instruction on PFA failures and how it affects you

By LT Heather Cassidy, JAGC, USN

The PFA is composed of two parts: (1) Body Composition Assessment and (2) a Physical Readiness Test (PFT). If you fail either part of the PFA, there are consequences. Under the new OPNAVINST 6110.1H, and the amended MILPERSMAN 1910-170, the consequences for failing the PFA are more severe, and can potentially lead to separation from the Naval service. Other consequences for PFA failures include delayed promotion, advancement, frocking, re-designation, rate conversion, reenlistment, and acceptance into commissioning programs and perform to serve (PTS) and advanced schools.

What is a PFA failure?

If you fail either the BCA or the PRT, you are considered a PFA failure. The negative consequences of a PFA failure are hefty, so it is important for you to educate yourself about the rules. According to the OPNAVINST, if a member has a "bad day" and fails the PFA, he or she may retest, so long it is completed within the command's official PFA cycle. If it applies to you, this is an opportunity for you to exercise and to save yourself from a recorded failure. And remember, if you score an overall "Probationary," it is not a PFA failure, but your command will be required to place you in Fitness Enhancement Program (FEP) where the your physical training is monitored with an eye toward improving aspects of your performance.

If you acquire a medical waiver, remember, it only applies to the portion of the PFA you are medically waived from participating in. For example, if an individual has a sprained wrist, they may get a medical waiver for push ups, but they must still pass all other parts of the PRT, and the BCA. Sometimes a member suffers from illness or injury during the PRT which impairs their ability to perform at their normal level. If the Commanding Officer determines that the member's issue does not result from his or her inability to effectively participate in an appropriate conditioning program, a medical waiver may be authorized for that particular event.

What Happens If I Fail?

If you fail and attempt a retest, but are unable to pass, there are several steps both you and your command must take. First, your command must notify you in writing, creating a covenant between you and the command

regarding how you will work together to overcome the deficiency. For enlisted, written counseling will be administered, including a NAVPERS 1070/613, which will be included in your permanent record. As of July, if you have failed three (3) PFA cycles in the past four (4) years and you fail the spring 2006 PFA, you will be processed. If you failed three PFA cycles in the past four years and pass the spring 2006 PFA, you must continue to pass PFA cycles until you no longer have three failures in the most recent four year period. PFA Failures may receive PCS orders, although some designated duties may be restricted to members who have passed. You should contact your community detailee or ask your command for guidance.

If you qualify for mandatory processing, there are two special case waivers available. The first is a waiver for progress. This waiver is designed for those who have not yet met standards but who have demonstrated consistent improvement. Commanding Officers (COs) have the authority to grant waivers for progress. The second is a waiver for readiness. This waiver is designed to address a situation where a member's loss from the unit would result in a detriment to the unit, fleet, or community readiness. The authority to grant these waivers rests with Echelon three Commanders. Waiver requests for both cases must be submitted by the service member through the proper chain, and within fourteen (14) days of the end of the PFA cycle. The waiver granting authority must act on the request within twenty-eight (28) days of receipt.

If you are administratively processed, you are entitled to an administrative separation board if you have six (6) or more years of service. If you have less than six years, you will be separated, so long as at least one NAVPERS 1070/613 has been issued for a failure, and you are entitled to submit a statement with the separation package. If you are in danger of being separated, consider submitting a waiver request to your CO if you meet the requirements discussed above. The characterization of service should be Honorable unless a General (Under Honorable Conditions) is warranted.

If you have questions regarding these issues, take time to review OPNAVINST 61610.1H and MILPERSMAN 1910-170. If you would like to discuss your situation with an attorney, please do not hesitate to call the NLSO at (850) 452-3734 or 452-3733 to set up an appointment.

MWR continued from page 12

After School Care 3 p.m.-6 p.m. All Transportation provided by FBISD. All base personnel are now eligible to enroll their children at Flour bluff without an out-of-district charge. The Youth Activities is ready for another fun filled school year with lots of planned activities to help your child learn and grow.

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- Sept 11: Knockout Basketball
- Sept 12: Madden Tournament
- Sept 13: Mad Science
- Sept 14: Open Recreation
- Sept 15: Dance Revolution
- Sept 16: Triple Play
- Sept 18: Wood Art
- Sept 19: Capture the Flag
- Sept 20: Digital Arts
- Sept 21: Horse Shoes
- Sept 22: Ultimate Frisbee

Sept 23: Hockey Tournament
Sept 25: Stackers Night
Sept 26: Triple Play
Sept 27: Basketball
Sept 29: Golf
Sept 30: Movie Night
For more information call the YA at 961-2355

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For more information, please call 961-2459.

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MWR News and Events

By Laurie Garcia, NAS MWR

2006 Navy Ball Tickets On Sale Now

An American Salute

Come join us for the Navy Ball - 231 Years of Celebrating the Navy. This year's celebration will be held on Oct. 14, at the Omni Bay front Tower, Corpus Christi Ballroom. The Schedule of events is as follows:

Cocktails	5 p.m.
Program	6 p.m.
Dinner	8 p.m.
Dance	9 p.m.

Tickets go on sale August 21 and can be purchased from 1) Your Command Master Chief, 2) ITT Ingleside, or 3) ITT Corpus Christi. Ticket prices for 2006 Navy ball are as follows:

E1-E4	\$20
E5-E-6, GS1-5, NF2	\$35
E7-O4, GS6-9, NF3	\$50
O5-GS11, NF4-UP	\$60
Civilian guests	\$60

The 2006 Navy Ball will include official ceremonies, dinner, guest speaker and dancing featuring the D.J. Services of Blue Moon Entertainment.

For more information, please call 961-2268.

Help Rename the Pizza Sub Pub

MWR is looking for a new name for the Pizza Sub Pub. If you submission is chosen you can win a dinner for 4 with your choice of: a large pizza of choice, side salad & drink; or a spaghetti dinner, side salad and a drink. **Deadline for the Submissions are Sept. 8.**

New Hours of Operation: The Pizza Sub Pub is now open in the Evenings. Come join them for Dinner! The new hours of operation are Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. **For more information, please call 961-2249**

Youth Activities Schedule of Events

Register Now for Before & After School Care at the Zone. The Before School Care is from 5:30 a.m.-8 a.m.;

MWR continued on page 13

Troops to Teachers marches on

By Meryl Kettler, State Coordinator, Texas TTT/STT

After 10 very successful years in Texas, the Troops to Teachers Program continues to attract dozens of military retirees, drilling reservists and National Guard members each year into public school classrooms. More than 1450 participants have been hired across the state, teaching all subjects, at all levels.

These prior military members continue to demonstrate that veterans make excellent teachers and role models for their students. Participants have been the recipients of local, state and even national recognition of their success.

Last winter, Daniel Leija, retired Air Force, was selected by the federal Department of Education to receive the prestigious "Star of Teaching" Award. Only one such award is given per state, so TTT was extremely proud to see one of its participants recognized for his outstanding achievements.

In order to become a teacher, veterans must complete a state-approved teacher certification program. This can be either a university program or one of the alternative certification programs, which are open to individuals with a bachelor's degree. Troops to

Teachers have significant financial aid for candidates with bachelor's degrees, who also meet service eligibility criteria.

A stipend of up to \$5000 is available to offset the costs of certification programs. Or a person might receive an incentive bonus of \$10,000 for teaching in a high needs school.

For military spouses who are planning to become teachers, a new program was initiated in September, 2004. The Spouses to Teachers Program provides information and advisement on the various routes and certification programs available to the spouses of active duty members.

A reimbursement fund is available to repay to costs of tests required to become a teacher or to transfer a teaching license into a new state.

An informational briefing about Troops to Teachers and Spouses to Teachers will be offered at Naval Station Ingleside on Friday, Sept. 8 from 1 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Navy College auditorium, Building 101. Meryl Kettler, the state coordinator of TTT and STT, will brief on the programs and be available to answer questions afterwards.

Corpus Christi Coast Guard Unit earns an award for quality service

Story and Photo by Lt. Lane Steffenhagen



On June 28, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Adm. Thad Allen, presented the Commandant's Quality Award - Bronze Level to Sector Corpus Christi. Capt. Jake Korn, Sector Commander for Sector Corpus Christi received the award on behalf of the unit at the Coast Guard's Innovation Expo in Tampa, Florida.

The award recognizes high-performing Coast Guard commands that excel in leadership and performance management. The Corpus Christi command was one of only seven units nationwide to receive the award, and the first Sector to receive unit wide recognition. The Bronze level was the highest level awarded this year.

Sector Corpus Christi's Area of Responsibility includes the ports, waterways and coastal region of South Texas extending from the Colorado River to the Rio Grande. The Sector is comprised of 557 full-time personnel and 15 sub-units including three coastal boat stations, an Airstation with six aircraft, four 87' cutters, an inland construction tender, and three aids-to-navigation teams. Sector Corpus Christi's missions include Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Maritime Safety and Security, Protection of Environmental Resources and National Defense.

Captain continued from page 2

One thing that Jeff pointed out was the program he ran a while back where a \$50 NEX merchandise receipt would earn a 15 cent discount on each gallon of gas purchased at the Citgo on base. If the price is \$2.549 like it is today, then taking those 15 cents off brings the price of gas to - \$2.399. I haven't seen a price like that in quite a while.

Jeff told me that the program worked well and those who took advantage of it were very

pleased. And the rest of the story is that he plans on bringing that program back! More news I wanted to hear!

So, look for notices in the NEX Specials in the coming weeks to see when the next "gas special" will be. Take advantage of all the specials coming from the NEX - it'll save you money and all profits from NEX sales go right back to MWR funds. See you on the beach!



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NETWORK PLUS PREPARATION COURSE
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 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

hours, 1 credit hour. 12 Jan 06 - 09 Feb 06. The class consists of classroom and "hands on" laboratory instruction in the characteristic, preparation, and installation of Fiber Optics cable. Students are instructed in the various tools and techniques utilized to splice, test, and terminate fiber optic cable with additional emphasis placed on the application of learned skills. Students will be prepared to take the ETA Fiber Optics Installer Certification examination which is administered by the instructor on the last day. Room211. Instructor: Mr. Tim Erickson.

"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 95/98/NT/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
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 CET 105 - FIBER OPTICS INSTALLER: 24 clock

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Better Business Bureau reports a new Credit Card scam

This has been checked out on snopes.com - which confirmed that this is happening and that recommends hanging up - or asking for their phone number and telling them you'll call them back after checking with their own credit card company. This one is pretty slick since they provide YOU with all the information, except the one piece they want. Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it. This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & MasterCard Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself. One of our employees was called on Wednesday from "VISA," and I was called on Thursday from "MasterCard."

This is how the scam works

Person calling says, "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card, which was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a Marketing company based in Arizona?" When you say "No", the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the Credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?" You say "yes". The caller continues - "I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1-800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit Number. "Do you need me to read it again?" Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works: The caller then says, "I need to verify you are in possession of your card." He'll ask

you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers". There are seven numbers; the first four are part of your card number, the next three are the security Numbers' that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card.

The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct. I just need to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states: "Don't hesitate to call us back if you do," and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and the caller never asks for or tells you the card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. And we glad we did! The real VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to our card.

We made a real fraud report and closed the VISA account. VISA is reissuing us a new number. What the scammers want is the three digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or MasterCard directly for verification of the conversation.

The real VISA told us that they never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the Scammers your three digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report. Calls from a person who purports to represent MasterCard are occurring as well, word for word.

It appears that this is a very active scam and evidently quite successful.

Naval Hospital to be closed for Labor Day

By Bill W. Love, NHCC Public Affairs Office

Naval Hospital Corpus Christi (NHCC) will close Monday, Sept. 4, to observe the Labor Day Holiday. All health care services, including pharmacy refill will be affected. Emergencies will be responded to at 911. The hospital will resume normal hours of operation on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Pharmacy beneficiaries who are unable to wait until that time to receive their prescription may bring their new prescription to the pharmacy of their choice.

Patrons are advised that TRICARE provides for a comprehensive network of civilian pharmacies. Simply give the network pharmacist your written prescription, your pharmacy information card, and your uniformed services identification (ID) card. The pharmacist will fill your prescription for up to a 30-day supply.

You will pay a co-payment of \$3 for generic drugs and \$9 for brand-name drugs.

Most chain pharmacies in the Corpus Christi area are part of the TRICARE network. The closest network pharmacies to the Navy

Hospital include: CVS #0747, 10309 South Padre Island Dr., Suite B, (361) 939-8178; H-E B #204, 10241 South Padre Island Dr., (361) 937-1497 & WAL-MART #0490, 10241 South Padre Island Dr., (361) 937-2626.

To find a TRICARE network retail pharmacy near you, please use this link: <http://www.express-scripts.com/> or call 1.866.DOD.TRRX (1.866.363.8779).

To get reimbursed for non-network pharmacy claims, you need to fill out the claim form that you can download at this site: http://www.tricare.osd.mil/claims/Dd_2642.pdf and mail it to: Express Scripts; Attn: TRICARE Claims; P.O. Box 66518; St. Louis, MO 63166 6518.

Having other health insurance (OHI) does not prevent you from using the TRR Program. TRICARE typically becomes the second payer in these situations.

To get reimbursed for a portion of your out-of-pocket expenses, you can submit claim form and medication receipts showing OHI payment to the previous address.

CCAD continued from page 1

However it is men and women like those at CCAD whose good work supports the Soldiers on the frontlines of Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

"The work done here at CCAD supplies the war fighters with the tools to do their job," said Cornyn. "It takes that combined effort [between the Civilian Army workforce and the War fighter] to provide National Security in order to keep us all safe at home."

Cornyn said he and Inhofe wanted to make sure to continue providing CCAD Commander Col. Timothy Sassenrath and CCAD with not only the funding but also the resources necessary to keep a "first quality product" going out to the war fighter.

"There is just no way we can afford to cut back on the essential work that is being done here at Corpus Christi," said Cornyn when asked by a local reporter about how initiatives like Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) could possibly affect CCAD in the future during a press conference in Hangar 44. "The work here is providing the resources our troops need in order to do the jobs we have asked them to do. So we not only have an obligation to provide them with the resources they need because they are keeping us safe, but we also have a moral obligation, I believe, to provide these brave men and women the tools that are necessary to get the job done. To me it's just that simple."

Inhofe added that although there were numerous depots within the DoD, he felt the work done at CCAD was specifically integral to the Global War on Terrorism.

"This [CCAD] is probably the most important depot because as John says, this [depot] is directly supporting the troops on the ground," said Inhofe. "Now I know these questions come all the time back in Oklahoma at my installations about another BRAC round. I wouldn't even think about that if I were you guys because it's not going to happen. John and I are going to take back a report of what's happening here at this depot and it is very much a success story."

It is Corpus Christi Army Depot's mission to ensure aviation readiness for all service and foreign military sales programs. CCAD is currently the largest facility of its type in the world and serves as a depot training base for active duty Army, National Guard, Reserve and foreign military personnel.

In August 2001, CCAD was designated a Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for rotary wing aircraft (less avionics). CCAD's depot field teams provide worldwide on-site maintenance services for units around the world, saving a considerable amount of time and money by repairing aircraft engines and components on site rather than having them transported to/from the depot for repair.

CCAD provides overhaul, repair, modification, recapitalization, retrofit, testing and modernization of helicopters, engines and components for all service and foreign military sales.

Our analytical investigation and chemical material process facilities provide aircraft crash analysis and oil and metallurgical analysis, respectively. CCAD's two blade balance stands have the capability of balancing H-60, AH-1 and CH-47 rotor blades.

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Career Counselor's Corner

NCCS(SW) Terri Green

National Call to Service

By NCCS(SW) Terri Green

As a result of President Bush's state of the union address in 2002, the military has come up with a plan to decrease short-term active duty requirements and future SELRES (selected reserve) manning shortfalls. This plan is called the National Call to Service. The NCS is a congressionally-initiated short-term enlistment program designed to promote, enhance and facilitate military enlistment in support of National Service.

There are a few options offered in the program. Though the options were limited, the Navy was the first to put this legislation into effect. It was just two years active duty and six years in the reserves. Now, the Navy has come up a streamlined approach with more options to expand the opportunity for Americans that would like to serve in the US Navy. The actual National Call to Service enlistment starts after the recruit completes their respective Navy school which can last from three to 18 months. After they have completed this, then they would serve a 15 month active duty service obligation. After the 15 month obligation, the sailor has the choice to re-enlist on active duty (if they are approved), or transfer to the SELRES program for a 24 month obligation.

Some of the shortfalls to the NCS program are that the service member is not eligible for accelerated advancement. Also the member cannot commit to OBLISERV for a five year active duty obligation. They do not have the opportunity to PTS, cannot extend to complete a deployment, cannot change incentive selection (selection is irreversible) once approved, and the service member cannot separate early from the program. If the member separates early they lose their incentive.

There are four incentives currently offered to National Call to Service members. These incentives consist of one, a \$5,000 bonus payable upon completion of active duty service. Two, is a loan repayment option which is also repaid at the end of active service. This allows for repayment of \$18,000 of qualifying student loans. The last two are tied to the Montgomery G.I. Bill. The third incentive gives 12 months of a full Montgomery G.I. Bill allotment, which is about \$900 dollars a month. Finally, the last incentive offers 36 monthly payments at one half of the current Montgomery G.I. Bill allotment.

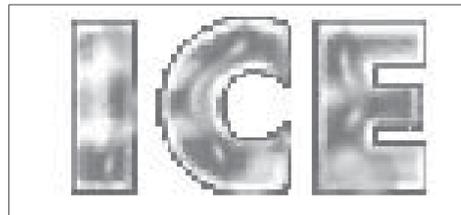
If you are interested in this program, or you just want to know more the MILPERSMAN Article 1133-080, provides all of the details of the NCS program.

Go to [HTTPS://WWW.NKO.NAVY.MIL](https://www.nko.navy.mil) and type in the keyword NATIONAL CALL TO SERVICE in the NKO search engine.

Members will then be directed to the appropriate link. Points of contact.

If you have any questions, or are interested in pursuing the program stop by the Command Career Counselor office.

Comments, compliments, complaints Put them on



By Bill W. Love, NHCC Public Affairs Office

The Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) system is a web-based tool that collects customer feedback about services provided by various organizations throughout the Department of Defense (DoD).

Locally, submitting online comment cards via the ICE system allows you to rate the service providers you have encountered at Naval Hospital Corpus Christi (NHCC). The system is designed to improve customer service at all levels by allowing NHCC managers to monitor the satisfaction response to services provided using the reports and comments that you provide.

"I like this system much better than the cards we use to complete and deposit in the drop boxes located around the hospital," stated Ms. Erin Wilson, a beneficiary at NHCC and the staff dietician.

Wilson says that the cards served their purpose more than adequately but as one person, which she overheard, put it, "I wonder if someone is not going to 'deep 6' this, and if not how long it's going to take for some results?"

There's no uncertainty with ICE. Your comment card submission is instantaneous and you can expect rapid results.

"Each department has an ICE Customer Service Representative," explained Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Wanda Z. Ziehr, the pharmacy's representative and its leading petty officer. "As soon as you submit your input it's routed to the appropriate departmental representative via email for action. The hospital Customer Service Department also gets a copy to track the input, responses and progress of the action."

One of the nice things about ICE is that it

is also confidential. You are not required to submit your name and contact information, so you may be as candid as you like and choose to remain anonymous.

Ms. Erin Wilson, a beneficiary at NHCC and the staff dietician, demonstrates the ease of use at the ICE computer terminal located at the kiosk on the left after you enter the double doors in the NHCC main clinic lobby area.

An ICE computer terminal is located in the NHCC main clinic lobby area, for your convenience, at the kiosk on the left after you enter passed the double doors. It is setup for you to quickly select the clinic that you want to comment about in the Service Provider List.

You can also make your comments from home or work simply by navigating to the ICE main page: <http://ice.disa.mil/>.

Then locate site by "branch" and click "CONUS" under Navy. When you reach the second page, "Navy ICE Sites & Communities (CONUS)" scroll down to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi in the left column and click it.

Look for the Welcome to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's ICE Site page and scroll down to Health in the left column and click it to find the NHCC Service Provider List.

Finally, scroll down to the NHCC provider that you want to comment about, click it, and complete the brief comment card and click:

Let us know how we are doing by quickly and easily providing feedback; giving leadership timely data on service quality; allowing NHCC managers to benchmark the performance of their service providers; encouraging communication, and saving money.

Hatch Act continued from page 3

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Employees Who May Engage in Partisan Political Activity

Listed below are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions received by OSC about political activity by federal employees?

Question: Can I make a contribution to the campaign of a partisan candidate, or to a political party or organization?

Answer: Yes. A federal employee may contribute to the campaign of a partisan candidate, or to a political party or organization.

Question: If I have a bumper sticker on my personal car, am I allowed to park the car in a government lot or garage or in a private lot/garage if the government subsidizes my parking fees?

Answer: Yes. An employee is allowed to park his or her privately owned vehicle with bumper sticker in a government lot or garage. An employee may also park the car with a bumper sticker in a private lot or garage for which the employee receives a subsidy from his or her agency.

Question: Can I help organize a political

fundraiser?

Answer: An employee is allowed to organize a fundraiser, including supplying names for the invitation list, as long as he or she does not personally solicit, accept, or receive contributions.

Question: Can my name appear on invitations to a political fundraiser as a sponsor or point of contact?

Answer: No. An employee's name may not be shown on an invitation to such a fundraiser as a sponsor or point of contact.

Question: Can I attend a state or national party convention? If so, in what capacity?

Answer: Yes. A federal employee may serve as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a state or national party convention.

Question: If I run as a candidate for public office in a nonpartisan election, does the Hatch Act allow me to ask for and accept political contributions?

Answer: An employee who is a candidate for public office in a nonpartisan election is not barred by the Hatch Act from soliciting, accepting, or receiving political contributions for his or her own campaign.

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AROUND THE BASE

Welcome to Starbase Atlantis



Marsha Turner, a Starbase Atlantis instructor, spends time with a Maggie Intermediate school class from Calallen, here at the new classroom facility. The first class began on Aug. 21 for these 35 students that will spend five weeks in a very specialized classroom environment. There will be more to follow in an upcoming edition of the Wingspan. (Photo by LT. Teresa Cassidy)

Navy ICE hard at work



Ms. Erin Wilson, a beneficiary at NHCC and the staff dietician, demonstrates the ease of use at the ICE computer terminal located at the kiosk on the left after you enter the double doors in the NHCC main clinic lobby area. U.S. Navy (Photo by Bill W. Love)

Last Buck night at the Gonzales Liberty Center



Sailors and Marines alike come to the Gonzalez Liberty Center to be served a good home-cooked meal with some tasty desserts by the CPOA, but this time it was prepared by the Chief selectee's. The selectee's are well on their way to becoming great chiefs by learning what is thought of to be the most important duty of a superior, "take care of the troops and they will take care of you." Many of their sailors and others enjoyed the food and the entertainment of another Last Buck Night at the GLC. (Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Student pilots advance to aviator status



The following student pilots received their "wings" designating them as aviators, during a "winging" ceremony Aug. 11. It was held at the Corpus Christi Bay club on board NASCC. In alphabetical order that are 1stLt. Daniel M. Austin, USMC; 1stLt. Andrew W. Booe, USAF; 2ndLt. Christopher R. Brown, USAF; 1stLt. Matthew W. Dahlin, USAF; Ensign Danilo Di Pietro, IMS; 1stLt. Daniel S Douglass, USMC; 2ndLt. Matthew B Dykas, USAF; 1stLt. Cori L Ehrlich, USSAF; 1stLt. Charles B Erickson, USAF; Lt. j.g. John P Graham, USN; 1stLt. Aaron J Harrell, USMC; Ensign Nicholas F Hasegan, USN; 1stLt. Andrew M Heidel, USAF; 1stLt. Jarrod N Jones, USAF; 2ndLt. Stacey C Meiser, USAF; 1stLt. Timothy G Nettles, USAF; Lt. j.g. Jeremy P Pensyl, USN; 1stLt. Victoria L Thomas, USAF; 1stLt. Brian D Tripp, USAF; 2ndLt. Erik F Weinrich, USAF. (Photo by Hugh Lieck)

HM2 Morales is awarded the Purple Heart



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Oscar M. Morales is congratulated by Captain D.C.B. Albia, MSC, the acting commanding officer, at NHCC, Aug. 3. Morales received the Purple Heart for wounds received in action Oct. 1, 2004 in Iraq while assigned as a company corpsman with the 1st Marine Division in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Morales, 24, from Northridge, Calif., is assigned to the Medical Records Department at NHCC. (Photo by Bill W. Love)

Pilot for a Day becomes Honorary Fire Fighter



Our newest Pilot For a Day Cassandra Flores visited the NASCC Fire Department on 15 Aug. While aboard the air station, she spent time with VT-35, where she "flew" a plane, received her flight suit, and became a pilot - before visiting the fire station. She also rode in the fire truck, ate cake and was made an honorary fire fighter. She is 10 years old from Los Ebanos, TX and is very active and friendly. Her parents are very good with her. She was accompanied by her Father (Irenio Flores), sister (Almeida Flores), and niece (Ashley Flores). (Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

Naval Hospital Corpus Christi awarded Gold Star Award



Captain James P. Rice, Medical Corps, the commanding officer at Naval Hospital Corpus Christi, displays the Gold Star Award for Command Excellence in Health Promotion. The annual award, presented at three levels: Gold Star, Silver Eagle and Bronze Anchor, represents the command's exceptional commitment to Navy Health Promotion and

Marine Corps Semper Fit Programs. According to the letter that accompanied the award from the Navy Environmental Health Center, "This outstanding achievement is also a testament to top leadership involvement, optimal command participation, and tremendous support for individual health behavior change." (Photo by Bill W. Love)