



WINGSPAN



Training = enhanced security, safety

Story and photos by Eric Lobsinger
NASCC Public Affairs Office

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's emergency operation center sprang into action following the report of a notional chemical weapon during an installation training team event Oct. 21.

The exercise evolved around the report of a suspicious package.

During the exercise, a two-person security team arrived on the scene and carefully made their way through the entrance as they commenced sweeping the building. Each took turns entering, and then covering each other, as they cleared one room after another until they came across the simulated chemical contaminant: a five-gallon liquid container containing a greenish liquid substance.

The two then swept their way back out of the building, reentered their vehicle, and then headed off before radioing their update to their station. They ensured they were out of any potential range in which radio signals may inadvertently detonate a possible device.

Safety was the watchword for the day – not only safety for the individuals participating in the exercise but also for the safety of the installation as a whole. The integrated training event involved a wide variety of personnel, to include those from fire and emergency services, security forces, working dog section, environmental personnel and those operating the emergency operations center.

Training this wide variety of personnel is vital, said Jim Lawrence, NASCC's installation mission readiness officer, because it helps to prepare for the day – if and when – an attack such as this were to occur.

"You train like you fight," he said. "If you don't

see Exercise on page 6



Ray Aranda and James Alaniz, both with NASCC fire and emergency services, use an Ahura First Defender meter to test a greenish substance found during a training event. With the Ajura meter, the pair have the ability to identify up to 5,000 different types of chemicals.



Energy Symposium

– page 3



Lots of treats

– page 7



First pipeline pilot selected to fly F-35B

– page 8

Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. shares his story

Editor's note: This is part of a continuing series of stories honoring our community's veterans.

By Eric Lobsinger
NASCC Public Affairs Office

Sometimes it's not the path one takes but rather the journey itself.

Growing up in one of the less affluent areas of San Antonio, serving in the military was a calling for many as they graduated high school and began their trek through life. It was no different for retired Marine Corps Master Gunnery Sgt. Gilbert "Sandy" Jimenez Sandoval as he embarked upon a career spanning more than 33 years: 1967-2001.

For "Sandy" however, the path to making the Corps his way of life followed an interesting plot twist. You see, when he made the long bus trip to the recruiting station, he embarked on his path to join ... the Army.

"I wanted to become an Army parachutist," explained Sandy. "I wanted to be airborne. I wanted to be a paratrooper."

Growing up in what he calls "kind of a poor neighborhood – a barrio-type neighborhood," in San Antonio, most of the neighborhood guys, and most of his older cousins, were Army airborne.

"The Army airborne in those days – and through today – is very respected, and I like the way they look, the way they dress. So, another buddy and I, we'd both

see Sandy on page 9



Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Gilbert "Sandy" Jimenez Sandoval

Captain's Column



Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer



Veterans, shipmates, and family members here at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and within the Coastal Bend community, next Wednesday, Nov. 11, we will pause to honor those who serve, and who have served, in the U.S. armed forces. Some have paid the ultimate price, and all have made sacrifices through their service.

Veterans Day is a special day set aside that we, as Americans, reflect on the accomplishments of our fellow citizens who have taken up the call to defend our nation. To be a veteran is to serve something greater than oneself.

In 1919, President Wilson declared that Nov. 11 would serve to commemorate Armistice Day, the end of World War I. It became a legal holiday in 1938, and in 1954

was changed to Veterans Day to honor all Americans who have served in the armed forces.

Some, on this day, will enjoy a barbeque with family or friends. Some will just relax and enjoy the day off. Others still will take the opportunity to attend one of the various Veterans Day celebrations within the local community. Regardless of your plans, I ask that each of you pause to reflect on our brothers and sisters in the military, both those who have gone before us, and those who are serving around the world, especially those who are currently in harm's way.

Veterans Day is primarily about honoring our veterans – active duty, Reserves, and National Guard. However, this is also a great opportunity to recognize the service of family members, as well as the numerous support groups that provide outstanding support for our veterans, service members and families.

It is through the support of groups such as these that the military can accomplish its mission – knowing that families members are being supported back home.

The stories of our veterans and their accomplishments never cease to amaze me – and neither do the countless stories of

support from our local community. You will find one such story within this issue in our recurring column honoring local community veterans.

It's truly an honor to not only serve in the armed forces, but to be part of this exceptional community here in South Texas. Veterans who have worked and trained at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi have gone on to serve in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and current operations throughout the world.

These are our brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, husbands, wives and fellow Americans. They are us.

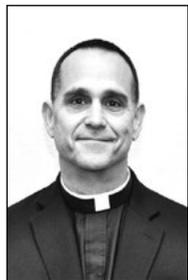
Veteran – it's a special term that exemplifies being part of a truly great community – those who serve the greater good.

Again, it is an honor to be a veteran and to serve with our honored citizens – both past and present. Thank you for your service, and thank you for your support.

May God bless you, the U.S. Navy, and the United States of America.

Happy Veterans Day!

Chaplain's Message



Chaplain
Corps
veterans

Father John Vidal
Catholic Priest

Next Wednesday is Veterans Day; so today, I'd like to take a little time to remember the contribution of military chaplains in our nation's history who have served in times of war and to remember some who were killed in the line of duty.

When George Washington assumed command of the Continental Army in 1775, he found 15 chaplains serving his 23 regiments. On July 29, 1775, the Continental Congress recognized the important role of the Army chaplain, authorizing one chaplain for each regiment and granting them payment equal to the salary of a captain. Four months later on Nov. 28, 1775, the role of the Navy was established in the second article of Navy regulations.

During the Civil War, the war department records estimated that there were approximately 3,000 Union chaplains and 600-1,000 in the Confederacy, with 400 appointed by President Davis at the beginning of the conflict. While I was again unable to find out how many died in the line of duty, it's almost certain that many died in such a bloody war.

However, on March 8, 1862, USS Cumberland was rammed and sunk at Newport News, Va., claiming the life of Navy chaplain John Lenhart, the first

chaplain to die in service to God, country and fellow man. I was also able to find the names of four U.S. Army chaplains – John Whitehead, Francis Hall, 1st Lt. James Hill and Milton Haney – who gave their lives caring for the spiritual needs of the many who were caught up in that terrible conflict.

During the Boxer rebellion, Calvin Titus, a musician detailed to assist chaplains (the rate of chaplain assistant was not defined until 1909) was killed and awarded the Medal of Honor. He and Staff Sgt. Christopher Stout, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2010, are the only two chaplain assistants who have made the supreme sacrifice.

I am not sure how many chaplains served during WWI; however, chaplain Father Francis Duffy was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Croix de Guerre and other high awards. A statue of him stands in New York's Times Square.

Of the 8,896 military chaplains who served in WWII, 77 made the supreme sacrifice. Of note were "The Four Chaplains:" Lt. George Fox (Methodist), Lt. Alexander Goode (Jewish); Lt. John Washington (Roman Catholic) and Lt. Clark Poling (Reformed Church), who gave up their life jackets on the deck of the sinking USS Dorchester in the North Atlantic in 1943. Although no WWII chaplains were awarded the Medal of Honor, they earned 2,453 military awards for valor.

The Korean War resulted in 13 chaplains killed in action, but I was only able to find the name of Army chaplain Emil Kapaun (Roman Catholic) who died in a POW camp and was awarded posthumously

the Distinguished Service Cross and is a candidate for Sainthood. Once again I was unable to find out how many served or were killed during the Vietnam War, but four: Lt. Vincent Capodanno, Cmdr. Joseph O'Callahan, Capt. James Liteky and Maj. Charles Waters received the Medal of Honor. In 2006, Archbishop Edwin O'Brien of the Archdiocese for the Military Services made a formal petition to the Vatican for the Beatification and Canonization to Sainthood of Fr. Capodanno. You can read more about this cause on the Archdiocesan website www.milarch.org.

Finally, Maj. Henry Vacok, a Catholic chaplain, died from wounds received in Iraq, and Army Capt. Dale Goetz (Baptist) was killed when his convoy came under attack in 2010. Goetz served in Okinawa with our very own command chaplain, Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne. Next time you see chaplain Warne, give him a pat on the back and thank him for his service and that of the many chaplains who have served this great country over her history.

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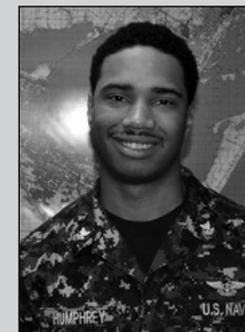
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Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer

Fifi Kieschnick
Public Affairs Officer

Eric Lobsinger
Editor



This paper is published for people like ABH2 Travion Humphrey, a new arrival to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and will serve with air operations. A Sacramento, Calif. native, he has served in the Navy for 6 years.

Base welcomes energy conservation ideas during symposium

Story and photo by Eric Lobsinger
NASCC Public Affairs Office

The South Texas & Navy Energy Conservation Symposium was held Oct 28 at the Catalina Club to discuss ongoing and future energy conservation efforts.

The event marks the fourth year Naval Facilities Southeast has conducted the symposium during October's National Energy Awareness Month.

The symposium focused on a series of training sessions this year, vice briefings, as done in the past, said Roberto Reece, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi installation energy manager.

The event afforded the participants an opportunity to reflect on the base's recent success in meeting – and exceeding – the 30-percent reduction of energy intensity by 2015 as outlined in Executive Order 13423. However, the new challenge is another 25-percent reduction of energy intensity by FY2025 under E.O. 13693.

The event featured two local keynote speakers: Barbara Canales, Port Corpus Christi commissioner, and Brent Clayton, water resources process manager for the city of Corpus Christi's Environmental & Strategic Initiatives Department.

"It gives me pride, everywhere I go to say that I am from Corpus Christi – home of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi," said Canales, whose grandfather was a helicopter mechanic at the base for more than 40 years.

She spoke of the success of the port – the 5th largest port in the nation by volume – and the significance of 10 percent of the nation's energy flowing along the Corpus Christi corridor.

As important as oil is to the region, she said it's vital to

continue developing renewable energy resources, such as compressed natural gas, geothermal energy, wind energy, solar energy, in addition to desalination projects, all of which she considers game changers.

"I know that the future of our environment depends on the balance of gas and renewable energy. We put in more wind turbines than any other ports in the United States in our wind farm. I think the wind farm industry is going up, up, up in Texas. So, look for wind to be a strong point of that balance.

"We are on the cutting edge of all of the great energy that is

to be had on the Gulf Coast. All roads lead to Corpus Christi."

Perhaps as important to energy conservation in the area are water conservation efforts, added Clayton.

"Conservation is using less water through a combination of changes in efficiency and changes in habits," he said. "An example would be a low-flow shower head. That would be an example of a change in efficiency. Changing how long you actually stay in the shower would be an example of changes in habit."

And it's the changing of habits that equate to long-term changes, which pay huge dividends in the future.

"When you use less water," explained Clayton, "that's less water you have to treat, which is very important in how it ties to energy. Less water being used is a lot less electricity being used by the city. It has pretty significant impact. It's about being good stewards ... and sustainability ... and it's also about costs."

Those gathered participated in a series of classes: Introduction to new Executive Order 13963; Energy Audits, Audience; Building Operator Training to Save Energy; Centralized and Integrated Reporting for the Comprehensive Utilities Information Tracking System; Navy Shore Geospatial Energy Module; and Work Request, Trouble Calls & FMD procedures.

"I think this is important," said Cmdr. Scott Wilmot, NASCC executive officer. "It's the 'small stuff' that all of us together can do to make a huge difference. When everyone does their part, it really adds up.

"We've done great up to this point, and we're making great strides to get down to where we need to be. Our focus here on shore is really on how to reduce our energy consumption."



Attendees of the South Texas & Navy Energy Conservation Symposium listen during a discussion on energy conservation ideas for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Oct 28 at the Catalina Club.

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VT-27 Squadron Augment Unit to welcome new commander Nov. 13

The helm of Training Squadron 27's Squadron Augment Unit will change Nov. 13, 1 p.m., during a change of command ceremony in Hangar 58.

Cmdr. Brad M. Barr will relinquish command to Cmdr. David Waltrip. Capt. John P. Mooney, CNATRA Reserve Component commander, will serve as presiding officer.

Most recently, Waltrip served as Training Squadron 27 (VT-27) SAU executive officer. A 1995 graduate of Texas Tech University, he was designated a naval aviator in 1997 and attended CH-46E training in 1998.

Previous assignments include: adjutant to the commanding officer, airframes officer-in-charge and quality assurance officer at Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 256; flight leader, formation standardization officer, and NATOPS officer, Training Squadron 28.

Waltrip transitioned to the Navy Reserve in 2006 and affiliated with Training Squadron 27. He has served as administration officer, safety officer, maintenance officer and executive officer. A three



Cmdr. Brad M. Barr



Cmdr. David Waltrip

year recall to active duty allowed him to serve as standardization officer, FCF coordinator, and T-6B transition team member for the Fixed Wing Instructor Training Unit. He was a crew member for the first T-6B Texan II arrival to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

Barr's next assignment is to Navy Operational Support Center Houston. He is a native of Houston and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1997 with a degree in systems engineering.

Upon completion of flight training at NAS Corpus Christi, he was designated a naval aviator in August 1998.

His operational assignments include Patrol Squadron 40 (VP-40), flying the P-3C in Whidbey Island, Wash.; Training Squadron 27, flying the T-34C. Cmdr. Barr transitioned to the Selected Reserves in 2006.

He affiliated with VT-27 SAU and has served as administration officer, maintenance officer, operations officer and executive officer. He assumed command of VT-27 SAU in July 2013 and has accumulated more than 3,800 flight hours in the T-34C, T-44A, P-3C and T-6B.



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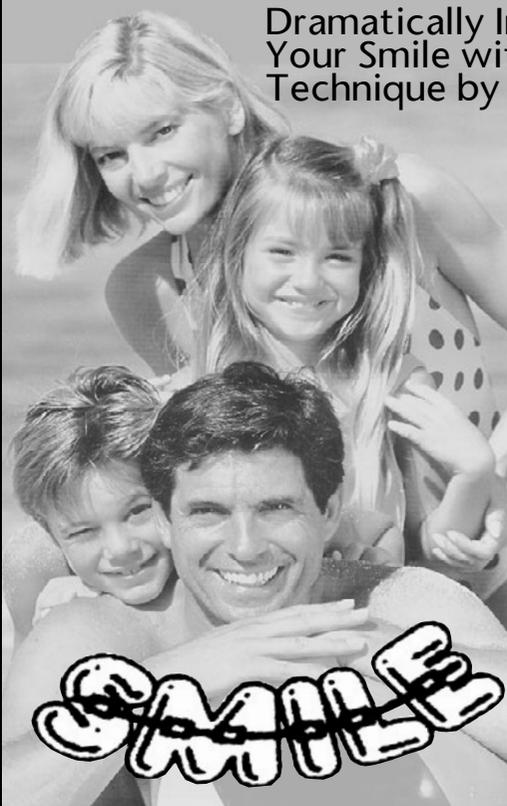
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TRICARE young adult premiums to increase for 23-26 year old beneficiaries

Department of Defense release

The TRICARE Health Plan has announced the 2016 premiums for TRICARE Young Adult Prime and Standard options covering beneficiaries between 23 and 26 years old.

They are adjusted on an annual basis and go into effect Jan. 1.

For 2016, the monthly premium for TYA Prime is \$306 per month, and TYA Standard is \$228 per month.

TRICARE is required to set these premiums to cover the full cost of health care received by TYA beneficiaries. For the first time since TYA was created in 2011, TRICARE has sufficient statistically valid cost data to set annual premiums.

TYA Prime or Standard are options for eligible young adult beneficiaries, who are encouraged to explore all of their health care choices and pick the plan best suited to their needs.

With premiums competitive to similar

plans, TRICARE Young Adult is comparable to available platinum-level health care plans. Other health care options for young adult beneficiaries include:

- Purchasing TYA Standard – lower premiums, higher cost shares – instead of TYA Prime
- Enrolling in a parent’s civilian health insurance plan, if available
- Purchasing a plan offered through the Health Insurance Marketplace at www.healthcare.gov
- Purchasing coverage through the college or university, if enrolled

Lower cost plans may be available depending on income and residence, and assistance paying premiums may also be available.

Beneficiaries may also qualify for Medicaid. Go to www.healthcare.gov to evaluate eligibility and options. Open enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace began Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 31. Visit www.tricare.mil/TYA for more information.

Editor’s Note: In the Oct. 22 issue of *Wingspan*, Lt. Weston Beseda spoke with students from the Seashore Academy about having a fire escape plan and practicing this plan with their family members at least twice a year. The story incorrectly identified him as Fire Inspector Otis Terrell.

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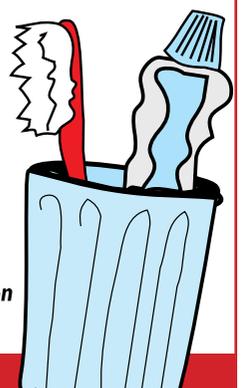
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Exercise from page 1

train, you won't be able to perform if it does happen. You do a lot of discussions and training online, but if you don't apply it, it's a waste. This was an opportunity for the base to apply what we've been learning: How would we mitigate an event like this if an attack were to happen on the installation?"

After the security forces completed their portion of the event, fire and emergency services sprang into action as the incident commander arrived on scene.

"We got a call for a suspicious package," said Ward Hawkins, assistant fire chief for operations, who was the incident commander for B shift. "Security had identified what they saw: a five-gallon container with a greenish liquid – and it looked like



SN Juan Ortiz and his K-9 working dog conduct a sweep of the grounds of an area that the NASCC fire and emergency services may stage at as they prepare to investigate the report of a suspicious package during an integrated training event Oct. 21.



Capt. Matt Sedgwick talks through testing procedures to his team from NASCC fire and emergency services as they prepare to investigate the report of a suspicious package during an integrated training event Oct. 21.

hoses were sticking out of it."

He said security forces reported that the scene was safe but the initial staging area for fire and rescue forces was not and recommended a change of locations for the staging area.

Once Lawrence determined a new staging area, personnel from the K-9 working dog section conducted a sweep of the proposed area. While this was occurring, an explosive ordnance team verified that the chemical substance was not ordnance or a bomb.

Although the area was deemed as "safe" in reference to explosives, such was not the case for potential chemical contaminants.

"At that point we set up our zones – Hot, Warm and Cold – around the building and set up a decontamination area," explained Hawkins.

The two-man decontamination team then began the arduous task of donning Level-A hazardous material suits. Level-A hazmat suits are completely encapsulated and prevent vapors from entering into the suits, and the decon personnel don self-contained breathing apparatus. While this was going on, other emergency personnel set up a decontamination site to prepare for the decon team's return.

As the two members of the decon team entered the building, they swept their way through the building toward the suspected chemical weapon. Once they located it, they began the process of attempting to identify the substance through using Ahura First Defender meters, which can identify up to 5,000 different types of chemicals as well as Ph paper.

Although testing with the meter was inconclusive, the Ph paper indicated that the substance was corrosive.

"At that point," said Hawkins, "we 'over-packed it.' We put it in a container that goes inside another container with a lid – and then secure that container."

Once these steps were completed, the team used a five-gas meter to take readings to determine whether or not they needed to ventilate the space.

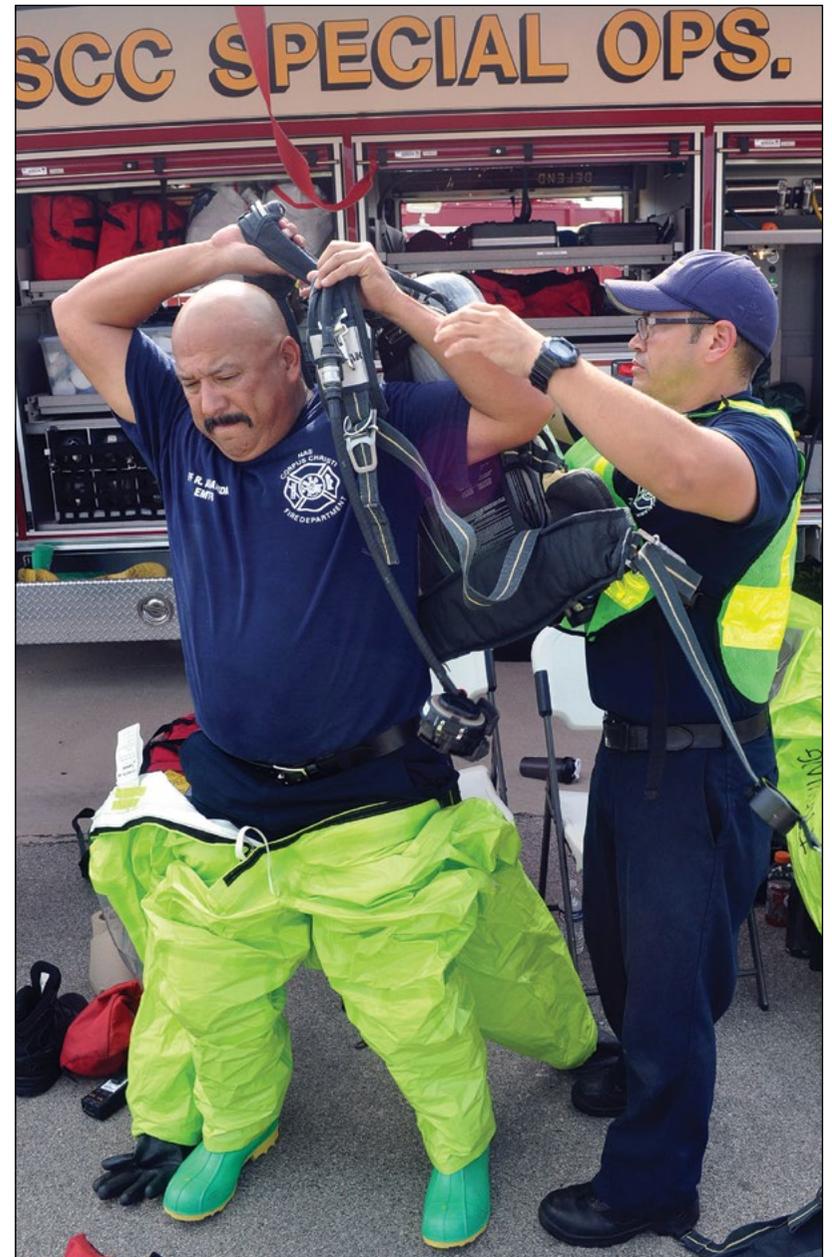
The training event was a great opportunity, he said, because it provided the emergency services an opportunity to exercise its capabilities to ensure that standard operating procedures work appropriately and that the crews understand exactly what is expected of them.

"It ensures that we are ready in the event that a real-world incident was to happen," he said. "In any emergency, you can always dial 911 – and we will assist you in any way that we can."

In addition to being of value to those participating in the exercise, integrated training events such as this are vital because of the feedback it provides to NASCC leaders.

"Readiness is the key word for what we do," said Lawrence. "We call these events exercises – but it's about readiness. There are a lot of things that people do not see: what the fire department has to do to prepare to send these guys into 'harm's way,' what they have to make sure they are healthy, that they are qualified, that they are certified.

"All of the things that are behind the scenes, the readiness pieces, but that's the key. I think NASCC has a tremendous readiness capability."



Lt. Ray Aranda gets a helping hand from Lt. Gary Diaz as he dons his self-contained breathing apparatus during a training event Oct. 21. Following a report of a suspicious package, Aranda and James Alaniz donned Level-A hazardous material suits to investigate.



Two members of NASCC security forces arrive on scene to investigate a report of a suspicious package Oct. 21 during an integrated training event.

NASCC Trick or Treaters



Two youngsters wait patiently for the Spooktober festivities to commence Oct. 31 by the Youth Activity Center. (Photo by Laurie Garcia, MWR)



A clown meets with several children who gathered together at the large field across from the Youth Activity Center for a day of fun during the Spooktober festivities at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. Spooktober, sponsored by MWR, is a "family and dog-friendly event. Children were able to enjoy their choice of inflatables, rides, free food, activities, crafts, music, costumes contests, haunted house and of course candy. (Photo by Laurie Garcia, MWR)



The crew of the "Haunted Auditorium," sponsored by the First Class Petty Officers' Association and the Junior Enlisted Association, prepare to meet their ghoulish visitors Oct. 30 at Wings Auditorium. The crew of: (bottom row): YN1 David Humphreys, ABH3 Pamela Torres, Anthony Torres, and (standing) a Coast Guard volunteer, along with CS1 Bernice Meno, CS2 Lakedra Williams, AO1 Jasmine Schackelford, hosted approximately 100 Naval Air Station Corpus Christi community members. Not shown are fellow volunteers AC1 David Bowman and AC1 Brian Miller. (U.S. Navy photo by ABH1 Timothy Williams, FCPOA)



A group of young super heroes (left) take the stage and enjoy their moment during a costume display Oct. 31 during Spooktober festivities. A young hamburger (right) joins daddy ketchup and momma mustards on stage. (Photos by Ann Atzenhoffer, MWR)

First jet pipeline aviator selected to train, fly the new F-35B Lightning II

By Richard Stewart
CNATRA Public Affairs Office

KINGSVILLE – A student Naval aviator with Training Squadron 22 at Naval Air Station Kingsville – the first jet pipeline aviator to be selected to train and fly the new F-35B Lightning II – earned his Wings of Gold Oct. 23.

The pilot, 1st Lt. Taylor Zehrung, who hails from Seattle, will be the first pipeline pilot selected to fly the F-35B, according to Lt. Col. Robert George, VT 22 commanding officer.

“This is a big step towards the transition of sustaining a long term F-35B fleet,” he said.

In 2008, the first six pilots to fly the F-35B operationally were chosen by the Marine Corps. All six were former weapons school graduates and most were weapons school instructors at the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course or at Top Gun.

In the last few years, the Marine Corps has selected more junior pilots to transition to the F-35B to balance out the experience in the F-35B ready rooms. Until today, all have been seasoned pilots selected from operational units flying other fleet aircraft, such as the F/A-18, AV-8B and EA-6B.

“1st Lt. Zehrung will be the first to go directly from flight school to the F-35B Fleet Replacement Squadron,” said George. “His training will start at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., flying with the ‘War Lords’ of Marine Fighter Attack

Training Squadron 501.

“(Zehrung) was chosen from a very competitive group of peers in large part due to his impeccable officer-like qualities, to include professionalism, integrity, and sound judgment. He did a phenomenal job as a student aviator, and his grades were exceptionally high, earning him the distinction of being on the Commodore’s List. We’re very proud of him and are excited to be a part of this significant milestone for 1st Lt. Zehrung and the Marine Corps.”

Zehrung said he is honored and proud to be the first student selected to fly the F-35B.

“It is very exciting and exhilarating,” said Zehrung, “and I truly am looking forward to the future. I know that the program is going to require a lot from me, but I am ready to give 100 percent.”

The F-35 is a single seat, multi-role fighter aircraft with the capability to perform ground-attack, reconnaissance and air-defense missions. The aircraft is in full production at the Lockheed Martin plant in Fort Worth. The F-35 is designed to eventually replace the F/A-18 Hornet and AV-8B Harrier tactical fighter aircraft and was planned with a common design but has three unique service variants.

The Navy’s version of the F-35, the ‘C’ model, is distinct from the F-35A and F-35B versions with larger wing surfaces and reinforced landing gear for greater control in the demanding carrier take-off and landing environment.



1st Lt. Taylor Zehrung has his Wings of Gold pinned by his father, Steve, while his sister, Aimee, looks on during Training Air Wing Two’s winging ceremony and becomes the first naval aviation student selected to fly the F-35 Lightning II. (U.S. Navy photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs Office)

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Bravo Zulu



Capt. Guido F. Valdes, commanding officer, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, presents HM2 Robert Wolfe with his second Navy Achievement Medal for superior performance of his duties while serving as pharmacy technician, pharmacy department, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, from November 2011 to November 2015. Wolfe's leadership enabled the processing of more than 191,000 medications with greater than 99-percent accuracy. (U.S. Navy photo by HM2 Jacob Welch)



Capt. Guido F. Valdes, commanding officer, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, presents HM3 Joshua Jordahl with his second Navy Achievement Medal for superior performance of his duties while serving as customer service representative and training department administrator, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, from July 2013 to November 2015. Jordahl assisted in more than 2,000 hours of training for 400 Navy and civilian personnel and conducted 15 training audits reviewing 450 records. (U.S. Navy photo by HM2 Jacob Welch)

Sandy from page 1

been out of high school for about a year and a half, and the war was going on in Vietnam at that time, so we took a bus down to the bus station over by the post office, which is where the recruiters were located."

He said he arrived there around noon, and the Army recruiter was out for lunch. A large sign proclaimed he would be back around 1 p.m. As they sat there, a Marine Corps recruiter came by asked if he could help the two. They told him no thank you, they had an appointment with the Army sergeant. They wanted to become paratroopers.

"He said, 'well, he's going to be gone for a while so let me talk to you about the Marine Corps,'" said Sandy, with a now-knowing smirk. "We told him, no, no, we don't want to be Marines, we want to be paratroopers."

The recruiter told the pair that the Marine Corps had paratroopers in its reconnaissance units.

"Within 15 minutes, we were in his office and he was telling us all of the wonderful things about the Marines Corps and what recon does with the Navy SEALs – so we signed up. We wanted to be Marines – we wanted to be paratroopers.

Such was the beginning of a Marine Corps career that spanned more than three decades. The funny part, he added, is that he did not end up joining the paratroopers after all.

All of this activity was during the time of the Vietnam War, which proved to be a great influence on his career path. After completing boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Training Depot in San Diego, Calif., and then basic and infantry training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.; it was finally time to experience the paratrooper training he so looked forward to ... and then he experienced another twist along his life's pathway.

"Right before we were to get our orders to go to Vietnam, we had a formation, and they called out the different troops who were going to go to specialty schools. They had six of us who signed up to go to recon school, and they told us about the paratrooper school that we're going to go to at Fort Benning,

Ga."

Finally, it was time, five weeks of airborne training – and then came the information that would change everything. He then found out that he would be committing to another yearlong training venture at Coronado Navy Base to go through Navy SEAL training.

His dilemma? "The war would be over," he said, with a chuckle, "by the time I finished my training."

He did not want to miss out on the opportunity to serve his nation during time of war. The irony, of course, is that the war would proceed halfway through the next decade.

"I talked to the guy and asked if there was any way I could just be a regular Marine infantry guy and go to Vietnam. He said 'Just sign here.' The next thing I knew – so much for my airborne career or being a recon Marine – but I was heading to Vietnam."

Looking back at everything, he said his decision to become a Marine was a rewarding one that afforded him the opportunity to "be all over the place," to include two tours in Vietnam, serving in Okinawa, Japan; the Philippines; Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.; and several missions in the 1980s and 1990s conducting counter-intelligence missions with Marine specialized troops in South America and counter-drug missions in Central America.

He served in the infantry, psychological operations, intelligence and counter-intelligence career fields, retiring as an intelligence chief/intelligence specialist.

The oldest of four sons, his three brothers also served – in the Army, of course. One of his younger brothers deployed to Vietnam right after he did, so the two of them were in country at the same time. Unfortunately, this restricted the other two younger brothers from deploying since two of them were already in the war.

"They actually served two or three years each in the Army, but they never were able to go to Vietnam. One of them stayed in the Army and retired at 20 years as a sergeant first class."

His father, who never served in the U.S. Army, was an immigrant from Mexico and perhaps inadvertently was the inspiration behind his sons' military paths.

"He had the warrior spirit," said Sandy. "He was involved in the revolution in the late teens – 1917, 1918 – in Mexico. I recall seeing pictures of him with a rifle and a bandoleer, and sitting on top of a train with a machine gun, so there's been this warrior spirit in our family for a long time."

Sandy said he has been married and divorced three times. He and his wife, Terry, have been married since 1985. He has one daughter from a previous marriage, and said the way he found out she was born was ironic – and humorous. He was on his second tour in Vietnam, serving as a crew chief/door gunner on a Marine Corps Huey helicopter gunship.

"I had just flown missions the day she was born, and we came back for chow. We were based by Da Nang, Vietnam. The sergeant major asked me if I was going to go to chow, and I told him no, so he had me stay and watch the 'hooch' area as the 'charge of quarters' guy, answering the phone."

He had been sitting for approximately 5-10 minutes when the phone rang. It was the Red Cross asking to speak to the "sergeant major" in Da Nang.

"I told him that he was not there and asked if I could take a message. He told me, 'well, write this down; we have a message for Sgt. Gilbert J. Sandoval that his wife, Jennifer, gave birth to a daughter, Brooke. Make sure that the Marine gets the message.' I said, 'oh, he'll get the message sir. No problem.' So I took my own Red Cross message and gave it to the sergeant major when he walked in."

His career, he said, was a wonderful journey through life that led him here to Corpus Christi.

"This is a great city to be a service member. The community really supports its service people here, and they really know the sacrifices it takes to defend this country. I think it's a great place for Marines, Sailors or anyone to retire. I really appreciate the support we get here."

Look for the
Next Issue
of
Wingspan
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Seamount Cay Condos has two units available. It's a resort-style living located on the Island close to NAS Corpus Christi. These units are both a two story unit with 3 bedroom/2.5 bath and a Garage. The complex has a heated pool and is located close to the new Schlitterbahn Water Park and Resort. Price Range \$1,500-\$1,600.00 depending on size of unit. Condos are located at 15421 Seamount Cay Ct, Corpus Christi, TX 78418
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Fleet and family day – Moriah Lazoritz and baby Kia, along with Niki Koza, explore a C-130 aircraft during Fleet and Family Day at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's flightline Oct. 23. "We do this once a year," said Col. John Rahe, the Marine Air Training Support Group 22 commander. "This provides the family members, spouses and significant others an opportunity to interface with fleet pilots and aircraft to see what the fleet is like." Due to the inclement weather Texas underwent during the planned day, they were only able to bring in three aircraft. Last year's event brought 23 aircraft and their crews. "I would like to thank the local community for their support," added Rahe. "Corpus Christi is a great place to live, and the community is a great supporter for our service members. Moriah's husband 1st Lt. Chris Lowitz, and Niki's husband, 1st Lt. Nicholas Koza, are both Marine pilots training at NASCC. (Photo by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)

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Upcoming Community Events

Thrift Shop Uniform Sale

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Thrift Shop on base will be having a uniform sale in honor of Veteran's Day from 0930- 1330 on Monday, Nov. 9 and Thursday, Nov. 12 for Active Duty only. Navy and Marine Corps Uniforms will be 50% off during these days. This includes boots, belts, collar devices, medals, etc. The Thrift Shop is also collecting donations of used uniforms. Donations can be dropped off during store hours or to the drop box located outside the building. For more information, visit nmcrcs.org or call (361) 961-3374

WWII Documentary Screening

Third Coast Squadron CAF presents 4-4-43, a World War II Documentary Film by producer John D. Lukacs at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12 at Movies Inc. Theater, 4222 Wildcat Drive, Calallen. The film tells the story of Lt. Col. William Edwin Dyess, one of the war's most extraordinary, yet little-known heroes. Tickets: \$25 includes beer, wine and refreshments. Sponsorships are available. For info: 361.356.4918 or www.ThirdCoastCAF.org

Mental Health Fair

First Annual Mental Health Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Texas A&M Corpus Christi University Center. This is a free, family friendly public event. Local mental health resource representatives will be available to discuss their services and answer questions.

Square Dancing Lessons

The Sparkling City Singles and Pairs Square Dance Club will host beginner square dance lessons Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Classes start Jan. 4, 2016. Lessons will be taught at the Lindale Senior Citizen Center, located at 3135 Swatner, Corpus Christi. Club caller/instructor John Ivey is ready to offer his many years of experience to help you become a confident, fun square dancer. All ages welcome! For more information, call 361-758-5318.

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION, EMAIL AFRENCH@PLWAVE.COM. THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT EVENTS IS 10 A.M. THE FRIDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION. UPCOMING EVENTS ARE PUBLISHED AS SPACE PERMITS. THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES AS TO HOW MANY TIMES AN EVENT WILL RUN. QUESTIONS REGARDING EVENTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ASHLEY AT 361-746-4341.

PW begins new year for grounds maintenance

Department of Public Works

October marks the new fiscal year, Fiscal 2016, and a new ground maintenance and landscaping contract.

The grounds maintenance contractor is Training, Rehabilitation & Development Institute, Inc., and their employees are trained to respond to all manner of ground maintenance efforts.

The TRDI team controls, maintains, cultivates and tends the landscaping and grounds across NASCC. One area here at NASCC not covered by the TRDI team is the housing area, which is covered by the public-private venture housing team.

Although the mission of the TRDI team is to ensure the

grounds on board NASCC are maintained, it is dedicated to a safety-first attitude. To ensure TRDI is able to do its job, PW asks everyone on board NASCC to be patient and vigilant where the mowing crews are working. With regard to safety and the well-being of others, there is no shortage of mowing safety tips.

Personnel and families should avoid areas where operators are mowing. Staying clear of the mowers will ensure everyone is safe from any debris that may be thrown out from the mowers that could injure bystanders.

Personnel aboard NASCC with questions regarding grounds maintenance should contact the Public Works Department at (361) 961-5349.



PW asks personnel to maintain safe distance from grounds maintenance personnel and equipment.

News Briefs

NHCCC closed Nov. 11

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi will be closed Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day. The closure will affect all healthcare services; however, pharmacy refills may still be called into the automated system and will be available for pick-up on the date and time designated during your phone call. The Clinic will resume normal hours of operation Nov. 12. For acute or urgent medical issues, contact 961-2688. All emergencies will be responded to by calling 911. The value of Navy Medicine is measured through the great work of our staff in delivering safe and effective care for you and your family, and we appreciate your confidence in our patient-centered health care. Let us know about your experience during your visit by sharing your comments here: https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=1122&dep=DoD.

And be sure to sign up for RelayHealth - convenient secure messaging to your healthcare providers. Register for your account now: <https://app.relayhealth.com/Patients/Registration.aspx?bid>.

ITT adjusts hours

The Information, Tickets & Travel office will adjust its hours of operation to 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Nov. 10, 12 and 13. The office will be closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day. For more information on ITT, call 961-3961. Keep up with the latest MWR happenings on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/MWRCorpusChristi.

Thanksgiving turkeys, trimmings available

San Antonio Shoemakers is teaming up with Operation Homefront to provide plentiful Thanksgiving dinners as a special "Thank You" to honor military service members and their families for their sacrifices. Service members will receive a box filled and dry fixings and a frozen turkey. Registration is open to active duty families, pay grades E-1-E-6, and wounded warrior families of all ranks. Those eligible can register online at: <http://www.operationhomefront.net/event/list?id=4467>. The "Thanksgiving Thank You" distribution is scheduled for Nov. 21 at the Catalina Club in two shifts: Shift 1 at 11 a.m. and Shift 2 at

noon - 1 p.m. Those receiving the turkey with dry fixings must be pre-registered. For more information, contact Brenda Lee Crawley, Operation Homefront volunteer, (361) 549-4401, or Mary Jane Garza, school liaison officer, (361) 961-2625.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society thrift shop uniform sale

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Shop on base will be having a uniform sale in honor of Veterans Day on Nov. 9 and Nov. 12 for active-duty personnel only. Navy and Marine Corps uniforms will be 50-percent off during these days. This includes boots, belts, collar devices, medals, etc. The Thrift Shop is also collecting donations of old uniforms. Donations can be dropped off during store hours or to the drop box located outside the building. Along with uniforms, the NMCRS Thrift Shop also sells books, movies, household items, clothes for men, women, and children, and holiday decorations. Inventory changes daily. Customers can stretch their budget with gently used items that cost much less than the same items that are brand new. The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 1738, 10133 E Street, past the base gym and next to the auto hobby shop. Thrift shop hours are Mondays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For more information or to learn about volunteering at the Thrift Shop, call (361) 961-3374.

Del Mar College offers free training for veterans

A free training opportunity for veterans is available Del Mar College. The National Center for Construction Education and Research is an education foundation that develops standardized construction and maintenance curriculum and assessments with portable credentials tracked through NCCER's registry that allows industry from organizations and companies to track the qualifications of their craft professionals and/or recruit as well as check the qualifications of possible new hires. To learn more about NCCER and their Military Veterans Initiative, Hard Hat Heroes, through their 'Build Your Future; Go Pro in Construction' campaign, visit their website:

<http://www.nccer.org/new-to-nccer>. NCCER Core Curriculum w/OSHA 10 training is free to veterans with a DD 214 discharge of other than dishonorable and is funded through the Texas Workforce Commission Skills Development Fund. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students are encouraged to apply early. Veterans still serving in the Reserve/National Guard/ARNG may also apply. Available class dates are: Oct. 26-Dec. 17, Mondays-Thursdays, 5:45-9 p.m.; Nov. 7-Jan. 23, Saturdays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Dec. 7-17, Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, visit www.delmar.edu/nccerveterans.

Commissaries focus on families, veterans, Thanksgiving

"November is 'National Military Family Appreciation Month and more' at commissaries," said Tracie Russ, the Defense Commissary Agency's sales director. "We're showing our thanks through commemoration ceremonies that honor our war veterans and also with great values for customers through Veterans Day holiday weekend sales, Black Friday weekend sales and seasonal promotions. "This year we're offering not only our annual free frozen turkey offer available worldwide via high-value coupon booklets, but also a fresh turkey special at prices sure to please in stateside commissaries," she added. DeCA's industry partners - vendors, suppliers and brokers - are collaborating with commissaries to offer discounts beyond everyday savings. Check the local commissary for details. Read more at http://www.commissaries.com/press_room/press_release/2015/DeCA_60_15.cfm.

Use Commissary gift cards to support troops over the holidays

The military has a longstanding tradition of taking care of our own. During the holidays, installation units and organizations can use the commissary benefit to extend the gift of groceries to service members in need or military families overseas. The Commissary Gift Card program allows families at home, friends, our industry partners and charitable organizations to quickly and easily show sup-

port or even introduce the commissary benefit to a junior soldier. Units or family support agencies purchasing these cards can ensure that every member of their team gets a chance at a home-cooked meal during the holidays. Read more at <http://www.commissaries.com/giftcard/index.cfm>.

Commissaries observe Military Family Month

National Military Family Month coincides with Thanksgiving, an ideal time when commissary patrons draw on their benefit to show their appreciation and concern for those in the "military family." "More than 60 percent of the Defense Commissary Agency's workforce have a connection to the military either by serving themselves or through a family member, so we're uniquely attuned to appreciate the stresses military families endure, and we're proud to be able to provide the commissary benefit," said Tracie Russ, DeCA's director of sales. Read more at http://www.commissaries.com/press_room/press_release/2015/DeCA_61_15.cfm.

Fleet Scholars Education Program: 5 things to know

Navy professionals looking to advance their career and get a graduate education at a top school have a new opportunity. The Fleet Scholars Education Program is a talent management initiative that provides education opportunities to select Unrestricted Line and Information Dominance Corps officers, according to NAVADMIN 254/15 released Oct. 29. The Navy's leadership is investing in the future of their communities by selecting proven, at-sea leaders to participate in FSEP. The program is designed for junior to mid-career officers. Selectees maintain their active duty status while participating in the FSEP and must agree to remain on active duty for three years following graduation or withdrawal from the program. A member who voluntarily or through misconduct fails to complete the active duty time will be required to reimburse the cost of their education received. For more information, read NAVADMIN 254/15 or visit the NPS CIVINS website at www.nps.edu/Academics/CIVINS/index.html.



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