



WINGSPAN



Vol. 21, No. 22

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

December 17, 2015



VT-27 change of command

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Tree lighting

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Retired veteran shares story

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2nd Lt. Daniel Gierling, student aviator at Marine Aviation and Support Group-22, demonstrates how to perform a proper martial arts technique during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program exercise Dec. 9 at the MCMAP pit located behind the Marine Aviation and Support Group-22 headquarters building.

Sailors, Marines attack during MCMAP

Story and photos by Eric Lobsinger
NASCC Public Affairs Office

Sailors and Marines polish their combat skills each morning. During the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program course, held Nov. 30-Dec. 18, they hone their minds, bodies – and martial-arts skills.

The students attending the course included Navy Seabees and corpsmen as well as a variety of Marine Corps pilots-in-training and

administrative staff.

The three-week course is arduous, with the students meeting Monday-Friday, 6-8 a.m., for very strenuous blocks of instruction and execution.

The MCMAP is a staple of Marine Corps training, said 2nd Lt. Daniel Gierling, student aviator at Marine Aviation and Support Group-22.

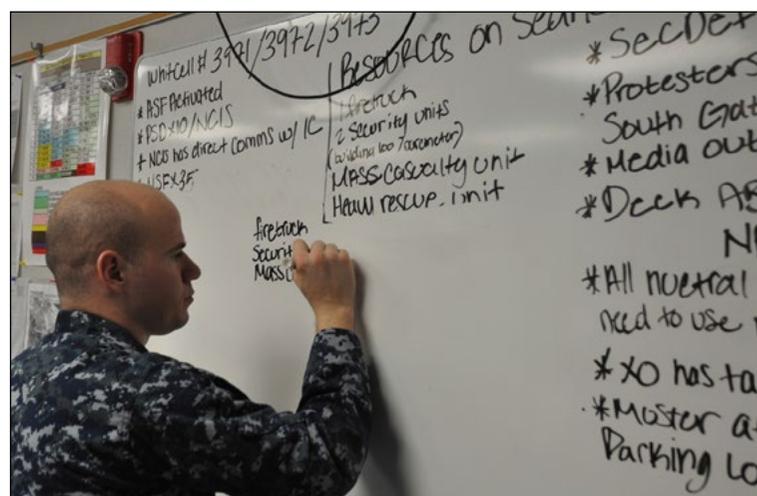
“Every Marine gets a tan belt in either boot camp for enlisted Marines, or at [The

Basic School] for officers. But here today, we were sharing the program with the Navy and helping them earn the tan belt,” said Gierling. “It’s something that we encourage for the corpsmen, chaplain, Seabees and anyone who wants to earn it.”

The tan belt is the initial belt in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, followed by the gray, green, brown and black belts.

see MCMAP on page 8

EOC kicks into gear during emergency operations center training



A member of the “operations” cell writes notes as his fellow team members brainstorm how to provide emergency operations support Dec. 2 during an EOC training exercise.

Story and photos by Eric Lobsinger
NASCC Public Affairs Office

The time to prepare for an emergency is not once the incident occurs. The true hard work comes in advanced planning for any potential emergency that may affect a community.

With this in mind, 28 staff members from throughout Naval Air Station Corpus Christi made their way to the Emergency Operations Center as it “activated” for a three-day Emergency Operations Center – Incident Management Team course.

“I was very impressed by the level of participation,” said Wil Lynch, emergency management instructor for CNIC, N36 (training), based out of Naval Base Coronado, Naval Air Station North Island, Calif. “You have a very large class, and there are a lot of ‘heavy-hitters’ from the installation – the commanding officer, executive officer, air operations officer, public works officer, public affairs officer, and the entire emergency management staff – that’s very rare to have all of those individuals in the class at once.

“For your staff to have that level of participation shows the importance

see EOC on page 11

Captain's Column



Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer



'Tis the season to be Jolly...and safe!

The holidays can be a time of great excitement and joy, especially when keeping safety in mind. In order to help avoid any potential tragedy, please take note of the following safety topics and continue to emphasize Operational Risk Management and Situational Awareness.

Mental Health: The holidays can be a time of sadness or isolation. Be sensitive to these feelings for others as well as yourself. Ask for help for yourself, or others, if needed. Do not feel pressured to excessive spending on gifts. Buy what you can afford. It is the thought of the gift that counts, not the cost of the gift. Enjoy the holidays. It is a time to be with family or friends, and can afford the opportunity to make new friends. There are many activities to be a part of. Find the one that suits you best.

Situational Awareness: Know what is going on around you. Be observant of the people around you. Be observant of road conditions and other drivers. Think before acting. If something feels wrong, then likely something is wrong.

Travel Safety Tips: Get plenty of rest and sleep. Have a plan for breaks. Let others know

where you are going and when you project to arrive. Make sure your vehicle or method of travel is safe, and that you have enough gas, etc. Do you have enough time to visit where you intend to visit? If not, you may want to adjust your travel plans. Make sure your cell phone is charged in the event you need to make an emergency call. Be aware of your fellow drivers on the road. You are only as safe as the least safe driver on the road.

New Year's Eve: Please enjoy your New Year's celebrations (there's one at the Catalina Club!), but please: **IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE. IF YOU DRIVE, DON'T DRINK.**

Stress: The holidays can be extremely stressful. Although you cannot completely avoid stress, you can plan ahead to help reduce stress. Allow plenty of time for shopping for gifts and holiday events. If traveling, ask a neighbor to look for any suspicious activity at your house while you're away. Secure home doors and windows before leaving on vacation.

Home Safety: Never use candles near trees, curtains, drapes, boughs, gifts or other flammable items. When setting

up holiday decorations, use a proper step-stool or ladder, never a chair, couch, or other furniture. If you have real tree for Christmas, make sure it gets plenty of water. Use locks and lights to keep your home secure during the holidays.

Fire Safety: Keep a fire extinguisher on hand, especially in the kitchen. Ensure smoke detectors are placed appropriately throughout home. Check batteries in smoke detectors. Unplug Christmas tree lights when going to bed at night. Do not overload surge protectors with excessive extension cords.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday season! I look forward to seeing everyone back safe after the New Year!



Happy holidays from the Banta family. (Photo by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)

Chaplain's Message



Welcome
aboard to new
chaplain

Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne
Command Chaplain

The chaplain department recently welcomed Lt. Kevin M. Jackson aboard as a new staff chaplain. Chap. Jackson has a very interesting history with the U.S. Navy. In fact, he was once a supply corps officer from June 1994-January 2001. His assignments include tours onboard USS Puget Sound (AD 38), USS Scott (DDG 995), Afloat Training Group Atlantic, Norfolk, Va., and Defense Distribution Depot, Cherry Point, N.C.

Upon completion of his last duty station in 2001, he began serving in full-time ministry as a pastor, school administrator, science instructor and missionary to Haiti for more than 14 years. After sensing a strong call to serve the men and women of the Navy once again, he was later commissioned as a naval chaplain on Aug. 5, 2015.

Jackson received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Savannah State College, Savannah, Ga. He received a Masters of Arts degree in curriculum development and supervision from Norfolk State University, Norfolk, Va., and a Masters of Divinity in military chaplaincy from Liberty Theological Seminary, Lynchburg, Va. He is endorsed by the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International for military chaplaincy.

One of his passions is mentoring. This is mainly because of the influence of Michael Barren, his childhood mentor. Had Barren not invested in his life, there would not be a Chap. Kevin Jackson. As a result of Barren's influence, Jackson mentors and serves as a father figure for more than 15 young men and women across the country and provides them with guidance and assistance to help them reach their highest potential.

Another of Jackson's passions is his family. He believes that the family unit is one of the most integral entities in society. As a result, he takes seriously the responsibility to nurture a family unit that is centered in love and faith.

Jackson and his wife, Nila Nash-Jackson, have been married for 21 years, and they

have three sons: Ephraim Amos, Elim Josiah and Elisha Daniel. The entire family is eager to embed themselves in the loving community of Corpus Christi.

"NAS Corpus Christi," said Jackson, "I am honored to be connected with such a historical training command. It is my endeavor to serve faithfully as "Your Chaplain." I am absolutely certain that our paths will cross frequently as I seek to personally meet each person within our command and naval station. Our individual contributions can only enhance the outstanding work already being done at NAS Corpus Christi."

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Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer

Fifi Kieschnick
Public Affairs Officer

Eric Lobsinger
Editor



This paper is published for people like Lt. Kevin Jackson, a new arrival to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. A native of Montgomery, Ala., he has served in the Navy for 7.5 years. He is joined by his wife, Nila Nash-Jackson, and their three sons.



Thanks for support – Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, along with key members of his staff, visits with J.D. Markle, interim chief, Corpus Christi Police Department, along with members of the CCPD, Dec. 8. The NASCC members, on behalf of the Blue Angels, presented a Blue Angel Lithograph to the CCPD Traffic Motor Unit to recognize the unit's support during the NASCC Air Show. (Photo by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)



Remembering Pearl Harbor – Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, speaks with gathered veterans and Corpus Christi community members Dec. 7 during the 74th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day at Sherrill Park in Corpus Christi. Banta served as the keynote speaker for the event, which was hosted by U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc. "It's fitting that we're here today with the U.S. submarine veterans in Corpus Christi, the home of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi," said Banta. "The Pearl Harbor attack served not only to thrust the United States into World War II – but also thrust naval aviation and the submarine Navy into the forefront of naval warfare." Afterward, he took advantage of an opportunity to meet with several of the World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans and to thank them for their service. Three Pearl Harbor survivors attending the event, Banta was able to listen as Capt. Bob Batterson, U.S. Navy, retired, spoke of his experiences. (Photo by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)

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Frocking ceremony – The following Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Sailors were frocked to their current rank during a ceremony Dec. 10 at Wings Auditorium: From left (front row), AC3 Isenay Woldeyesus, AC3 Benjamin King, MA2 Michael Flores, RP2 Nicole Schuster, MA3 Corinthia Wilder, AC3 Niyaila Scott, AC2 Matthew Sherwood, AC2 Amanda Taylor, MA3 Juan Ortiz, (back row) MA2 Jason Youngquist, AC2 Daniel Galinski, MA3 Joshua Bohi, ET1(SW) Daniel Jacox, MA2 Austin Pruitt, AC3 Benjamin King, AC3 Jaskaran Rasouda, and AC2 Seth Tunnell. Frocking is an administrative authorization to assume the title and wear the uniform of a higher pay grade without entitlement to the pay and allowances of that grade. Frocking provides early recognition for members selected for petty officer third class through master chief petty officer. (Photo by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)

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Changing command – Capt. Scott Jones (left), Navy Reserve commander, Third Fleet; Cmdr. Jeffrey Hanson, outgoing commanding officer, Training Squadron TWO SEVEN; and Capt. John Kelsey, Commodore, Training Air Wing Four, stand at attention as Cmdr. Corbett Dixon, incoming commanding officer, reads his orders at the squadron's change of command ceremony Dec. 4. During the ceremony, Allison (right), Dixon's wife, pins on his command insignia. (Photos by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs Office)



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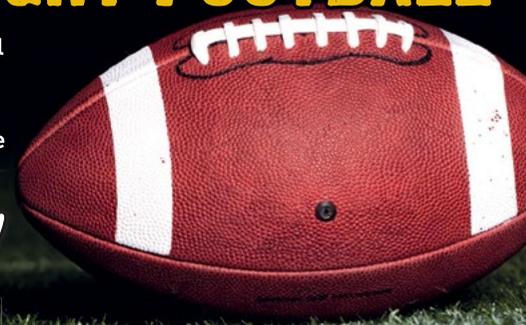
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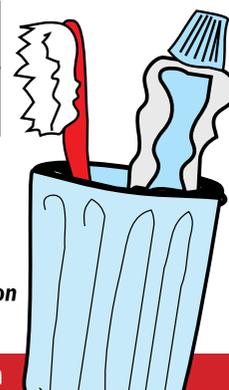
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Texas Tree Lighting – Those seeking to kick off their holiday festivities needed to go no further than Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's Wings Auditorium Dec. 9 for the Holiday Tree Lighting and Texas Snow Party. The celebration kicked into high gear after Santa (upper left) arrived upon his stead – a NASCC fire truck – and joined base commanding officer Capt. Steve Banta (lower left) in flipping a switch to light the Christmas Tree. Afterward, children were invited to visit the jolly guy (lower right) and to share their holiday gift wishes and wants, as well as to take a ride down the snow slide (upper right). (Photos by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)





Breakfast with Santa – A youngster stays perfectly still (above) as a face-painting artist applies her craft during Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 5, at the Catalina Club. The MWR sponsored event – Candyland Adventure – featured a variety of fun events and entertainment throughout the morning activities, to include breakfast, an ice skating rink, the arrival of Santa and pictures with him, caricatures, bouncy ball, and a wide variety of events. A young lady gives a “thumbs-up” (center) during her breakfast, indicating she is having a fun time. Meanwhile, an artist creates a caricature (below) as her two visitors ponder how they will look in the final rendering. (Photos by Laurie Garcia, MWR)



Residing in one of the “birdiest” traffic areas in the nation, personnel aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi view a variety of migrating birds (above and below) throughout the day. (Photos by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)

Corpus Christi area=‘Birdiest City’

By Nancy Mitton
NAVFAC-SE

There have been numerous birding competitions to determine the Birdiest City and the Birdiest County in America over the years. Winners are based on the number of bird species reported within a 48-hour period. Corpus Christi is a perennial winner of this award, sometimes reporting more than 240 bird species in a single 48-hour period inside the city limits. The city is located in the middle of the central flyway for migrating birds, moving northward in the spring and southward in the fall.

Migrating ducks are a part of this migration pattern, so duck hunting is a popular activity in this region. Regular duck hunting season for South Zone of Texas, which includes Nueces County, is Oct. 31-Nov. 29 and Dec. 12-Jan. 24.

The main concerns with duck hunting are proper identification of the bird being targeted and having a duck hunting permit from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Information on hunting permits and regulations is available from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at <https://tpwd.texas.gov>.

Recently, a live Cooper’s hawk was retrieved on base with a bullet wound in its breast near its wing. Birds can fly miles after an injury before landing. But, this hawk did not survive.

Migrating birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Almost all birds in the U.S. are protected under this

regulation. A full extensive list of the birds can be viewed at <http://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/laws-legislations/migratory-bird-treaty-act.php>.

The large number of protected birds is a result of a number of international treaties enacted to provide protection for migratory birds. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 was created from the 1916 Convention between the U.S. and Great Britain (for Canada) for the protection of migratory birds. Later amendments implemented treaties between the U.S. and Mexico, the U.S. and Japan, and the U.S. and the Soviet Union (now Russia).

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 makes it illegal for anyone to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit issued pursuant to Federal regulations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issues various permits for collecting, handling and possessing protected migratory birds.

Violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act allows for misdemeanor convictions under the Act up to \$15,000. Under Texas regulations, a person who violates any state migratory game bird regulation is subject to: a criminal penalty from \$25 to \$500 for each bird unlawfully taken or possessed; civil restitution fee for each bird unlawfully taken or possessed; and license suspension for up to 60 days or license revocation for one year.

For any questions on birds, please contact Nancy Mitton, the NAS Corpus Christi Natural Resource Program Manager at 961-5354.



MCMAP from page 1



**Look for the
Next Issue
of
Wingspan
on
December 31,
2015**

“We have five students who are going for tan belts; we have two Marines who are moving up from gray to green, and we have three Marines who are moving up from green to the brown belt,” explained



Cmdr. Amanda Brooks throws Lt. j.g. Kristin Piester as the two practice during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program exercise Dec. 9.

Master Sgt. Michael Brady, naval air crew liaison with CNATRA, who served as the key instructor for the morning’s tan belt group.

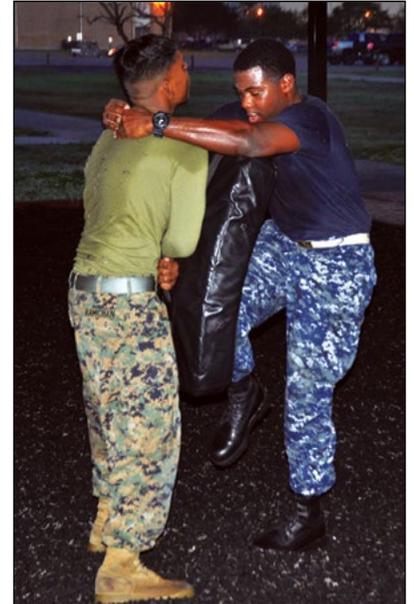
“We’re teaching sustainment training for some and providing an opportunity to move up to the additional training levels.

For Lt. j.g. Kristin Piester, construction manager with public works, in addition to providing a great workout, the MCMAP has also provided an opportunity to work with, and learn to from, her Marine Corps counterparts.

“Cmdr. (Amanda) Brooks (supervisor) encouraged all of us to come out because the Seabees work a lot, side-by-side, with Marines when we go to battalion,” she explained, “so it gives junior officers a lot more exposure than we would have before we get to a battalion.

“This is the first time that I’ve ever worked with the Marines, at least directly, and I get to learn a little more about what they do.”

The training is conducted once a quarter. For more information, contact Marine Corps Capt. Daniel Diaz at (361) 961-1305 or email daniel.o.diaz1@navy.mil.



A Sailor drives home a knee into the pad his Marine partner holds during a MCMAP exercise Dec. 9.

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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.

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Pearl Harbor 'survivor' 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

Capt. Bob Batterson, U.S. Navy, retired, said he never considered himself a Pearl Harbor survivor ... but he will never forget the events of that fateful day, Dec. 7, 1941.

"I thought it was a drill until I looked out and saw this Japanese torpedo plane fly by – and I knew we were at war."

An only child, born May 8, 1921, and raised in Mason City, W.V., he lived with his mother, aunt and grandmother after his parents divorced when he was 6 years old.

The Great Depression hit when he was 9, and growing up in a small city with a total population of approximately 900 people was "not too good."

"There weren't many jobs," he said with a slight grimace. "Living was a little tight."

When he graduated high school, he, like the other young men of that time, faced a difficult decision – what direction his life would take. Thus, in 1939 at the age of 18, he traveled to Charleston, N.C., to join the Navy.



Capt. Bob Batterson, U.S. Navy, retired. (Photo by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)

He said he initially wanted to save money to go to college. With a little snicker, he recalled how his mom inadvertently helped him make his choice to join.

"Parents used to be pretty hard-nosed back then," he said. "My mom said 'son, I got you through high school; you're going to pay room and board to stay here with us.'"

He said that motivated him to deciding on a career path that would span the next 3.5 decades of his life – a Navy career.

"I always liked the Navy, always would see the Sailors in the movies, they would show the ship going up and down – by golly, I'm going to try the Navy."

After joining in 1939 and boot camp, he went aboard a battle cruiser. At that time, he said President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had his eye on the Japanese and moved the fleet to Hawaii.

Bob started out on the deck and then became a "powder man" on the 6-inch turret guns. Eventually he moved on to the supply division, where he made third class petty officer the first time he went up for it. Then, he received orders for Pearl Harbor.

His assignment there was a fortunate one. One of his fellow Sailors, who also made third class early with him, received orders to Marblehead in the Asiatic Fleet – where he was killed.

"So, God has been with me since the very beginning."

Upon arriving at Pearl Harbor, he was assigned to the naval station and worked in a "big commissary store" on base. He worked in an office and handled accounts, inventory and other support missions.

His barracks were on the third deck of the station's administration building.

"That's where I was that morning," he recalled. "We remained on the third deck and watched torpedo planes fly by. No one was at battle stations. We watched the torpedo planes, the dive bombers, the high-altitude guys ... they were very coordinated."

"In the first 15 minutes, the (Japanese) did 85 percent of the damage."

He said he and his fellow Sailors went below to see what they could do. He went outside once ... just as a Japanese aircraft made a strafing run on the "tin cans and cruisers."

"I said, well, I better get back inside – and then they started to bring in survivors from the ships ... from the battleships ... and from the flames after the oil caught fire."

He said the Japanese were hitting the USS Pennsylvania (BB-38) as it sat in dry dock, as well as the USS Cassin (DD-372) and the USS Downes (DD-375). The bombs, he explained, set off a series of horrific fires. He and his fellow Sailors were deeply engaged in helping to battle the blazes.

"The Japanese were concentrating on the battleship. You fight the fire and hope those pilots didn't pay any attention to us – and they didn't," he explained, with a short chuckle. He (God) was with us; he was with us.

"And then, it was over.

"It was amazing.

"Suddenly, it was quiet.

"You could still hear the sirens, and the smoke was so thick – it was almost dark. And all I could think of was 'my God, we're finished.' What can we do?"

As he looked around, he could see all of the sunken ships, the fires, the wounded or dead, as they fought the flames. As devastating as the attack was, however, he said it could have been much worse.

"The Japanese commander made a major mistake – he didn't send in his third strike," said Batterson. "If he had sent in his third strike, we probably would have lost the war because they had 140 aircraft left."

They would have taken out the shipyard, he explained, as well as all of the submarines, the sub base and the fuel



Capt. Bob Batterson, U.S. Navy, retired, aboard USS Lexington Museum during a Battle of Midway wreath-laying ceremony. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick, NASCC Public Affairs Office)

facilities.

Because the third wave was not sent in, he said, the vital shipyard was spared.

"We needed that shipyard for later, which had a major effect on the Battle of Midway."

Months later during the Battle of Coral Sea on May 8, USS Lexington (CV-2) was sunk and USS Yorktown (CV-10) was damaged.

Almost a year after the attack, Batterson entered flight training at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, where he would earn his wings in 1944. He said the Navy opened up flight training for enlisted men, which provided him the opportunity to fly – and perhaps to get a measure of revenge.

"I got into fighting squadron one from USS Bennington (CV-20) in the latter part of the war," he said. "I flew the (Grumman F6F) Hellcat."

His career would also span the Korean War and the Vietnam War, although he said he was not directly involved in either of the conflicts.

He is married to his second wife and has five children, four boys and a girl, and five grandchildren.

Thirty years after he earned his wings at NASCC, he returned in 1974 – to retire.

"I was stationed in Virginia but said I wanted to retire in Texas," he said with a smirk. "So, I retired here – and I'm a Texas veteran."

Bob now works as a volunteer with USS Lexington Museum "The Blue Ghost" with the Pearl Harbor Vets.

He said it is important to remember the past and to work hard toward the future. He has a few simple words for his fellow Sailors who serve today.

"Consider every job you have as the best job that you can have and do your best," he said. "No matter what it is, show your boss what you have. I swear that's the reason that I went from seaman to captain. I worked 'my butt off' on every job I had."

In remembering Pearl Harbor and all of his fellow Sailors who lost their lives that day, he said it has taken him a while to join the Pearl Harbor Vets because he didn't feel that he had done anything other than his job in helping his fellow Sailors after the devastation wrought by the attackers.

"I didn't do anything to be proud of at Pearl Harbor," he concluded. "I wasn't on a ship. Those guys were the survivors."

News Briefs

Catalina Club holiday hours

The Catalina Club will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 3. The club will no longer serve breakfast beginning Jan. 4. The Catalina Club will be host a New Year's Eve Party Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m.-1 a.m. For more information, contact the Catalina Club at 961-2541.

Join the half-ton club

Become a member of the 1000 Pound Club at the Fitness Express. Participants must lift a total of 1,000 pounds with any combination of the following three lifts: bench press, back squat and dead lift. Individuals must schedule an appointment with a trainer to complete the challenge. Cost is free for active duty and \$10 for civilians. Those joining the 1000 Pound Club will receive a T-shirt, certificate, coin, and individual's names will be inserted on the 1000 Pound Club plaque. For more information, contact Fitness Express at 961-3164.

Captain's Cup Basketball League registration

Registration is underway for the 2016 Captain's Cup Basketball League. The deadline for registering is 7 p.m., Jan. 20 at the E-Street Gym. Games will be played Mondays and Wednesdays starting Jan. 25. Team captains are required to attend a mandatory captain's meeting 6 p.m., Jan. 20. For more information, contact the E-Street

Gym at 961-2057.

CYP Online Services

A new service is now available for child youth services. NAS Corpus Christi Child and Your Program Online Services features online payments, hourly care reservations and more. For more information, visit <https://myfrn.navyaims.com/corpuscym.html>.

Happy Hour on the Range

The Golf Winds golf course hosts Happy Hour at the Range 2-5 p.m. every Friday, weather permitting. Hit the range with games, contests, free tips from the pros and discounted range balls. Don't sit in traffic. Start the weekend early on the range. For more information, call 961-3250.

Celebrate Mardi Gras in New Orleans

Take a trip with ITT to Mardi Gras, Jan. 29-31. Deadline for signing up is noon, Jan. 6., and the cost is \$204 per person. Those interested can sign up at the ITT Office in Bldg. 1757. The Mardi Gras package includes round-trip transportation on a chartered bus and a two-night stay at the New Orleans Marriott, which is two blocks down from Bourbon Street and right off Canal, where the weekend's parades will be passing through. The group will depart from the Wings Auditorium, at 3:45 a.m.,

Jan. 29, and is projected to arrive at the New Orleans Marriott at approximately 3 p.m. The bus will depart the New Orleans Marriott at 11 a.m., Jan. 31, and return to NAS Corpus Christi no later than 9 p.m., Jan. 31. For more information, contact Information, Tickets & Travel at 961-3961.

No Texas State Inspections

Until further notice, the Auto Skills Center will no longer perform Texas State Inspections. The required equipment is undergoing a system upgrade. For more information, contact the Auto Skills Center at 961-3470.

Pray by the Bay

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi community members are invited to take part in Pray by the Bay, 5:30 p.m., Dec. 19, at McCaughan Park in Corpus Christi. For more information, contact Cynthia McElroy at 961-1706.

NAVFAC awards \$45 million contract

SAMES, Inc., was awarded a first-task order of \$370,452 for the demolition of Building 5 and bldg. 90 at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. It is part of a Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast award of a \$45 million multiple award, design-build construction contract Nov. 9. to SAMES Inc., Pharr, Texas; The GFP

Group, Corpus Christi; Gideon Contracting, LLC, Corpus Christi; Tikigaq Construction, LLC, Wasilla, Alaska; DLF SafeNet Joint Venture, Corpus Christi; and ADTBC, LLC, Portland, Texas. All fall into the small business category. All work on this contract will be performed primarily within the NAVFAC Southeast area of responsibility including Corpus Christi (50 percent), Kingsville (40 percent) and the remainder will be performed within the NAVFAC Southeast area of responsibility (10 percent). Work for this task order is expected to be completed by April of 2017.

NASCC earns gold-level recognition

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi earned gold level of achievement for its outstanding energy and/or water program during the Fiscal 2015 SECNAV Energy and Water Management Award program, which is based on fiscal 2014 accomplishments. Per Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, improving how the Navy manages energy and water is critical to accomplishing the Navy mission, and the successful organizations provide a model that the rest of the Department of the Navy should emulate. Mabus said he encourages all commanders to look to the accomplishments of the award winners and to identify ways that their commands can improve how the Navy manages these critical resources.

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EOC from page 1



Dane McJunkin, Gale Dyckman and Pat Kapitan, members of the “logistics” cell, talk through how to provide logistical support during an emergency operations center exercise Dec. 2.

of emergency operations for your command toward emergency management. It’s very impressive. Very rarely do we see that.”

The course is required throughout the Navy. “Conducting emergency operations is a perishable skill,” said Capt. Steve Banta, NASCC commanding officer. “It’s something we need to know in the event something happens.”

“This training is invaluable – the ability to bring order out of chaos ... as a team.”

During the three-day course, morning classes were geared toward learning skills and techniques that would be used during the afternoon hands-on practical exercises.

The first two days of the course concentrated on a natural hazard in which a major earthquake, a magnitude 6.2, hit the Corpus Christi area and caused significant damage to the installation as well as to the surrounding areas.

During the morning portions, the participants learned and talked through the “thesis of emergency response” – Prepare; Respond; Mitigate; Recovery – and then developed what the group considered the top three priorities for the installation: protect personnel; maintain critical missions and functions; restoring mission and essential functions.

“The CO’s guidance and his philosophy are very consistent – Life, safety, mission,” said Ron Retzlaff, NASCC emergency manager. “Minimize the loss of life; maintain safety of first responders and bystanders, and restore mission capability as quickly as possible.”

The instructors stressed the importance of realizing that all incidents are “local.”

The afternoon exercises provided an opportunity for the attendees to think through each phase of EOC operations – to include strengths and potential weaknesses. They talked through issues such as how to react to a major event, where EOC operations are conducted, what communications assets will be available, how to notify the populace – both internal and external audiences – etc.

Perhaps the most striking conversation, however, focused on “faulty assumptions.” These are the assumptions of the capabilities that will be available if an incident were to occur. Examples of faulty assumptions could include he premises that previous training will be relevant to the incident; that everyone

trained would be available; that the chain of command would be able to make it to the EOC; that resources are identified and available; and finally, the realization that although exercises are typically conducted 8 a.m.-4 p.m., real-world incidents have no timeline.

Additionally, the instructors stressed the importance of training for those events that are likely to occur, such as hurricanes, floods, hazardous materials, air mishaps or an active shooter.

Perhaps the key to success in working through any emergency situation is the ability for the members of the EOC to coordinate capabilities – to work as a team. So everyone would know who to contact, the teams established an EOC coordination flowchart, which included names, phone numbers and positions.

Day three of the course culminated in a simulated complicated attack on the installation that included coordinated explosions and active-shooter attacks. This created a situation where the five functional areas of the EOC – logistics, operations, finance, planning and command – were all “stressed” to develop responses to a wide variety of issues.

Once the final hands-on exercise was completed, the team gathered together and talked through the process of standing down the EOC once the crisis was over and the importance of capturing lessons learned and preparing after-action reports.

The bottom line, said Lynch, is learning how to operate together in the event a real-world incident was to occur.

“The biggest importance of the course,” he explained, “is saving lives – to make sure that an installation management team is effectively trained and able to respond to anywhere from a simple to a complex incident on the installation.”

“When an emergency hits, it’s not just sheer luck that a command can work to resolve issues,” added Bryan Burns, his fellow instructor. “It depends on the talents and professionalism of a team to resolve the emergency issues.”

The training, of course, is merely the starting point, added Retzlaff.

“The course gave us the framework to build from,” he said. “We will only become better prepared in the event we have a disaster that requires EOC activation.”



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