

# WINGSPAN



Vol. 21, No. 1

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

January 22, 2015



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## Firefighters use rescue skills to save endangered sea turtles

by Rod Hafemeister, photos by Fire Chief John Morris

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi firefighters recently put their training to an unusual use: rescuing cold-stunned sea turtles.

A fire crew was conducting emergency vehicle driver training along the seawall Jan. 12 when they received a call, said Assistant Fire Chief Ward Hawkins.

"They said they needed assistance with a rescue from the rocks below the seawall," he said.

"It turned out to be sea turtles."

Sea turtles are cold-blooded reptiles that cannot regulate their body temperature; instead, body temperature reflects the surrounding air and water temperatures.

When the water temperature drops to around 50 degrees Fahrenheit, they lose their ability to swim, and float where the wind and waves take them.

That makes them susceptible to boat strikes and predation; they often become stranded on a shore when the tide recedes.

"We find them almost every day on the base," said Nancy Devlin, a

retired U.S. Public Health Service O-6.

She and retired USPHS officer Margaret DiClemente volunteer with the turtle rescue program at the Padre Island National Seashore.

During cold weather, they daily check the shores of the Laguna Madre – the long, shallow body of water between Padre Island and the mainland – and on the base for turtles in distress.

Often, turtles are stranded in the small inlet near the base of the fishing pier by the Shields RV Park, she said.

RV Park guests have become part of the search, Devlin said, often pointing out where they have seen stranded turtles and calling them in to the turtle hotline.

"We need them as eyes out there all the time, and they really help," she said.

But this day, the turtles had washed up on the rocks at the base of the concrete seawall, which ranges from about five feet to more than 10.

*Turtles continued on page 7*



**NASCC Firefighter Glenn Helwig carries a sea turtle rescued from the rocks along the seawall.**



**Capt. Steve Banta (left) and Capt. Dave Edgecomb after the June 26 ceremony in which Banta relieved Edgecomb and assumed command of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.**

## 2014: A look back at changes

by NASCC Public Affairs

It sometimes seems like you blink, and another year has gone by.

2014 marked a change of command for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, and for its higher headquarters, Navy Region Southeast.

It also brought a new commodore for Training Air Wing Four and changes in its squadron commands. They also awarded Wings to more than 200 naval aviators and began the final transition from the venerable T-34C Turbomotor to the T-6B Texan II.

Many other changes occurred aboard the Naval Air Station; here, in words and photos, is a partial roundup.

- Jan. 21, Harlem Globetrotter visits NAS Corpus Christi, holds an exhibition game of "horse" with Commanding

Officer Capt. Dave Edgecomb and visits with children from the Child Development Center.

- Jan. 24, Helm of Training Air Wing Four (SAU) changes with Cmdr. Jerry Dearie taking the helm from Capt. John Petit.
- Jan. 30, Ron Martinez, NASCC business manager, retires with 31 years of federal service. He reported to NAS in 1999 and assisted command in planning and managing business-related programs.
- In February, Fire and Emergency Services recognized by Navy Region Southeast as the Fire Department of the Year,

*2014 continued on page 8*

## XO's Column

by Cmdr. Scott Wilmot



Wilmot

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find the story and photos about how the base firefighters helped rescue some stranded sea turtles.

They did a great job, worthy of notice.

But the problem of cold-stunned turtles is

one that happens every year as the temperature falls – and it has been especially hard on the turtles this fall and winter season.

The volunteers with the Padre Island National Seashore have been visiting the base daily and almost every day have found turtles in need of rescue.

So what is a cold-stunned turtle?

According to the experts at the Padre Island National Seashore, a “cold-stunned sea turtle is one that has become hypothermic due to cold weather.

“Sea turtles are reptiles and cannot regulate their body temperature. When the water temperature drops below 50°F, they will not be able to swim, increasing the risk of predation and boat strikes.

“They float to the water’s surface or

wash ashore and if not located and protected quickly, often succumb to the elements.”

Although every kind of sea turtle can be found cold-stunned, the majority in this area are green sea turtles.

Most stunned turtles are found in the Laguna Madre, but when cold north winds arrive, it's common to find some turtles stranded on or near the Naval Air Station.

It helps the rescuers when residents, especially those in the RV Park, alert them to stranded turtles.

But unless you have been trained in how to handle a cold-stunned turtle, you should not try to rescue them yourself.

With the exception of loggerhead turtles, which are classified as “threatened,” every species of sea turtle found in the Gulf of Mexico region is listed as “endangered” by the federal government.

That means all are considered at risk of extinction and are protected by a number of international, federal and state laws.

For the individual, it means you could face penalties if it appears you may have harmed a turtle.

Instead, the National Seashore recommends:

If you find any sea turtle floating or washed ashore (alive or dead), please report it immediately by calling 361-949-8173, ext. 226 (North Padre Island and Upper Laguna Madre).

## Saving Sea Turtles

For turtles located in other areas of Texas, call 1-866-887-8535.

Report the location, number of sea turtles, condition, and if possible take photos.

Please be aware many cold-stunned turtles that are still alive will often be motionless and appear to be dead – but may recover with the right treatment.

Soon, the threat of cold stunning should diminish with warmer weather – but that doesn't end the need to watch out for sea turtles.

Nesting season typically begins in April and runs through July (with some nesting extending into August and September, at times).

All five species of sea turtles – Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, green, hawksbill, and leatherback – have been documented nesting on Padre Island.

Kemp's ridley turtle nests are the most common, thanks to an extensive recovery, hatching and release program at the National Seashore.

If you find evidence of turtle nests, report them the same way as the stranded turtles.

For more information on sea turtles, cold-shocked and otherwise, go to the Padre Island National Seashore webpage and Facebook:

<http://www.nps.gov/pais/naturescience/stsr.htm>

<https://www.facebook.com/nps.pais.seaturtles>

## Chaplain's Message

by Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain

Christmas is over (one of the busiest times of the year for Chaplains) and 2015 is well underway.

My schedule is beginning to fill and we're already busy making plans for Easter.

In my business, with the stressful thoughts of planning, I have found that there are a few very practical ways I can keep from being overwhelmed by it all.

Keep a well-organized calendar and daily schedule.

Although there are a few occasions when I might miss an appointment or event out of forgetfulness, I find that having a visible reminder such as a desktop planner, appointment book, or important events planning memo is extremely helpful in maintaining my sanity.

If you are stressed about remembering an important date or event, there is a good chance that it will slip your mind. Write it down!

Don't stress the things you have no control over.

Do everything you can to assure success in the planning of an event, important date, activity, etc., and then let it go.

Even Jesus commented on the matter by stating in Scripture, “Do not worry....” (Matthew 6:25).

Don't over-commit.

This is one with which I continue to struggle.

How many times have you waited at the doctor's office with a room full of people, knowing that only one at a time can see the doctor?

Or have been at the airport when the flight attendant announces that the flight is overbooked and volunteers are being given vouchers for other flights?

In these instances, it is about economy and efficiency in making money, so we accept

## Looking Ahead

the fact that others are committing to more than what can be accomplished.

Financial planners tell us that a certain amount of income should be set aside for unanticipated or emergency expenses.

Why not do the same with your personal time? Allow for time to rest and account for unexpected time commitments.

These are but a few suggestions.

I hope that your 2015 is filled with excitement and prosperity, and that you look forward to each new day!



Warne

## Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister

Wingspan has been a digital-only publication since July 2014.

We've been working with contracting people and are nearing the point where we will be back with a biweekly print edition.

Contracting has received bids for a publisher and the next step is to convene a local

selection board to make a recommendation. That is expected to happen before the end of January.

How soon we have a print edition depends on how long it takes to finalize a contract and when the publisher is ready to publish.

## Wingspan Update

Under a Commercial Enterprise contract, the publisher sells advertising and pays for printing and distribution. They can't solicit ads until the contract is finalized.

Meanwhile, we'll keep doing digital issues and announce when the next one is online.

# Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi

“Exceeding Expectations Through Pride In Performance”

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

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All news releases should be sent to the above address.

Please call (361) 961-2674 for deadline information.

## Worship Services

### CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Catholic Chapel  
Daily Mass Wed-Fri: 11:30 a.m.  
Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.  
Religious Education: Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

### PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Protestant Chapel  
Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.

### JEWISH WORSHIP SERVICE

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

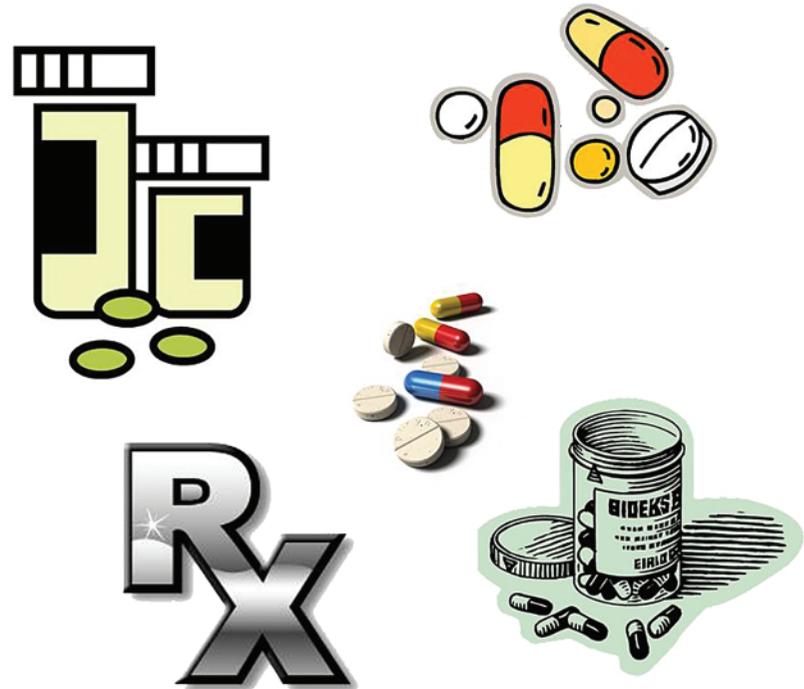
### ISLAMIC WORSHIP SERVICE

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

## Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi modernizes pharmacy refills



# Call-in refills?



## No need to wait!

Telephone call-in refill pickups in our pharmacy do not require taking a number and then being seated in the waiting area.

Simply go directly to the newly modernized Refill Pickup Window and show your ID card to our VERY friendly Red Cross Volunteers for fast service.

Stay abreast of the latest improvements to our services for you and your family, please **LIKE** and regularly check our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/nhccc](http://www.facebook.com/nhccc)

(top left) Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi pharmacy Red Cross volunteer Pat Beck assists Donald Dawson Dec. 15 at the newly renovated pharmacy refill room pickup window. Dawson was the first patient to use the modernized area, which provides a comfortable working environment for the dedicated helpers while holding twice the volume of medications as before, keeping them better organized to avoid delays. It also facilitates future holding capacity expansion by at least another 30 percent, and patients will appreciate the reduced congestion in the pharmacy waiting area. (center left) Pharmacist Edna M. Everett and Beck assist Dawson. (bottom left) Navy doctor Lt. Cmdr. Bryce Lokey, Director for Clinical Support Services, thanks Dawson for his patronage.

US Navy photos by NHCCC

Got a boat? NASCC now has a place to dock it

## Marina offers covered, uncovered boat slip rentals



From left, Lt. Col. Kevin Heartwell, executive officer of MATSG-22, and Col. John Rahe Jr. commanding officer of MATSG-22, help Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer of NASCC, cut the ribbon on the new Marina boat slips while Marina employee Jesika Streeter, Marina Director Dale Martinets, MWR Assistant Director Kass Varner and MWR director Dave Sullivan assist.

### Slip Rental Prices and Requirements

#### Covered Slips

8x16 - \$4 per day  
8x20 - \$5 per day  
12x24 - \$6 per day  
12x28 - \$7 per day

#### Uncovered Slips

32 foot - \$7.50 per day  
All rents are paid on a monthly basis.

Slip rental requires:

- Transient dockage contract agreement with MWR,
- Copies of Registration,
- Insurance (with MWR Marina listed as additionally insured on the policy)
- Refundable \$90 deposit for remote control for the slip.

Active Duty have first priority, followed by retirees, DoD civilians and MWR Guest Card holders.

Contact MWR Marina at 361-961-1293 for additional information.

by Rod Hafemeister

After several delays and contract modifications the NAS Corpus Christi Marina has boat slips for rent.

Officials cut the ribbon opening the three-pier complex on Jan. 14.

The Marina already had a slip rented, the first of what is hoped to be many more as boaters learn the slips are available.

The wet slip consists of 61 covered and four uncovered boat slips, located on three finger piers designated Alpha, Bravo and Charlie.

Slips sizes are, covered, 16, 20, 24 and 28 foot and, uncovered, 32 foot. Water and electrical connections are available for each slip.

Each covered boat slip is equipped with a boat lift that can be operated manually or by a remote that will allow the boater to operate the lift as he or she is pulling into the slip.

Ethanol-free marina fuel sales will be available in March; the pump is located at the end of finger pier Charlie.

Slip rentals cost from \$4 to \$7.50 per day, paid monthly.

"We did a market study and the prices are very competitive," MWR Director Dave Sullivan said.

Competitive is important; the Morale, Welfare and Recreation activity is hoping the slips will increase interest in the MWR Guest Card program, that allows civilians without any base affiliation to have access to certain recreational facilities for a modest annual fee.

The Marina, Golf Course, RV Park and

Club receive no taxpayer money and are required to generate sufficient revenue to continue operating.

The MWR guest Card program was launched in September 2009 to help support those activities.

Since then, the Gulf Winds Golf Course has seen significant improvements, a new club, the Catalina Club, has replaced the historic but decaying Bay Club and the Marina has a new two-lane boat launch and now the rental slips.

It took a little longer than anticipated.

Design planning began in late 2010, while Capt. Randy Pierson was commanding officer of NAS Corpus Christi.

By the time a contract was awarded on Aug. 4, 2011, Capt. Dave Edgecomb had assumed command.

The contract, for \$1.8 million, had an original completion date of May 2012; work was largely completed by August 2012.

But fire suppression had not been included in the original contract and had to be added.

A contract modification for fire suppression was executed in February 2013 and work was completed on Feb. 5, 2014.

The final cost of the project was \$2.2 million.

But inspections, corrections and other issues delayed final approval for use until recently.

By then, Capt. Steve Banta had become commanding officer and got to cut the ribbon. Now, it's open for business.



A boat in one of the new Marina covered boat slips. The lift, included in the rentals, permits raising the boat out of the salt water when not in use.

Photos by Fifi Kieschnick

## NHCCC's Chief Croshaw honors her father during her retirement ceremony



Chief Information Systems Technician (Information Dominance Warfare/Surface Warfare) Tiffany Lynn Croshaw, during her Jan. 6 retirement ceremony, presents a memento to her mother. The American flag was flown over the nuclear-powered, Bremerton-based aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) in commemoration of her father's naval career. He served aboard USS Forrestal (CVA 59), and was a survivor of the onboard fire and explosions on July 29, 1967. While the Forrestal was stationed in the Gulf of Tonkin at the height of war in Vietnam, a power surge accidentally fired a rocket across the ship's deck, striking another jet, igniting a chain reaction of jet fuel explosions that left 134 dead, 161 injured, and 21 aircraft destroyed.

Photo by HM2 Jacob L. Welch

## Chief Atkins retires after 21+ years



ACC (AW/SW) Tim Atkins is 'piped ashore' for the final time with his family – wife Tomono, daughter Tia and son Travis – at his Jan. 9 retirement ceremony at the Fouled Anchor after more than 21 years of service. A native of Elgin, Ill., Atkins is moving back home to start a second career.

Photo by Fiji Kieschnick

## Make it a good New Year

from Fleet & Family Support Center

As the New Year approaches, many of us tend to reflect on what self-improvements can be made or changed about ourselves for the coming year. Why not try something different? For 2015, let's start the year right with making realistic goals and resolutions that are attainable and target to a better healthier you.

The Fleet and Family Support Center offers various counseling services to service members and their dependents that will keep you on the right track to a healthier lifestyle. Services provided are Family, Couples, Individual Counseling, Relationship Classes, and Parenting Classes. All counseling sessions are confidential by professional, licensed clinicians. Stop by to learn more about the services being offered.



We are located in the Fleet and Family Support Center, 5th floor Bldg H-100 Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi. FFSC is open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call FFSC front desk 361-961-2372 after hours centralized scheduling (866)293-2776.

Counseling services are available to all active-duty military members and beneficiaries, activated reservists, and retired military (must have military ID). Referrals can be given to others who are not eligible!

We encourage you to come upstairs and meet the clinicians! Let's start working on a better healthier you today!

## February 6, 2015

### at Sunfish Beach

1200

Polar Bear  
**PLUNGE**



Here's a reason for Freezin'!

A brisk, cool 500m swim in the Bay!

All Participants will receive a Fitness Express T-Shirt!

Cost:

Active Duty - Free

Non-Active Duty - \$10.00

Rules:

- All Participants must complete sign up sheet.
  - All Civilian participants must complete a liability waiver to sign up.
  - Non-Active Duty Participants must pay a \$10 fee at the date of sign up.
- Sign Ups must be done by 1200 on February 4, 2015 at the Fitness Express.
- The event begins on land. At the sound of the start, participants will run into the water.
- The 500m will be marked with buoys in the water. Competitors must keep the buoy to their left.
- Individuals who are unable to complete the 500m may stop and raise their hand. A life boat will be by immediately to retrieve them.
- A Minimum of 10 people must sign up for event to take place.

For more information, please call the Fitness Express at 961-3164.



## Scholarships for Military Children applications deadline Feb. 13

Applications for the 2015 Scholarships for Military Children Program are available at commissaries or online at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. For more information, call Scholarship Managers at 856-616-9311 or email at [militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com](mailto:militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com).

# Google launches virtual USS Constitution tour experience

by MC3 Victoria Kinney, USS Constitution Public Affairs

CHARLESTOWN, Mass. (NNS) -- Google Maps published a complete 360-degree virtual experience of USS Constitution on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Using Street View technology, Google Maps photographed the ship in fall 2014 to create an online 360-degree virtual experience of touring Constitution in preparation for the ship's scheduled dry dock restoration period, which begins in March 2015.

"The timing was ideal," said Cmdr. Sean Kearns, Constitution's 73rd commanding officer.

"It enabled Google to photograph the ship pierside in her normal fully-rigged configuration before we down-rig the ship and move her into dry dock for restoration work."

The 217-year-old warship is scheduled to undergo nearly three-years of restoration work, during which time 'Old Ironsides' will have her copper siding replaced, along with major restorations to areas of the ship's hull, interior, and stern.

Constitution joins a growing list of historical landmarks

that Google Maps has available for online tours.

Already available online are the Taj Mahal, The Louvre Museum, underwater reefs and street level views from around the world.

To date, Google Maps has imagery available in more than 64 countries around the world.

"Adding interior imagery of the USS Constitution to Google Maps was the next step towards providing the most accurate, useful and comprehensive map of the world," said Deanna Yick, Google Maps Street View program manager.

"We hope this encourages curious observers to visit this historic ship in person one day."

Google Maps' innovative technology offers a unique view of most decks and spaces in the warship, including some spaces typically closed off to visitors, and will allow full virtual access of the landmark during the restoration.

The virtual tour allows the public to view and experience the ship as she traditionally looks, fully-rigged at her berth at

pier 1 in Charlestown Navy Yard.

"This effort is particularly exciting because not only will it allow the public to go on a virtual tour to areas of the ship that will not be accessible while Old Ironsides is in dry dock, it will also bring this virtual tour experience to millions of people worldwide who might otherwise never get the chance to visit the ship in person," Kearns said.

USS Constitution, the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat, actively defended sea lanes against global threats from 1797 to 1855.

Now a featured destination on Boston's Freedom Trail, Constitution and her crew of U.S. Navy Sailors offer community outreach and education about the ship's history and the importance of naval seapower to more than 500,000 visitors each year.

To visit USS Constitution in Google Maps Street View, click "U.S. Highlights."

Or hit the link in the caption below.



U.S. Navy civilian employee Jonathan Snyder views USS Constitution using Google Maps' newly launched 360-degree virtual tour of the Navy's oldest commissioned ship. The Constitution is entering dry dock in March for three years of restoration work and will be unavailable for actual tours during that time. You can reach the Google Maps virtual tour at: <https://www.google.com/maps/views/u/0/streetview/us-highlights?gl=us>

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 April D. Adams

**Turtles continued from page 1**

That's where the firefighters came in.

Using ladders, ropes and a rescue basket, the crew quickly recovered seven turtles from along the seawall – six endangered green sea turtles and a large threatened loggerhead.

The rescued turtles were transported to the National Seashore for triage and treatment.

"They often look dead, but most recover if found in time," Devlin said.

"Always assume that they are alive."

Donna Shaver, chief of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery at the National Seashore, said that, as of mid-January, almost 500 stranded turtles had been brought in since fall 2014 – including 10 more from the Air Station the day after the fire department rescues.

Shaver said some of the rescued turtles are rehabilitated at their facility, some are sent to the Animal Rehabilitation Keep (ARK) at UT Marine Science Institute, Port Aransas, and the most distressed usually go to the Texas Sealife Center on the island.

Shaver praised base and RV park residents for spotting and reporting stranded turtles.

"That's exactly what we need," she said.

"Cold stunning happens mostly in the near-shore areas in the Laguna Madre and the bays. We really appreciate the people who report them."

Rescuing turtles is a delicate process and requires training, Devlin said – but that doesn't normally include operating on severe terrain as well.

"It was really nice that the fire department was able to come," she said.

"We couldn't have recovered those turtles otherwise."

Hawkins smiled as he attempted to pass it off as just another day.

"We're all rescue trained and ready to go when called. This was just a different victim," he said.

But Firefighter Glenn Helwig was still excited hours later.

"It was awesome!" he said.



Firefighters use ladders to get down to the rocks where the turtles are stranded, dealing with the challenge of uneven footing. The turtle is moved to a rescue basket and then raised with ropes. Rescued turtles go to the Padre Island National Seashore for treatment. *For more on turtle rescues, see XO on page 2*

**2014 continued from page 1**

- Medium Category, and Fire Prevention Program of the Year.
- Feb. 22, Members of the Corpus Christi community honor 11 veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima in a ceremony at Sherrill Park, with members of Marine Aviation Support Group 22 participating.
  - March 4, CNATRA and the U.S. Navy bids farewell to Capt. Charles Hollingsworth as he retires from the U.S. Navy, with more than 30 years of service.
  - March 22, Fire and Emergency Services crew conducting a shift change is dispatched to the Kenworthy home on base with an obstetric emergency – and helped deliver baby Chase.
  - April 1, NASCC library launches Brown Bag Book Club and Navy Chiefs celebrate 121 years of the Chief Petty Officer.
  - April 5, Navy volunteers support Special Olympics local games held at Flour Bluff High School stadium.
  - April 10, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society honors volunteers as part of National Volunteer Week.
  - April 12, MWR holds 2014 Spring Eggstravaganza, celebrating with pony rides, a petting zoo, tug-of-war, other games and egg hunts.
  - April 29, SECNAV holds a global All Hands Call, answering questions about the budget, deployment schedules, and pay and allowances, among other things.

**2014 continued on page 9**

Col. David Krebs, commanding officer of Marine Aviation Training Squadron Group 22, passes the organizational colors to Col. John A Rahe Jr. signifying the transfer of command a change of command ceremony June 20.



The wife and son of the late Hector Solis receive his World War II medals from Capt. Rex Curtin (left) and Cmdr. Brian Hamlin during a Feb. 7 ceremony. After the war, he had returned to South Texas and eventually retired from Corpus Christi Army Depot - but had never received medals he had earned during his service.



Corpus Christi Mayor Nelda Martinez signs the Community Covenant supporting Corpus Christi military organizations and installations March 6. Signatories included Nueces County, the Chamber of Commerce, Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Del Mar College, the Texas Veterans Commission, Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend and other civic organizations.



Sailors restore the port exhaust, which had been blown off in a late 2013 storm, on the Blue Angel F/A-18 Hornet in the CNATRA/NASCC Historic Airpark.

## 2014 continued from page 8

- May 2, Volunteers collect trash and debris along Ocean Drive between the North Gate and TAMUCC during the Earth Day base clean-up. Overall, volunteers collected about 2,500 pounds of trash.
- May 14-27, Navy Sailors and divers from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2 find and salvage a downed T-34C Turbomotor aircraft of the coast of Texas. The aircraft crashed into the Gulf on May 1, during a training flight. An instructor pilot and a student assigned to VT-28 escaped unharmed.
- May 17, Beach-to-Bay relay held, with route running through NASCC.
- June 4, Battle of Midway ceremony held aboard USS Lexington Museum on the Bay. Commemorates the 1942 battle which was the turning point in World War II in the Pacific.
- June 6, Helm of TW-4 changes as Capt. Rex Curtain relinquishes command to Capt. John "Chip" Kelsey.
- June 26, Capt. Steve Banta assumes command of NASCC from Capt. Dave Edgecomb.
- July 18, Helm of Navy Region Southeast changes as Rear Adm. Rick Williamson relinquishes command to Rear Adm. Mary Jackson.
- Aug. 9-10, 52nd Annual Navy Regatta, including Titanic Cup Race.
- Aug. 11, Last class of Primary Pilot Training students to train on the T-34 begins.
- Sept. 11 Ceremony at Fire and Emergency Services marks anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on this nation.
- Oct. 17, Joint TW-4 and TW-2 winging ceremony aboard USS Lexington Museum on the Bay. Commander, Naval Air Forces, Vice Adm. David Buss, pins his son.
- Oct. 18, Navy Birthday Ball held at the Omni Hotel in downtown Corpus Christi.
- Oct. 18, NASCC holds a fuel spill training exercise.
- Oct. 25, MWR holds fall festival.
- Oct. 28, NASCC annual Energy Symposium features discussions on conservation and geothermal energy.
- Nov. 18, Rear Adm. Mary Jackson, CNRSE, visits NASCC.
- Nov. 24, Rear Adm. Roy Kelley, CNATRA, accepts the first two of six planned high-fidelity T-44C simulators.
- Dec. 5, Sports day held, with MATSG-22 dominating competition.
- Dec. 6, Breakfast with Santa at the Catalina Club.



The NASCC Color Guard brings in the colors to kick off the 2014 Navy Birthday Ball on Oct. 18 at the Omni.



Retired Chief Chris Cordova, Air Traffic Control Specialist, gives Donovan 'Don Don' Myers a challenge coin that Cordova had for many years as a token of good luck as Donovan's mother Erica and sister Alexandria look on. Donovan was the November 'Pilot for a Day.'



Cameron Barcom, 8, and Colin Barcomb, 6, play with a magnetic play table designed and built by MWR summer hire Evan Bradley in the ITT office.



NASCC Commanding Officer Capt. Steve Banta helps Santa light the Holiday Tree.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister, Richard Stewart, Laurie Garcia, CSC Glenda Young and Jeanie Evans.

## VT-28 student makes history as the last person to make initial solo flight in the T-34C Turbomentor.

story and photos from VT-28

“Tie cutting” is a tradition by which Navy aviators recognize the first solo flight by a student pilot.

After the successful solo, the student’s “on wing” – the instructor most involved with that student – gets to cut a necktie hanging on the student. The ceremony represents a cutting of the ties that until then had required the student to have an instructor in the cockpit for every flight.

VT-28 is the last squadron in the Navy still teaching student pilots with the venerable T-34C Turbomentor, which is being replaced by the T-6B Texan II.

The last T-34C student class began in August; all students entering Primary Pilot Training now start with the T-6B.

In December, six student pilots took off on their first solo flights – the last students who will make their first solo in the T-34C.

As the last to land, Ensign Carli Glavin earned the distinction of being the last Navy aviator to make an initial solo in the T-34C.

Below is her description of the event.

To Whom It May Concern;

The Navy has a long history flying the T-34C and many generations of aviators have learned to fly on this durable yet technologically archaic machine.

The call for new equipment has sent the T-34C packing with the T-6B taking its place and I was graced with the honor of having the last initial contact solo on 16 December 2014.

The first solo for every pilot is a huge

milestone and is something that I have been dreaming about for a long time.

Aviation as a career was introduced to me at an early age by my uncle, Joe Glavin, who had flown in the Texas Air National Guard and the airlines for most of his life before he retired.

I was told to look up into the sky and make my work place rolling through the clouds.

On the day of my solo I was accompanied by five other student aviators all hoping the clouds would get blown away so that we could finally get up in the air.

The three months of a Corpus Christi winter is notorious for cloudy skies and cancelled flights.

We were sent up in pairs to avoid congestion in the pattern and I was in the last two to fly.

As I was extended upwind on my last pattern I knew I would be last to land.

I was greeted and congratulated by my peers, who had also just finished solo-ing.

I have been blessed by getting to train in the best squadron, VT-28, by wonderful instructors, and getting to be a part of Naval History at the same time.

Thank you to everybody who has helped me reach this first milestone in my career, particularly my parents David and Sheri Glavin.

Respectfully,

Carli Glavin

ENS USN



Ensign Carli Glavin displays the tie cut by her ‘on wing’ instructor, Lt. Kathleen Robinson. Navy tradition is to cut a tie on a student pilot after he or she makes the first solo flight of their training, representing that they have ‘cut the tie’ to the instructor.



The last student pilots to make their first solo flight in the T-34C, flown on Dec. 16, 2014. From left to right: Ensign R. Stambaugh, Ensign J. Eckenroth, Ensign C.

Glavin, Ensign J. Tewell, 1st Lt. W. Martin, Ensign S. Damico. The T-34C is being retired and replaced by the T-6B for Primary Pilot Training.