



WINGSPAN



Happy New Year!

— page 6



Vietnam Air Force vet shares story

— page 9



Fare thee well

— page 11



New Year = New You NHCCC offers assistance

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Public Affairs Office

It's 2016: a new year and the perfect time to start fresh for a new you. Aim for one small change, whether it's eating healthier, exercising more, getting better sleep or quitting tobacco use, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi has tools to help.

NHCCC offers the latest technology and research-based techniques for improving and maintaining physical and emotional health.

"The efforts of promoting a healthy lifestyle and behaviors within our military community and beneficiaries are best

NHCCC career counselor SS1 Amanda Cole begins the New Year with healthy lifestyle habits in the gym Jan. 5 to enhance her state of well-being and quality of life. (Courtesy photo)

reflected by our compliance with the Navy Surgeon General's objectives, covering areas of primary clinical prevention, community health services and staff health," said Dr. Sam Rivera, the head of NHCCC's Wellness Center.

Next to the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Catholic Chapel, the center is located on the first floor across from the pharmacy. Its staff offers a variety of resources and classes for individuals and groups aimed at improving the health of active duty, retirees and family members.

Lifestyle changes don't have to be huge to be effective. Small changes, over time, can have a great, positive impact.

For weight management, Ship Shape is an eight-session action-oriented weight management program that reflects the current state of

see NHCCC on page 7

Former Sailor continues to serve ... as Chief of Corpus Christi Police Department

By Eric Lobsinger
NASCC Public Affairs Office

Recently selected as the Chief of the Corpus Christi Police Department, he could not have fathomed the path his life would take when he enlisted in the Navy more than three decades ago.

For Michael Markle, his path in public service, first through the Navy, and later with the police force, was one that was established early.

"I knew all of my life that when I got out of high school, I would be in the Navy," said Markle, in remembering his path of service. "There was never a second thought – I would be in the military."

Born in Williamsburg, Penn., he grew up in Galeton, which he calls a pretty little town up in the mountains.

Joining the military services just seemed natural calling for his family. Both his dad and his stepdad retired from the Navy. One of six children, he is the youngest son. All, except for the youngest sister, served in the military. Two of his brothers retired from the Navy, and a brother and a sister both served in the Army.

He is married to his wife, Debbie, whom he said is wonderful.

"We're joined at the hip," he said with a smile. "I'm happy I have a spouse who is not only supportive, she's participative. She likes to go to events, and she likes to talk to people."

Upon graduation from high school, he said he knew where his next step in life would lead.

"When we were 18, my parents took us to the recruiters – and we just chose the branch," he said with a chuckle. "That's just the way it was."

His stepdad moved the family up to Naval Air Station Brunswick, Maine, where he would eventually retire from active duty.

Markle joined the Navy at the age of 18 and went to boot camp at Naval Station Great Lakes with follow-on training there to become a corpsman. He then served the next four years, 1984-1988, on the East Coast before completing his tour as a petty officer third class at Norfolk, Va.

He said his time with the military was important, for



Police Chief Michael Markle

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Wingspan



NASCC Facebook page



75th Anniversary Facebook page

see FORMER SAILOR on page 4

Command Master Chief's Column



CMDCM(SW)
Jeffery Tidwell

Howdy! Happy New Year! I hope your 2016 brings you nothing but good things.

With the New Year, comes those resolutions, and hopefully one of yours is physical fitness.

As of Jan. 1, three sweeping changes to the way the Navy is going to conduct the Body Composition Assessment portion took effect.

The good news: Sailors who were experiencing physical fitness assessment problems received a temporary reprieve. The bad

news: instead of three failures in four years, it's now two in three years and you will be administratively separated. Sailors who had previous failures were all reset to one failure; however, they all remain in jeopardy of going home until that failure drops off after three years.

The other major change was body fat percentages. Body fat limits were replaced with four new groups. Men ages 18-21 will stay at the previous maximum of 22 percent body fat; those in ages 22-29 are allowed up to 23 percent body fat; it is now 24 percent for those between ages 30-39, and up to 26 percent for those 40 years and older. For women, it's 33 percent for those in ages 18-21; 34 percent for ages 22-29; 35 percent for ages 30-39, and 36 percent those 40 years and older.

The third change affects the way that the body composition assessment will be calculated. Sailors who don't meet the standard height and weight measurements will first

get a waist-only tape test, which maxes out at 39 inches for men and 35.5 inches for women. Pass that and you're good. But if you don't pass that, there will be one final step, the existing "rope and choke" tape test that measures the neck and waist (plus hips for women), then calculates the measurements to a body fat percentage. For those over the Defense Department's maximum of 26 percent for men and 36 percent for women, it's a PFA failure.

Serving in the United States military is a privilege that should not be taken for granted. We have shifted over the last few years to try and create a culture of fitness. We should always be prepared to go into harm's way and perform to our maximum potential.

Physical fitness is at the forefront of performing well. We are getting paid to PT three times a week. We are provided an opportunity to PT three times a week. So, in short: "No Excuses." Remember, we are solely responsible for our careers.

Chaplain's Message



Firing on all cylinders

Lt. Cmdr. Stephen
Warne
Command Chaplain

Have you ever wondered where the saying "firing on all cylinders" comes from?

It is an idiom used to describe an engine that is performing at its maximum potential. Over the years, I have come to value the strength of teamwork and appreciate a fully staffed office.

Understanding how each person contributes significance to the team is a critical element to the overall success of the mission.

I am reminded of an occasion in high school shop class while 'tuning up' a friend's truck engine. Unbeknownst to him, we would unplug a sparkplug wire of his 8-cylinder truck engine and plug the rubber boot back on the spark plug without connecting the wire.

To an unsuspecting person, there would be no explainable reason for the sputtering and misfiring that would occur when cranking the engine. We would continue "tuning" the engine until we had unplugged as many sparkplug wires as possible without completely disabling the engine. It would result in one of the most horrendous sounding engines. Of course, we would correct our shenanigans by the end of class, as it was all in good fun.

As I can attest that it is essential for an engine to fire on all cylinders, and I am excited to share with you that the Chaplain Department on board Naval Air Station Corpus Christi is fully staffed and firing on all cylinders.

Our most recent addition is RP1 Michael Clayton. Our newest addition and lead petty officer of the department hails from Atlanta, is married and has two children. He has completed tours at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, and most recently with U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command. RP1 earned a B.S. in business marketing from Fort Valley State University and spent a few

years working in the civilian sector before enlisting in the Navy.

He is a top performer and will make an excellent addition to the religious ministry team. Please make him feel welcome to our South Texas family.

As always, the NASCC's chaplain department stands ready to assist you with any religious or spiritual need as well as any other concern in life. May God richly bless you this New Year as you seek to be the person He has called you to be.

Worship Services

CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Catholic Chapel

Daily Mass Mon-Thurs & 1st Fri: 11:30 a.m.
Sunday Mass: 9 & 11 a.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Protestant Chapel

Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

JEWISH WORSHIP SERVICE

Congregation Beth Israel, 4402 Saratoga Blvd.
For worship service times, call 857-8181

ISLAMIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Islamic Society of South Texas, 7341 McArdle Rd.
For worship service times, call 992-8550.

Corpus Christi upcoming events

Weekly Birding Tours.

Various days at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, South end of Ross Avenue, Port Aransas. Weekly guided birding tours are offered free of charge on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and the species of birds visible in this large open area depend on the season. Free.

Winter Walking Tour.

Jan. 15, 3 p.m., at Port Aransas Nature Preserve at Charlie's, 1300 Port St., Port Aransas. Mission-Aransas Reserve in collaboration with the City of Port Aransas

Parks & Recreation Department offer 1-hour, 2-mile nature walks in the Nature Preserve at Charlie's at the end of Port Street. Free

Corpus Christi Home & Garden Show.

Jan. 15-17 at American Bank Center, 1901 North Shoreline, Corpus Christi. The Home & Garden Show is a premier event in hand, machine and garden tools industry.

Port Aransas Home Tour.

Jan. 30, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at Port Aransas Community Center, 408 N. Alister St.,

Port Aransas. From gated communities to architecture forward homes, from beach properties to cottages and condos, you will visit homes showing off island living at its best exemplifying life at the beach.

Passing Down a Legacy of Women in Military Aviation.

Feb. 18, 6-9 p.m., at USS Lexington Museum, 2914 N Shoreline Boulevard, Corpus Christi. a special event celebrating over 70 years of Women in Military Aviation. Cost is \$50.

Wingspan

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The *Wingspan* is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Navy, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, or *The Port Lavaca Wave*, of the products and services advertised herein.

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Comments, letters, or suggestions should be sent via e-mail to: nascc-pao@navy.mil.

To advertise in the *Wingspan*, contact *The Port Lavaca Wave* at afrench@plwave.com or (361) 746-4341.

Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer

Fifi Kieschnick
Public Affairs Officer

Eric Lobsinger
Editor



This paper is published for people like Tinamarie Arguellez, a new arrival to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi who will be working in airfield management. She recently moved from Sumter, S.C., along with her son, after serving 10 years with the Air Force.

Navy installations to conduct Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2016

Navy Installations Command and U.S. Fleet Forces Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) – Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF) and Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) will conduct Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2016 (SC/CS16) Feb. 1-12 on Navy installations located in the continental United States.

This annual anti-terrorism force protection (ATFP) exercise is designed to train Navy security forces to respond to threats to installations and units.

“Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2016 provides the means by which USFF and CNIC assess Navy anti-terrorism program command and control capabilities, and the readiness and effectiveness of fleet and region program execution throughout the U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility,” said William Clark, CNIC’s exercise program manager. “Exercise scenarios are based on our assessment of terrorist/homegrown violent extremist objectives, capabilities and current real-world events.”

Exercise SC/CS16 is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly scheduled exercise. The exercise consists of approximately 300 field-training exercise events on and off Navy installations across the country, each designed to test different regional ATFP operations. The exercise’s scenarios enable assessment of the Navy and ci-

vilian law enforcement’s response to attacks both on installations and at soft targets off-installation.

Exercise coordinators have taken measures to minimize disruptions to normal base operations, but there may be times when the exercise causes increased traffic around bases or delays in base access. Residents near bases may also see increased security activity associated with the exercise. Base personnel should register for the AtHoc wide-area alert network to stay up to date on force protection conditions and other emergency, environmental, or exercise-related impacts on the area.

CNIC is responsible for providing support services for the Fleet, Fighter and Family with more than 52,000 military and civilian personnel under 11 Regions and 70 installa-



MA2 Shane Miles communicates with MA Ryan Young as they clear a passageway during an active shooter exercise at Naval Air Station Fallon during the Navywide force protection exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2015. (Photo by MC1 Joseph R. Vincent)

tions worldwide.

USFF executes the Navy AT Program in the United States to prevent, deter and defend against terrorist attacks on Department of the Navy (DoN) personnel, their families, facilities, resources, installations, and infrastructure critical to DoN mission accomplishment.

For more information about Navy shore installations visit <http://www.cnic.navy.mil>.

NASCC celebrating its 75th anniversary

NASCC Public Affairs Office

NAS Corpus Christi is celebrating its 75th anniversary with several events leading up to a culminating event on March 12, which will include an official ceremony, flyover, static displays, tours, concert and fireworks.

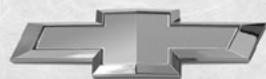
Morale, Welfare and Recreation personnel are putting together sports days Wednesday and Thursday, March 9 and 10. A golf tournament is scheduled for Friday morning, March 11. And, the South Texas Navy Historical Committee is planning a 1940s-themed gala Friday evening. The official ceremony will be held Saturday morning, March 12, beginning at 11 a.m. – 75 years to the minute that the commissioning ceremony was held.

Following the ceremony, the festivities will continue with static displays, tours, entertainment, concert and fireworks.

Sunday morning, a non-denominational church service will be held at the Protestant Chapel, followed by breakfast at the Catalina Club.

The base is also home to the Chief of Naval Air Training, the Corpus Christi Army Depot, the aviation component of Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi, and dozens of other tenant organizations. More than 12,800 service members, civilian employees, contractors and family members, live, work and play aboard the air station.

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Upcoming Community Events

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.

FORMER SAILOR from page 1

him, because it helps provide guidance and discipline for young men and women

"I think serving in the military helps everybody," he said. "That's a personal belief. You get out of high school, and we're all just big bags of potential. If you do a short time in the military, it helps you to be disciplined; it helps with your focus."

And, he added, it can help young people who can use some direction to figure out what they want to do with their lives.

"It helped me tremendously – and so did the [police] academy and my growth through the police department.

When it came time to leave the service, he chose Corpus Christi as his exit destination. Although he said he didn't know much about the city, he heard from others that "they had good fishing, and it's a quiet community," he said with a chuckle.

Upon arriving at Corpus Christi, he was able to take advantage of his Navy training as a corpsman to gain employment working in the trauma center at Memorial Hospital. While working in the "graveyard shift" in the ER, he said he was able to meet several of the city's police officers.

"The police officers would show up there every night ... and I thought to myself, 'you know, I would enjoy working with these folks.'"

He said he watched how the police officers interacted, and what they spoke of, and

that he felt a similar bond to what he felt in the military – the feeling of esprit de corps and camaraderie, the collective thought, drive and goals to accomplish – and he was comfortable with them.

"Growing up, I didn't picture myself being a police officer," he said. "For me, it was after I began interacting with the officers here in Corpus Christi. So when I met these officers and started getting to know them – I knew I wanted to be part of that group. They watch out for each other."

After successfully passing all of the preliminary testing and requirements, he returned back to the training environment, albeit this time at the police academy. He "hit the streets" upon his graduation and spent the next 16 years as an officer in various assignments before being promoted to lieutenant in 2006.

Perhaps the greatest irony for Markle is how his past, and current, service to nation have coalesced in that he appreciates the close ties the city of Corpus Christi has with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

"We have a great relationship with the military base here," he said, "We are good, strong partners with the naval air station, and we have enjoyed many years of working together."

The base and the city work together on a number of issues important to both communities, such as fire services, emergency

services, EOD, medical care, to name but a few of the strong ties and mutual concerns.

He said is very pleased to have been able to serve as a military service member and as a police officer in that both venues provide an opportunity to provide public service.

However, he said there is one thing that still bothers him from time to time.

"I do have one regret – and that is that I did not stay in the Reserves," said Markle. "You get a little older and you think, 'my goodness, I could have stayed in the Reserves.' To be able to spend a career in the military, that's an honorable thing. I have friends my age who didn't join the military and their regret is that they never joined the military."

However, one could argue he certainly made the right decision for the community as he now leads what is considered a mid-sized police department, staffed by 439 police officers. When you include the civilian employees, the number total staff is closer to 700 personnel.

Their mission can seem daunting as they provide service over a geographic area spanning roughly three miles wide and 50 miles long.

"That's some challenges for policing. We're not a bedroom community, we're a city. I jokingly call us the 'Largest Mayberry in the country,'" he quipped, "because as large as we are, everybody seems to know each other."



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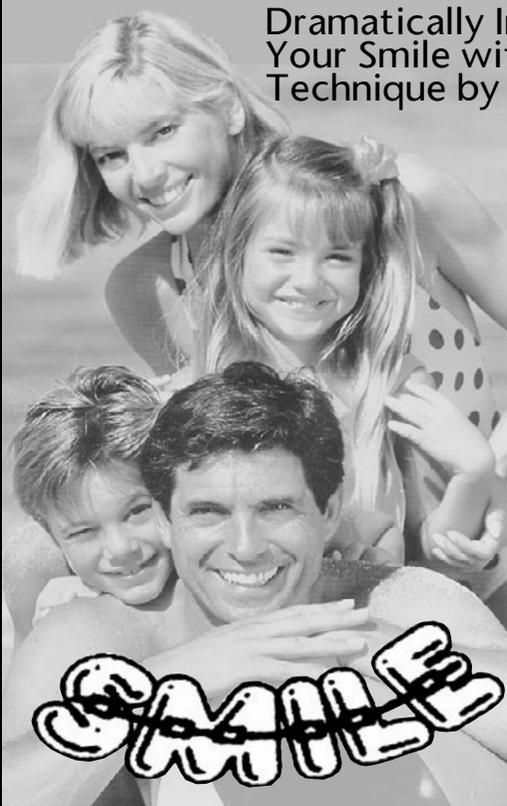
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Congratulations to DC2(SW) Antonio Garza, who was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for his efforts while serving on the NASCC Emergency Management staff from January 2013 to 2016. Garza maintained event logs, nine critical computers and equipment set up for training exercises and emergencies, which ensured the success of the Emergency Management team. Garza, a native of San Antonio, was also a member of the Auxiliary Security Force, maintaining a safe and secure working environment for an installation population of 10,000 personnel.

Congratulations to MA2(SW) Robert Hampton, who was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for his efforts while serving as patrolman, NASCC Security Department, from December 2012 to January 2016. Hampton served as a commercial vehicle inspection petty-officer-in-charge where he performed more than 3,500 thorough commercial vehicle inspections. Hampton, a native of Oxnard, Calif., also completed 67 incident complaint reports, 112 armed forces traffic tickets, more than 2,500 hours of flightline security checks and more than 200 random anti-terrorism measures.

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Happy New Year!



NASCC welcomes New Year – Naval Air Station Corpus Christi rang in the New Year during a New Year's Eve party at NASCC's Catalina Club. Charlene Polk, Sharon Lima and Barbie Baker show off their holiday headgear (above). Meanwhile, players hit the game tables (below and right) and place their bets with game chips at the no-cash casino style tables. The night's festivities included a live performance by The Azul Experience in addition to heavy hors d'oeuvres, breakfast, dancing, no-cash casino style fun, door prizes and party favors. (Photos by Laurie Garcia, MWR)



5 things you need to know about Navy eLearning

Sea Warrior Program (PMW 240)
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) – Since 2001, Sailors have depended on Navy e-Learning (NeL) to help advance their careers and stay current with training requirements, but many Sailors don't know they can access NeL directly without going through any other portals or gateways.

The following "5 Things to Know" provides an easier and more efficient NeL user experience:

1) It's huge and always available. NeL is one of the largest distance learning environments in the world and provides on-demand access to 9,000 Web-delivered courses available 24/7 to military, civilians, contractors, dependents, and retirees.

2) Direct access. Learners should access Navy e-Learning directly via <https://www.aas.prod.nel.training.navy.mil>.

3) Prevent issues with a configuration and plug-in check. E-Learning users should perform the browser configuration before doing courses. Many course-related challenges can be avoided entirely if the configuration and plug-in check is done in advance, you can find out how to do this on the e-Learning help section. (https://www.lms.prod.nel.training.navy.mil/help/lmsfiles/browser_config.html)

4) Search by keyword. For best results in locating a course, you can search using a single key word from the title of the course. For example, to locate the Records Management course, simply search on the key word "Records."

5) You can do your training while afloat. There is an afloat version of NeL for shipboard personnel. A subset of NeL training content is available on a local ship server so Sailors do not need Internet access to take training.

Course completion data is sent to Electronic Training Jackets on a regular basis. NeL logged 291,000 shipboard course completions in FY 2015.

For more news from PEO for Enterprise Information Systems Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/peois/.



Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi's CMDCM Rikki L. Brown (foreground) and SH1 Amanda Cole, NHCCC career counselor, begin the New Year with healthy lifestyle habits in the gym Jan. 5, 2016, to enhance their state of well-being and quality of life. (Courtesy photo)

NHCCC from page 1

knowledge on weight loss. The program presents a healthy and permanent approach to weight loss and is designed for all adults who are overweight. It is specifically designed to assist active duty members in meeting DON body composition standards.

Participants practice techniques for healthy eating, goal setting, dealing with emotional and social situations, problem-solving, and long-term behavior change.

For smokers who are ready to quit tobacco products but are not sure how to do it, the Wellness Center offers a monthly tobacco cessation class. It will provide you with the skills, knowledge and strategies to assist you in reaching your goal of becoming tobacco free. The tobacco cessation class and brief focuses on developing a plan; putting the plan into action; mastering obstacles such as nutrition and weight management; and staying tobacco free and medication use.

Health Promotion is a process of "prevention" that begins when you seek to help yourself by developing and acquiring healthy lifestyle habits that enhances your state of well-being and quality of life. The Wellness Center is committed to this process through assisting all eligible beneficiaries in acquiring information, counseling and education on health topics, thru seminars, lectures, health fairs and individual appointments.

The Health Promotion program also provides the base commands with a "Wellness To Go" program that facilitates healthy lifestyle changes by promoting individual responsibility for achieving and maintaining optimal health. Our goal is to reduce illness and promote wellness by educating and counseling individuals in the areas of:

- Nutrition and cholesterol control
- Ship Shape Course
- Tobacco cessation
- Back injury prevention
- Stress management
- High blood pressure and control
- Physical fitness and health

The Relaxation room is also available in the Wellness Center. It provides an optimal stress free environment (30 minutes session) for disease prevention and management through conservative stress management interventions. Music, ambient lighting and aromatherapy will help to soothe the senses while you enjoy a Shiatsu back massage from our massage chair. No appointments required.

"It makes it all worthwhile when you can measure lifestyle behaviors that are commonly associated with adverse outcomes and get positive results such as a reduction in tobacco use, better eating habits by reducing fatty food consumption or an increase in exercise thus reducing the sedentary lifestyle," Rivera said.

Here are some tips for a healthier you in 2016:

- Make healthy food choices. Emphasize fruits, vegetables and whole grains; stay within daily calorie needs; and drink water (at least eight glasses daily).
- Be active for at least two and a half hours each week. Physical activity helps improve overall health and fitness, and reduces risk for many chronic diseases.
- Be smoke-free.
- Get enough sleep. It's a necessity, not a luxury. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, adults need seven to eight hours of sleep every night; teens need nine-10 hours; and school-aged children need at least 10 hours.

To get started, call NHCCC's Wellness Center at (361) 961-3190, or stop by or even talk to your primary care manager. Learn more from Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center at <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/health-promotion/Pages/default.aspx>.

Make 2016 the healthiest year yet. NHCCC is standing by to help.

City of Corpus Christi visits Yokosuka for final ports of call

By MC2 Brian Reynolds, Submarine Group 7 Public Affairs, and Lt. Jonathan MacDurmon, USS City of Corpus Christi Public Affairs

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) – Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) arrived at Fleet Activities Yokosuka Jan. 11 as part of its Indo-Asia-Pacific deployment.

City of Corpus Christi has conducted a multitude of missions and maintains proficiency in the latest capabilities of the submarine fleet.

“Every Westpac (Western Pacific) submariner expects to come here at some point during their time in the theater, and it is always a much anticipated visit,” said Cmdr. Travis Petzoldt, commanding officer.

“It is great to meet the hardworking staff of Submarine Group 7 and thank them for their outstanding support during our deployment,” Travis said.

“Further, I know we will also receive a very warm and sincere welcome from our friends and allies in the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force.”

This visit will be the final foreign port visit for City of Corpus Christi as the boat wraps up its final deployment.

“This port is a first for many of the men on my crew and I know they are in for a real treat!” said Master Chief Machinist Mate



The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) transits Tokyo Bay Jan. 11 before arriving at Fleet Activities Yokosuka. City of Corpus Christi is visiting Yokosuka as a part of a scheduled port visit. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Brian G. Reynolds)

Richard Magee, chief of the boat. “We have been out doing important work since our last visit and we are ready for a much needed break.”

Many crew members were excited to experience the rich Japanese culture and cuisine.

“What I’m looking forward to most

in Japan is the food,” said Lt. j.g. Marcus Rebersak.

Measuring more than 300 feet long and weighing more than 6,000 tons, City of Corpus Christi is one of the stealthiest submarines in the world. This submarine is capable of supporting a multitude of missions, including anti-submarine warfare,

anti-surface ship warfare, strike, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Commissioned in 1983, City of Corpus Christi has a long standing tradition of excellence and achievement. Its crew is highly trained and capable of supporting the boat through any mission cycle within short notice.

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Vietnam Air Force vet 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

David Sullivan, director for Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. He said he could have never imaged serving his nation for a span encompassing nearly five decades when he joined the Air Force during the Vietnam War era in the mid-1960s.

In both his military and civilian careers, he's also been extremely fortunate in his opportunity to travel through what he calls "interesting" areas of the world.

Nearing his 19th birthday, with the country fully engaged in the Vietnam War and the draft in full swing, he said the writing was on the wall. He could either enlist in the Air Force ... or be drafted into the Army.

The Atlanta native joined the Air Force on his 19th birthday, where he spent the next 26 years before retiring as a senior master sergeant at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla.

The military has been with his family for three generations now. His father served in the Army for a stretch during World War II, and his son recently retired from the Army.

David has two sisters, and he and his wife also have a daughter.

"The military offers so many opportunities," he said, "through educational benefits, travel opportunities and career experience. I never imagined that I would spend 48 years in both the military and in government positions. But, as they say, 'time flies when you're having fun.'"

"I decided the Air Force was for me," he said with a smile.

Most of his career was spent in aircraft maintenance. After basic training, he went to school for aircraft maintenance to work on C-130s and then on to England AFB in Alexandria, La., where he served as a crew chief on C-123s.

From there, he embarked on his first overseas travel – to Thailand – where he would find himself, back and forth, for five years from 1968 to 1974. In his first stint, he served at Udorn, the largest city in northern Thailand, at the Royal Thai Air Force Base, as a crew chief on C-47 aircraft. The base was located by the border of Laos.

"We used to fly in and out of Vietnam," he said.

The base was home to the 713th Air Force Headquarters and featured the "Jolly Greens," which were large search and rescue helicopters. Part of the base flight mission included flying troops back and forth between Vietnam and Thailand as well as throughout Thailand, from Udorn down to Bangkok.

"We worked six days a week, 12-hour shifts," he recalled. "It was fun."

Although he enjoyed the mission, he said there were also harrowing moments as well,



David Sullivan.

such as flying in and out of Da Nang, Vietnam.

He returned stateside for assignment at Kelly AFB, Texas, providing depot-level maintenance with B-52s. His stay was brief however as he deployed back to Thailand for six months, working on C-28 aircraft.

His next assignment took him to Robbins AFB, Ga., where he performed "transit" maintenance before returning to Thailand to provide maintenance for T-28 aircraft in the Training Logistics Division in the "infamous" Air America compound, where the mission was to train Laotian and Cambodian pilots.

Next he headed to Barksdale AFB, La., to work as a crew chief on KC-135s. The unit was part of "Operation Linebacker," which was the first continuous bombing effort conducted against North Vietnam after the conclusion of Operation Rolling Thunder in November 1968.

His travels next took him to Guam with B-52s, then to Taiwan and ultimately back to Thailand, where his unit provided in-flight tanker support to F-4 aircraft returning stateside.

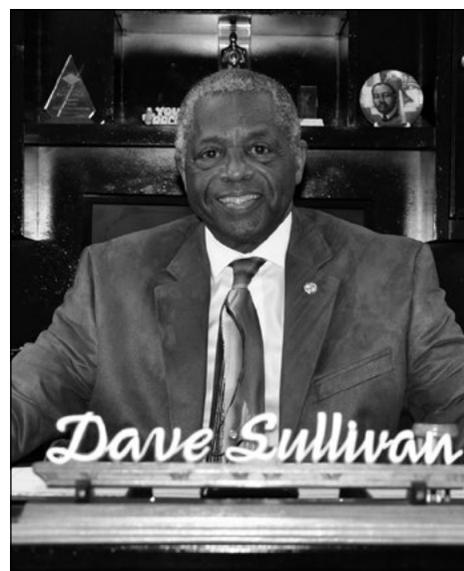
Working with Air America was what he called "interesting times" that involved duty at Laung Pabang, Laos, as an advisor to the Royal Lao Air Force.

"We had an array of aircraft," he said. "It was fantastic. I travelled in civilian clothes. At the time it was a classified location."

In flying with "Air America," he said the aircraft had no markings to identify them. His crew flew back and forth between Laos and Thailand.

"You got to go and do some 'spooky' things there," he said, in recalling one particularly harrowing event. "I was catching a ride from Laos back to Udorn and the pilot told me 'we've got to make a stop on the way.' We were probably up in the air for about 30 minutes, and we were coming in for a landing on this little strip."

As the craft landed, he said the loadmaster opened the doors as the pilot turned the plane around and began revving the engines for takeoff – and began moving forward as seven Laotian commandos sprinted from the tree line



toward the waiting plane.

"By that time, here come the bad guys," he said. "They were waiting for (the commandos) to come out from their hiding area. They knew they were there but didn't know where until the plane came in – so we did an assault take-off."

Perhaps the scariest realization for him was in the fact that no one officially knew they were there so if the aircraft was shot down. There was nothing on him that would associate him with the Air Force.

Next he headed back stateside for recruiter school before heading to Athens, Ga., in 1974 as a recruiter. The assignment brought some of its own interesting moments.

"I was the first African-American recruiter in northern Georgia," he said. "I will never forget my supervisor telling me 'if you have any problems, you need to try to make it back to your car,'" he chuckled, adding that it was one of the best assignments he had in his military career.

Next he was back in aircraft maintenance at Shaw AFB in Sumter, S.C. While there, he also volunteered to run the base advisory council, which provided an opportunity for base personnel to raise issues or concerns on quality of life issues, such as new stop lights, washers/dryers, etc.

His next assignment brought him to Panama, working in aircraft maintenance – and again as a volunteer running the base advisory council.

After Panama, he returned to Shaw AFB where his career would take yet another turn after he worked on a couple of projects with Tops in Blue entertainment as a project officer. The director talked to him about coming aboard to provide assistance for the Air Force-wide talent contest. He next found himself on temporary duty at Randolph AFB, working with Air Force entertainment.

Providing support as the Tops in Blue touring performance ensemble performed at halftime during Super bowl XIX halftime show in 1985 at Stanford Stadium in Stanford, Calif.,

was a great experience, he said.

He would also serve at Randolph AFB with Air Force entertainment, where he reclassified into the Morale Welfare and Recreation, Air Force specialty code. In 1988, he moved on to serve as the superintendent at Okuma Joint Services Recreation Facility in Okinawa, Japan, before heading back to MacDill AFB to become one of the Desert Shield entertainments coordinators.

The highlight of the assignment, he said, was working with, and escorting, Bob Hope during his shows during Operation Desert Shield.

"I worked on the coordination for the last show that Bob Hope did for the military," he said, adding that his mission including accompanying Bob Hope out on the road. "He was a great person to work with – very unassuming.

"We were 60 clicks from Kuwait in the middle of nowhere, and we flew him out on helicopter. They pulled a truck up in the middle of nowhere and brought all of these Marines – and he did the show for them in the middle of the desert."

Having first seen Bob perform in Thailand in 1968, he said it was great to see him still performing for the troops three decades later.

"When they would meet Bob Hope, you could just see the excitement ... the enlightenment ... you're looking – you're meeting a living legend."

From there, he would return to MacDill AFB to serve as the superintendent for MWR Squadron before transitioning to the Readiness and Force Management (in Services) flight chief for Services, which replaced MWR in the Air Force.

After retiring, he dabbled in real estate before getting back into a variety of positions with government service, to include non-appropriated fund and contractor positions, at Canyon Lake Recreation Area in Texas; as air force entertainment coordinator at Randolph AFB; as the first civilian air force director with the 497th Combat Training Squadron in Singapore; and then as a community support flight chief in Korea, before returning back stateside to run the MWR in Diego Garcia. He said he went to Diego Garcia for a 12-month assignment and ended up staying until May 2007.

Then, in July 2007, he agreed to come provide temporarily fill in as the MWR director at NASCC for four months ... where he still works to this day.

If there is anything he can share with today's service members, he said it is the importance of taking advantage of all of the opportunities that the military has to offer, to include the educational benefits, and the travel opportunities.

"Do as much as you can do, he implored. "All of the things I did were because I wanted to do them – not because I was required to do them. It made it fun for me – what interesting times ... what interesting places and what interesting opportunities."

News Briefs

On-base housing available for DoD civilians and retired military

DoD civilians and retired military – looking for a new place to call home in a gated military community? Need a garage and a fenced back yard? Hoping to find a community that accepts large pets? Well look no further..... South Texas Military Housing is the answer to all your wants and needs. Immediate move-in on select units, which feature: spacious 2-,3- and 4-bedrooms; pet friendly–no size/breed restrictions; market-competitive rents; gated community patrolled by base security; below-market security deposits; five minutes to Texas A&M; \$0 deposit for utilities; minutes to beaches and downtown area (connected at move-in); 24-hour emergency maintenance; washer/dryer connections; individual fenced back yard; walk-in closets; attached garage with storage and work bench; and convenient to base facilities such as the Navy Exchange, Commissary, childcare, gym/fitness center, bayside pool, golf course, marina, dog park and only minutes from work. Occupancy does not guarantee access to all facilities. For more information, stop by the Housing Welcome Center, Bldg. 3600 (corner of Dimmit and Ave. E) or call the Navy Housing Office at (361) 961-3337/1704/2869/1702 or South Texas Military Housing Office at (361) 937-0190.

Seeking volunteers to assist with drill meet

W.B. Ray NJROTC is looking for active-duty and Reserve military volunteers – officers or enlisted – to serve as judges at the Coastal Bend Classic Drill Meet on Jan. 30 at W.B. Ray High School. There will be 18 Navy and Marine Corps JROTC units from across the state, and the meet is a qualifier for the Texas State NJROTC Drill Championship Meet in College Station in February. For more information, contact retired Cmdr. Bill Hughen at 361 878-7300, ext. 21858, or bill.hughen@ccisd.us.

State inspections at the Auto Skills Center

The Auto Skills Center, located in bldg. 1713, is performing Texas State Inspections during the following times: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Fridays, 1-6:30 p.m. For more information, call the Auto Skills Center at 961-3470.

CREDO marriage enrichment retreat available

Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Outreach Southeast will host a marriage enrichment retreat Feb. 12-14 at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi. All expenses are paid. Participants must provide their own transportation to and from retreat site.

The event is open to 15 couples per retreat so register now. Registration closes Jan. 29. To register, or for more information, contact Steven Arndt at steven.k.arndt.ctr@navy.mil or call 961-3786 or 961-5011.

Bowl free for reading

MWR is sponsoring “Bowled Over by Books” through January; check out, read and return a book from the Library to receive a bookmark with a free game of bowling at Lighthouse Lanes Bowling Center. Participants receiving 10 bookmarks by reading 10 books will receive a certificate to a bowling party for up to six bowlers for one hour at the Lighthouse Lanes Bowling Center. For more information, contact the Library & Resource Center at 961-3574.

New ITT hours

Beginning Jan. 4, the ITT office, located in Bldg. 1757, will be open Mondays-Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. For more information, contact the ITT office at 961-3961.

Captain's Cup Basketball League registration

Registration is underway for the 2016 Captain's Cup Basketball League. Registration deadline 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 http://www.cn.c.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas_corpus_christi/ffr/support_services/families/child_and_youth_programs.html.

New CHINFO apps available

CHINFO has some new apps on the street and are available for download. One new app is called “New to the Navy” and provides answers to common questions. It is available on all mobile platforms via their respective application stores: Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/new-to-the-navy/id1039873883?mt=8> or Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tracen.newtothenavyguide&hl=en>. For more information about Pay and Personnel Support visit www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/paypers/Pages/default2.aspx.

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Please contact Rachelle for more information 361-728-6412

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Fare thee well – Naval Air Station Corpus Christi bid farewell to Station Chief Keith Young during his retirement ceremony at the Fire Station Dec. 17. Joined by his wife, Patty (above), his children, Amanda Rangel, and Lauren and Thomas Young (right). Keith entered federal service April 1, 1991 and earned honors as the NASCC Civilian of the Year in 2010. (Photos by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)

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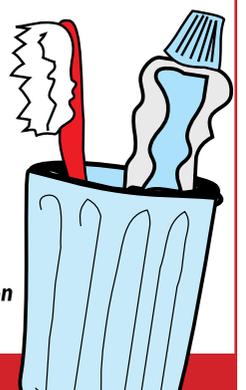
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