



# WINGSPAN

2015 Russell Egnor Navy Media Award winning newspaper



Vol. 22, No. 16

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

August 11, 2016



**Fun boss says farewell**

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**Naval Aviation History**

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**Former CCAD Sgt. Major visits**

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Top: Entries line up for the Titanic Cup Race held as part of the annual Navy Regatta held the first weekend in August at NAS Corpus Christi. These six vessels are made with anything but boat or aircraft parts and must cost less than \$75. Entries pictured represent Navy Munitions Command, Defense Logistics Agency, NASCC Admin Department,

NASCC Security, NASCC Ground Electronics and Chief Petty Officer Selectees. Bottom: Capt. Steve Banta, along with other military members, sail toward the finish line during the Military Cup Challenge in the Corpus Christi Marina on their host sail boat.

## 54th Annual Navy Regatta, Titanic Cup set sail for pride, trophies

By Fifi Kieschnick  
NASCC PAO

Bragging rights were on the line and the competition was fierce for this year's Titanic Cup.

Dave Gwartney, equipment program manager with Defense Logistics Agency, said that he had a 10-person crew come up with ideas. They put the best designs together for their vessel, USS Rich Champion, named for Col. Brian Richie and his first mate Robin Champion. Their efforts yielded them second place in this year's race. But, they are already looking at ways to improve their design, according to one of the crew members.

First place for this year's competition went to Security's MACS Lewis Thorp with a vessel that the wind carried away and away and away. The vessel sailed past the finish line and kept on going. A motor boat tied up to the pier for the Regatta gave chase and "retrieved" Thorp and his racing craft before they reached the open waters.

Third place went to Ground Electronics' USS Barely Legal, with hull number 17 1/2. It was named for the Sailor who was supposed to be the helmsman. Captain ET2 James Chiasson kept other boats from attacking him as he made his way across the bay with his automatic squirt machine gun that he had affixed near the mast.

Other entries in this year's race included Naval Munitions Command's USS John Finn; NASCC's Building 2; Chief Petty Officer Selectees; and Marine Aviation Training Support Group 22's USS Boat.

The rules of the Titanic cup state that besides the craft floating, it had to be powered by wind. It had to be equipped for towing to the start

see *Regatta on page 7*





## Command Master Chief's Column



CMDCM(SW)  
Jeffery Tidwell

Howdy! It is that time of year again when all newly selected Chief Petty Officers commence their 6 week journey hopefully culminating when they get accepted by the Chief Petty Officer Mess. Every year the CPO's Mess must go through the essential process of transforming those newly selected into Chief Petty Officers. This

annual process, known as Phase II of the year-long CPO 365 Program, is also a source of renewal for the CPO Mess. It is the process where the Navy takes the finest First Class Petty Officers and through developing, training, guiding and testing, brings them into the CPO mess. So since it is

that time of the year, I thought I would touch on some history about the Chief Petty Officer rating.

The first use of the term "Chief" was on June 1, 1776 but it wasn't until 1893 that the Navy established the pay grade of Chief Petty Officer. Even in the earliest reference to the term "Chief Petty Officer," a heightened sense of responsibility and trust was expected of the individuals who held the title. They have earned this trust by their sense of good values and demonstration of sound leadership.

The original rating badge had three chevrons, an eagle and three arcs (rockers). It was the basis for today's CPO chevron, which has a single rocker and became official in 1894. The fouled anchor was first used as a cap device with the Chief Petty Officer uniform in 1905 and became an official part of the CPO uniform as a collar device in 1959.

In 1917, the first female Chief was sworn into the U.S. Navy as a yeoman.

Formal structuring of the pay grades occurred in 1920. Instead of being paid by job description, the grades were established by rank from Seaman Apprentice to Chief Petty Officer. The pay grades of E-8 and E-9, Senior Chief and Master Chief Petty

Officer, were created in 1958. The position of Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) was created in 1967 and Master Chief Gunners' Mate Delbert D. Black was selected as the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

Chief Petty Officers are the caretakers of the Navy's history and traditions. History and traditions play a major role in how Chiefs operate and today's Navy has been shaped by our Chief Petty Officers. They have done this through their honor, courage, and commitment. It is important to have an understanding of the origin of the Chief Petty Officer. Stay safe and enjoy the rest of the summer.

## Chaplain's Message



### Toward a stronger marriage

Father John Vidal

One of the great pleasures of my ministry here at NASCC is working with so many young couples preparing for marriage. If you are one of those couples you will have heard me say over and over again that Love is not something we feel, it's something we do and something we continuously decide to do. In other words, love is not an emotion; it's an action. The word Love is not a noun, it is a verb. So whether you are getting ready to marry or have been married for several years, here are some suggestions that will support and improve your marriage.

1. As you may expect, I'll urge you to pray together. It doesn't have to be a long elaborate prayer, even if it is just grace before dinner, but pray together and if possible hold hands while you do it so that you affirm that you are physically and spiritually together and with God.

2. Tell each other you love each other every day and renew that decision to actually love your spouse that day. Begin and end each day with a kiss. Try as you might, you won't be able to keep those warm and fuzzy feelings going all the time, especially when you have children making serious demands on your time and energy. So remember, your relationship with your spouse comes first and has to be maintained and nurtured. If you want the best for your children, love each other before them as an example. They are always watching and learning.

3. Keep dating each other. Just because

you have kids doesn't mean your social life is over. It is important that you spend time together doing fun things. This can be dinner and a movie or going out with friends. It can even be spending time together playing cards or snuggling up together and listening to music while sipping on a glass of wine. Make sure you interact with each other. This also means vegging out in front of the TV or sitting separately on different computers doesn't count. Your best moments of communication will likely happen when having fun and laughing together.

4. You've heard the term "happy wife, happy life"? Well it's true and it works both ways. Put your spouse first. Ask yourself what would your spouse like? What will make him or her happy? Decide to put his or her happiness above your own. True love is about putting the other first.

5. Keep it simple. Make sure you don't get so busy with activities that your relationship suffers. A floral arrangement sometimes is more beautiful if you take some flowers out. Too many flowers can be overwhelming. In the same way, too many activities can crowd out quality time together.

6. Sit together as a family during at least one meal each day. Mealtime is the best way to enjoy each other's company. Strongly resist the temptation to let your busy schedule derail this goal. Schedule yourself around dinner or your primary family meal.

7. Listen. The saying goes that God gave us two ears and one mouth. Actively listen to each other. Our instinct is to start formulating our answer or statement before the other has completely finished. When you do this, you're putting yourself ahead of your spouse. See #4 above! Oh yeah, He gave you two eyes also. Pay attention to non-verbal's and body language.

8. Be Patient. You each have a story that was forged during the years before you

married. Understand each other's life story. Where healing needs to happen, it can take time; be patient, be persistent and pray for it often!

9. Be Forgiving. Some level of fault is always found on both parties of a conflict. Resolve your conflicts first by admitting your failure (admit wrong), apologizing, asking for forgiveness, granting forgiveness and committing to change.

10. Become One. Marriage is about "two becoming one". This means that you are open and honest with each other. Never lie and always share everything. This means no "his and her money". Discuss your finances honestly together, keep the family budget together and review it often; agree on common priorities and stick to them.

11. Finally, Pray together. Yes that's how I started, but it is so important that I'll end with it as well. Go to church, synagogue, mosque or temple together as a family. Get involved in your congregation's life and develop your faith.

### WORSHIP SERVICES ABOARD NASCC:

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Sunday Mass: 9 & 11 a.m.

**PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE**  
Base Protestant Chapel  
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

## Wingspan

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**Capt. Steve Banta**  
Commanding Officer

**Fifi Kieschnick**  
Public Affairs Officer

**Jason Kucera**  
Editor



Wingspan



NASCC Facebook



This paper is published for people like Lt. Ronaqua Russell, of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi. Russell is an HC-144 pilot, has been stationed here about 1.5 years and is a native of the Virgin Islands..



**Farewell --** Naval Air Station Corpus Christi bid farewell to Dave Sullivan, MWR Director, as he retired from federal service Aug. 5. Sullivan had more than 46 years of service, first as an active duty member of the U.S. Air Force, then as a civilian in the MWR community. He has served as the MWR director aboard NASCC since July 2007. Here, he has served under three commanding officers and four executive officers. Pictured here, Capt. Steve Banta presents Sullivan with a certificate of appreciation for his support of the military and their family members. Fair Winds and Following Seas!



# End - of - Summer Bash

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**Saturday, August 13, 2016**  
**1:00 PM until 6:00 pm**  
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# Wingspan

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## News Briefs

### Housing Available

On-base Public Private Venture housing has a limited number of three and four bedroom homes with move-in dates within the next 30 days.

If you are interested in housing information including prices, sizes and amenities, or to set up an appointment to view a home, call the South Texas Military Housing PPV office at (361)937-0190. The housing office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For information about applying for on-base housing, call the Navy Housing Office at 961-1704, 961-2869 or 961-1702. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Navy Announces Elimination of NWU Type I

WASHINGTON (NNS) --The Navy announced in NAVADMIN 174/16 that it will transition from the Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type I to the NWU Type III as the service's primary shore working uniform beginning Oct. 1, 2016.

Over the next three years, Sailors may wear either the NWU Type I or III, but effective Oct. 1, 2019, all Sailors will be expected to wear the NWU Type III as their primary Working Uniform when ashore or in port.

This change is the first step in a multi-phased process that will streamline and consolidate the Navy's uniform requirements, and ultimately improve uniformity across the force. The

Navy has listened to Sailors' feedback and is incorporating their desires to have a working uniform that is better fitting, more breathable and lighter weight.

Until further policy guidance is promulgated, black boots will be the standard boot worn in the United States and its territories with the NWU Type III. However, expeditionary forces in the United States or any forward deployed forces may wear the desert tan or coyote brown boots at the discretion of the unit commanding officer with the NWU Type III. Additionally, Sailors may wear the NWU Type I black fleece liner.

Sailors will be able to buy NWU Type III components for personal wear through Navy Exchange uniform stores and call centers once there is sufficient inventory on hand.

### Military families can get school supplies

As a part of its annual Back-to-School Brigade, national nonprofit Operation Homefront will distribute hundreds of backpacks and necessary school supplies to local military families of all branches from 9-11 a.m., Aug. 12, at the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Catalina Club. Military families who want the supplies must sign up at [www.operationhomefront.net/event/list](http://www.operationhomefront.net/event/list) by Aug. 10.

### Motorcycle Safety

For Active Duty Personnel refer to OPNAVINST 5100.12 J for training requirements or contact your designated Command Motorcycle Safety

Representative.

Enroll at [www.navymotorcyclerider.com](http://www.navymotorcyclerider.com) or for those who use ESAMS, go to My Links, Classroom Schedule and enroll.

Basic Rider Course

Aug. 18-19

Sept. 10-11

Advanced Rider Course

Aug. 29

Sept. 26

Experienced Rider Course/BRC-2

Sept. 16

If you have questions about the course content, call the instructor Mr. Norm White at 817-845-6174.

### Get Ready for 2016 Life Insurance Open Season

The Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FGLI) Open Season will be held from 1 through September 30, 2016. This is the first FGLI Open Season since 2004. Eligible employees can elect or increase any coverage FGLI offers, including Option C - Family. No medical exam is required and employees are not required to answer any health questions. Elections made during the open season will be effective 1 October 2017. Employees who do not make an election will keep their current life insurance coverage.

The easiest way to make your life insurance election is to use EBIS, a self-service Web application. EBIS allows you to independently make your election without waiting for a

Customer Service Representative.

Employees may direct questions about the FGLI Open Season or accessing EBIS to the Benefits Line at 888-320-2917 from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday – Friday. Employees may also e-mail their questions to [navybenefits@navy.mil](mailto:navybenefits@navy.mil). Employees must include their full name, pay plan, grade, and contact telephone number. Please do not include Privacy Act or other Personally Identifiable Information such as date of birth or Social Security number in your e-mail correspondence.

### Auto Skills Center 961-3470

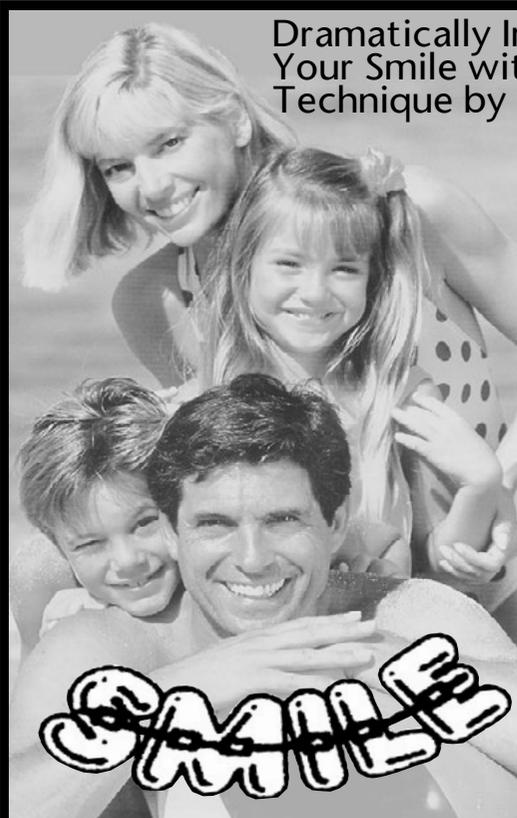
The Auto Skills Center will have adjusted hours and there will be no Texas State Inspections performed Aug. 9-13. The adjusted hours will be 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

### Flight Deck changes hours

Beginning Monday, Aug. 15 the Flight Deck, located in building 149 on D-Street, will have new increased hours of operation.

The new hours of operation will be: Monday through Friday 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday & Holidays Closed

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# Navy Releases New Online Legal Assistance Resources

WASHINGTON (NNS)-- The Naval Legal Service Command recently unveiled new online legal resources for those eligible for military legal assistance.

The new resources at [www.jag.navy.mil](http://www.jag.navy.mil) include legal brochures on legal assistance topics that commonly affect military members and special power of attorney forms.

"A power of attorney is an important and very powerful legal document that allows the person you have named as your legal agent to independently act on your behalf, or exercise your rights concerning finances, your children, your personal property or your real estate," said Kathlene Somerville, deputy division director, Legal Assistance Policy Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General. "Before using one of these documents, you should be aware that the consequences of a poorly-thought-out power of attorney can be personally and financially devastating, especially if you do not select a highly trustworthy and responsible adult as your agent."

These special powers of attorney forms are the same special powers of attorney forms you would normally obtain from the Region Legal Service Office Legal

Assistance Department or your command legal officer.

The new content was created to provide fleet customers with on-demand, 24/7 access to commonly-needed legal information and special powers of attorney forms.

"We want to limit the inconvenience of having to stand in line or drive long distances, or struggle to find base parking spots for a clerk to prepare a special power of attorney when that same form can be drafted in the convenience of your workplace, at home, or in the coffee shop," said Somerville. "However, you must keep in mind that if you choose to prepare one or more of these power of attorney forms, it cannot be used until you have personally signed it in front of a trained and authorized notary public, such as your legal officer or a Region Legal Service Office legal assistance provider."

If you have difficulty understanding any of the forms, or would like to discuss your power of attorney needs with an attorney or a paralegal, you should visit your nearest military legal assistance office.

For more information, visit <http://www.navy.mil>, <http://www.facebook.com/usnavy>, or <http://www.twitter.com/usnavy>.



## Naval Aviation History

### F6F Hellcat

The F6F Hellcat went from the experimental stage to operational employment in less than 18 months. Its combat operations began in August 1943 in an attack on Marcus Island by Fighting Squadron (VF) 5 aboard USS Yorktown (CV 10). Outperforming the famous Japanese A6M Zero, the F6F accounted for 5,156 enemy aircraft destroyed, 75 percent of the Navy's air-to-air victories.



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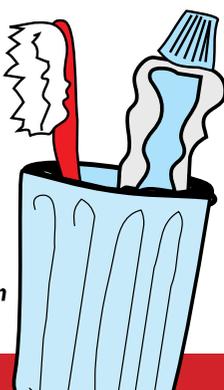
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**Regatta from page 1**

line, which NM did with their craft. The rules also state that the craft must be of unconventional construction with materials costing less than \$75. The craft must be commanded by an officer or mate capable of maintaining good order and discipline among the crew.

All and all, the Sailors got their vessels to stay afloat and travel downwind without sinking other contesting crafts. The dozens of friends, family and coworkers gathered witnessed a healthy competition.

The weekend's Navy Regatta continued with the Military Challenge Cup on Sunday. The craft entered sailed from Sunfish Beach to the finish line adjacent to the Corpus Christi Yacht Club. Military members were at the helm as the yachts race back to Corpus Christi.

The annual event began in 1962, and is made possible because of a partnership with the Corpus Christi Yacht Club, Bay Yacht Club and the military.

Teri Ficken and Robin Dinn, with the CCYC were the Regatta Chairs. Craig Henderson was the race chair.

Lt. Pete Schofield with the U.S. Coast Guard was one of five military members aboard *Passion*, a Santa Cruz 50 owned by Steve Hastings.

"I loved it," Schofield said. "I had a lot

of fun."

At the helm of *Passion* was Ensign Loren Moran, of Training Squadron 28. The Pace, Fla., native said that she has sailed before and comes to the Wednesday evening races that the yacht clubs hold.

**Winners of the Regatta were:**

**150 Class-A**

- (1) **Esperanza II**
- (2) **Brigadoon II**
- (3) **Curandero**

**All Sails-A**

- (1) **Veloce**
- (2) **Paradigm shift**
- (3) **5th Landing**

**All Sails-B**

- (1) **T-Rex**
- (2) **HNL**
- (3) **Stoopid Monkey**

**All Sails-Overall**

- (1) **HNL**





Pictured starting top left clockwise: Capt. Steve Banta presents MACS Lewis Thorp with the 2016 Titanic Cup trophy that will proudly be displayed until next year's challenge.

Ensign Loren Moran, of VT-28, mans the helm of Passion, during the Military Challenge Cup race. The boat is owned by Steve Hastings.

Multi-hull Gimme Samoa makes the final turn leaving the bay for the Corpus Christi marina prior to crossing the finish line. Strong winds kept the competition close, but this was a day for fun just as much.

Regatta participants await on the pier at Sunfish Beach to board the motor boat taking them to their assigned vessel for the race. Each yacht club member racing their sailboat carries several military family members aboard for the day.

Chief Petty Officer Selectees put finishing touches on their vessel as they wait for the start of the Titanic Cup Race which was held as part of the 54th Annual Navy Regatta at NAS Corpus Christi. The event is held the first weekend in August. The vessels participating in the race must be made with anything but boat or aircraft parts and must cost less than \$75.



# Polak retires with 23 years of U.S. Navy service

Lt. Benjamin Polak retired from the U.S. Navy with 23 years of service during a traditional ceremony held July 29. Lt. Cmdr. Chad Hunsucker, air traffic control facilities officer at NAS Oceana, Va., was the guest speaker.

Polak, a native of East Bernard, Texas, entered the Navy in November 1993. After completing boot camp and Navy Air Traffic Control "A" and "C" Schools, he reported on board USS Nassau (LHA 4).

Polak's next tour was aboard NAS Meridian, Miss., where he was selected as a chief petty officer in September 2002. His next duty assignment was with Naval Air Technical Training Center, Pensacola, Fla. In February 2005, he was selected as a Limited Duty Officer and was commissioned an ensign on March 1, 2006.

After completing Officer Indoctrination School, he received orders to Marine Corps Air Facility Kaneohe, Hawaii, where he

served as the air traffic control facility officer and the family readiness officer.

Polak earned a bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in June 2007 and a Master of Aeronautical Science Degree from Embry-Riddle in June 2008.

In April 2009, Polak transferred to USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), followed by reporting to NAS Lemoore, Calif., in July 2011. He reported to NAS Corpus Christi in August 2013 and served as the air traffic control facility officer and community planning liaison officer.

Polak's awards include six Navy Commendation Medals, three Navy Achievement Medals, four Good Conduct Awards and numerous campaign and unit awards.

The Polak's plan to stay in the Corpus Christi area.



Capt. Steve Banta, presents Lt. Benjamin Polak with his certificate of retirement during Polak's retirement ceremony July 29 at NASCC's Protestant Base Chapel.



Sailors and on-lookers render honors to Old Glory prior to Lt. Ben Polak's retirement ceremony begins at the Protestant Chapel on board NASCC.



Newly retired Lt. Polak, escorted by his wife, Stacy, and daughter Sydney, as he is piped ashore one final time.

## What's Happening?

**On-Going**  
Volunteer opportunities via  
Coastal Bend Connection  
[www.cbvc.org](http://www.cbvc.org)

**Wednesdays**  
Downtown Farmers Market,  
5-8 p.m.  
Art Center, free,  
[growlocalstx.com](http://growlocalstx.com)

**Thursdays**  
Bay Jammin' Concert Series  
8-10 p.m. through Aug. 25  
Cole Park Amphitheater  
Live music. Free, (361)  
826-3417

**Fridays**  
Bay Jammin' Cinema Series  
Nightfall through Aug. 19  
Cole Park Amphitheater  
Family-friendly movies. Free,  
(361) 827-3417

**Aug. 13**  
Dash for Cash  
8 a.m., Oso Creek Park  
behind Bill Witt Park  
5-mile, 5K and kids 1K  
[www.corpusroadrunners.com](http://www.corpusroadrunners.com)

**Aug. 13**  
SAXET Gun Show  
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**Aug. 17**  
Seminar, Drones: what to  
know before you fly  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
At Del Mar Center for  
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# Former CCAD Sgt. Major revisits his passion

By **Brigitte Rox**  
CCAD Public Affairs

Retired Sergeant Major Donald C. Rymer made a surprise stop at Corpus Christi Army Depot where he served as Depot Sgt. Maj from Aug. 14, 1984 to Jan. 31, 1991.

At that time, CCAD was under the leadership of Colonels Thomas M. Walker (June 1984 - December - 1986), William J. Blair (December 1986 - June 1989) and Edward J. Shannon (June 1989 - August 1991).

While digging through the *Aircraftsman* archives in the Public Affairs Office the nostalgic veteran and former depot leader found an article dating back to October 1984 that revealed his love for horses

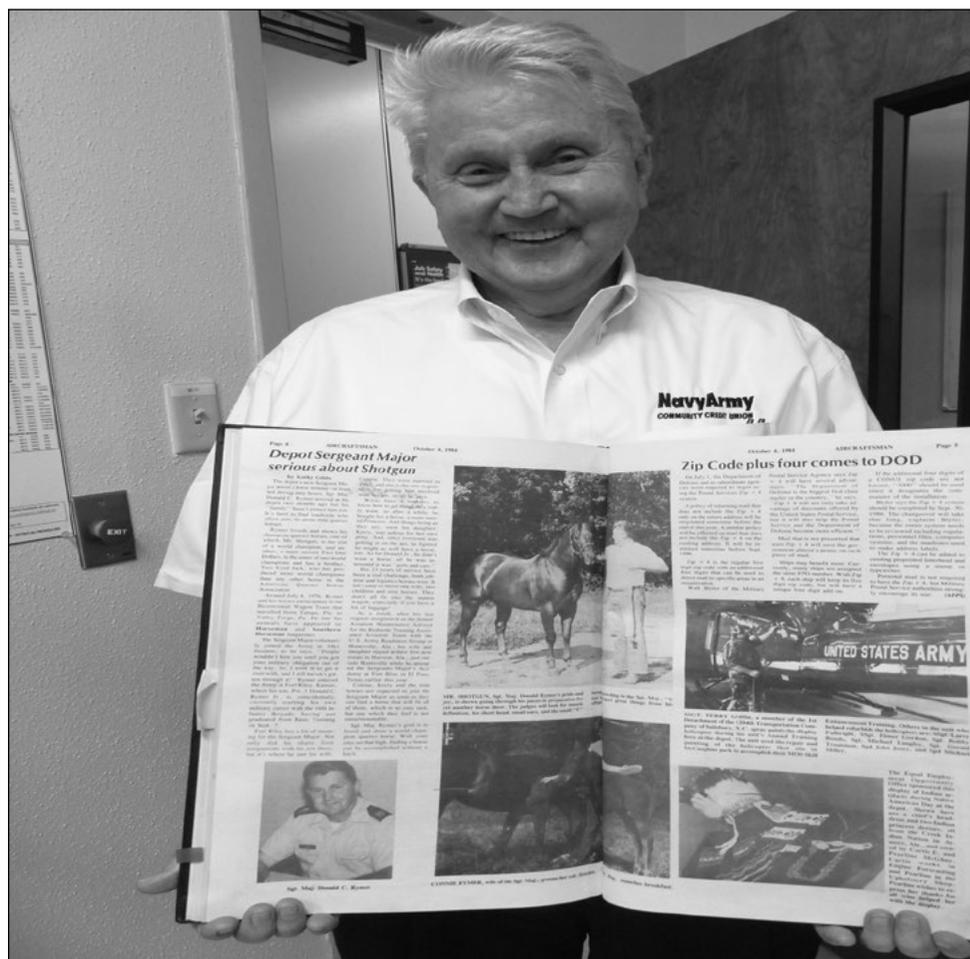
He's working with CCAD Protocol Officer, Leo Gonzalez, who reached out to him to capture the chronological history of sergeants major at the Depot.

According to the 1984 article, Rymer joined the Army in 1961 because "People wouldn't hire you until you got your military obligation out of the way. So, I went in to get it over with, and I still haven't gotten through it!"

When he joined CCAD in 1984, he already had 23 years of service. He was previously on assignment as the Senior Aviation Maintenance Advisor for the Redstone Training Assistance Aviation Team with the

US Army Readiness Group in Huntsville, Alabama. There, he had a family and a five-acre estate just outside of Huntsville where he kept his horses.

Though he told us that he's too old for horses now, Rymer's presence at the Depot told us that a sergeant major's work is never done.



Retired Sgt. Major Don Rymer shows pages from an archived *Aircraftsman*, dated October 1984, that featured a profile of his equestrian work while serving as the CCAD sergeant major.

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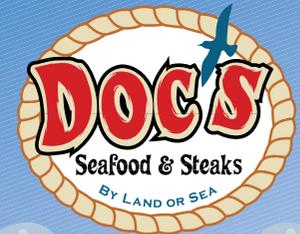
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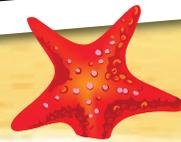
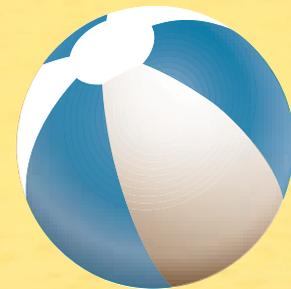
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