

WINGSPAN



Vol. 20, No. 18

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

September 4, 2014

National Hispanic Heritage Month
SEP 15 - OCT 15, 2014

HISPANICS: A Legacy of HISTORY a Present of ACTION and a Future of SUCCESS

September 15 -
October 15

page 8



**US NAVY
239TH
BIRTHDAY
BALL**

Saturday, October 18, 2014

page 9

**NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE**

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Know the Signs,
Intervene

page 3

Cmdr. Christino leaving VT-28 and heading back to the Fleet

Story & photo by Rod Hafemeister

As Cmdr. Marc Christino looked back on his tour as commanding officer of Training Squadron 28, he had only one disappointment.

That was that he was leaving before VT-28 completed the transition from the aging T-34C TurboMentor trainer to the newer T-6B Texan II.

"It would have been nice to see the T-6 transition through, but I know the squadron is in a good place to successfully transition over the next 12 months," he said.

"I'm not upset that I finished in the T-34; the T-34 has a great history and decades of service that we all have enjoyed as naval aviators."

In the days before his change of command, Christino got to brief the last incoming class that will take primary on the T-34 – two ensigns and a lieutenant junior grade.

Christino majored in history at the Naval Academy and maintains feel for it today, including a bit of nostalgia for the T-34.

And the squadron has been awarded both production and safety

awards during his command.

"We have a great cadre of instructors, and it's a testament to the quality of their work," he said.

"That's what I'm going to miss the most.

"We did have a mishap, but I think that I'm walking away knowing that we didn't lose anybody, that we accomplished the mission without any loss of life, without any major injuries."

The mishap was the crash of a T-34 into the Gulf on May 1. On the plus side, a VT-28 instructor pilot and student pilot were recognized for their work spotting the crew in the water and helping control the rescue effort.

Christino became the executive officer of VT-28 in February 2012 and assumed command in June 2013.

He's turning the command over to the current executive officer, Cmdr. Jason Stumpf, in a Sept. 5 ceremony on board the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay.

"I think the system is great," he



Cmdr. Marc Christino briefs the last incoming class of Primary Pilot Training students who will train on the T-34C just days before he departs as VT-28 commanding officer. VT-28 is the last squadron in the Navy to transition from the T-34 to the T-6B Texan II.

said about the standard practice of the XO becoming the next CO of the training squadrons.

"It gives you an opportunity to walk in the door and have some time to understand the command culture, how the organization works.

"And most of us who take command don't have a Training Command background, so it gives us the opportunity to see how NATRACOM is different from the Fleet."

VT-28 continued on page 7

A Piece of NASCC History arrives in the mail - mysteriously



The old, yellowing postcard came in the mail one day.

The back reads: 'South Gate – U.S. Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas is one of the two entrances to the 8,000 acre Naval Air Station whose mission is to train advanced Student Pilots. It is located 10 miles southeast of downtown Corpus Christi. The Station is also the Headquarters of the Chief of Naval Air Advanced Training.'

The photo is by Frank Whaley, a Corpus Christi post card publisher.

There's no date, but the reference to Naval Air Advanced Training (predecessor to CNATRA) and the vehicles indicate it was probably the late 1950s.

It was sent in by Lt. Rolando Ayala of Austin – with no note or other explanation of how he came to possess it.

XO's Column

by Cmdr. Scott Wilmot



Wilmot

September is National Preparedness Month, and the theme for the first week is "How to Reconnect with Family after a Disaster."

In South Texas, we pay a lot of attention to preparing for hurricanes. But hurricanes give

you a fair amount of warning that they are coming, which also gives you time to plan with your family on where to go and how to stay in touch.

But preparedness is about much more than hurricanes – and in many cases, your family may not be together if a disaster struck.

How would you get back in touch in the event of a major chemical accident, a tornado,

a terrorist attack, a meteor strike or even the Zombie Apocalypse?

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another. Think about how you will communicate in different situations.

The Prepare website has a number of tips and even templates you can use at: <http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>.

Some of those ideas include:

- Complete a contact card for each adult family member and keep handy in a wallet, purse or briefcase, etc. Additionally, complete contact cards for each child and put them in their backpacks or book bags.
- Check with your children's day care or school. Facilities designed for children should include identification planning as part of their emergency plans.
- Identify a contact such as a friend or relative who lives out-of-state for household members to notify they are safe. It may be easier to make a long-

distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.

- Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number and has a cell phone, coins or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact. Make sure to tell your family and friends that you've listed them as emergency contacts.
- Teach family members how to use text messaging, which often works when voice calls don't.

Ready.gov has made it simple for you to make a family emergency plan.

Download the Family Communication Plan for Parents and Kids (PDF) and fill out the sections before printing it or emailing it to your family and friends.

Have a plan for traveling between work and home, and other commonly visited locations, in case of an emergency. Download the Commuter Emergency Plan (PDF).

Can You Find Each Other?

Chaplain's Message

by Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain

For the last several years, the Feds Feed Families program has promoted a nation-wide benevolent food drive to help under-privileged families within local communities.

The intent of this program is to focus efforts on children during the critical summer months.

Many children in the Corpus Christi area depend on school lunches for their nutrition, and summer is an especially difficult time.

The Feds Feed Families annual food drive was launched in 2009 as part of the President's "United We Stand" initiative.

Once again this year, the NAS Corpus Christi Chaplain's Department teamed up with the Commissary and many other

Commands and Departments onboard NAS Corpus Christi to collect non-perishable food items for the less fortunate.

I am proud to say that this year's food drive was a tremendous success.

As an Installation, NAS Corpus Christi set a goal to raise 20,000 lbs. of food this summer.

The final numbers were tallied this week and submitted to the Southeast Region; NAS Corpus Christi raised an astounding 34,475 lbs.

Compared to last year's commendable 18,120 lbs., the generosity and compassion of those who donated went far beyond what I expected.

Feds Feed Families Food Drive 2014

I have witnessed firsthand how these gracious donations bring joy into the lives of others.

And I encourage each of you to consider how you can continue impacting the life of someone in need.

Thank you for this year.



Warne

Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

I haven't done this in a while, and it's probably time.

Especially considering the handful of phone calls, emails and even attempted posts to the command Facebook page I dealt with in recent weeks.

It's election season, and the political folks are very, VERY busy.

Yes, we are all citizens, with the right to become involved in the political process, support the candidates we like and oppose those we don't.

But whether you are in uniform or a federal civilian employee, there are some significant restrictions on what you can legally do concerning candidates, political parties and even some issues that are likely to go before the voters.

That's especially true about what you do in uniform, anything you do that could be construed as an official capacity, and anything you do with a government computer, printer or email.

For military personnel, the rules are spelled out in DoD Directive 1344.10.

The most recent is dated Feb. 19, 2008, and is online at: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134410p.pdf>

Among other things, you can:

- Register, vote, and express a personal opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of

Don't Let Politics Ruin Your Career

the Armed Forces.

- Promote and encourage others to exercise their voting franchise, if such promotion does not constitute use of their official authority or influence to interfere with the outcome of any election.
- Join a partisan or nonpartisan political club and attend its meetings when not in uniform, subject to the restrictions elsewhere in the directive.
- Sign a petition for a candidate or a legislative issue, as a private citizen.
- Contribute financially to a campaign, within legal limits.
- Put a political bumper sticker on your private vehicle. (But not a large political banner, poster or sign.)

Editor continued on page 9

Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi

"Exceeding Expectations Through Pride In Performance"

Commanding Officer

Capt. Steve Banta

Acting Public Affairs Officer

Editor

Rod Hafemeister

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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

Jackson Signs Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation

Story and photo by Twilla Smith, Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs



Rear Adm. Mary M. Jackson, surrounded by personnel from Navy Region Southeast Fleet and Family Support program, signs Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation on Sept. 2 on board NAS Jacksonville.

Rear Adm. Mary M. Jackson, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, signed a suicide prevention awareness proclamation on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville Sept. 2.

The proclamation recognizes September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and is intended to raise suicide awareness prevention throughout the Southeast Region.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 13.3 minutes.

Annually, more than 30,000 lives are lost in our country, making death by suicide one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience.

It is estimated that for every suicide, there are from eight to 25 attempted suicides.

“The Navy’s choice of ‘Every Sailor, Every Day’ as the theme for Suicide Prevention Month emphasizes that the loss of one Sailor to suicide is one loss too many,” Jackson said.

“The Navy has a great tradition of looking out for shipmates, but we can always do more.

“We should always be looking for ways to help Sailors help themselves and come to their aid any time when they show signs of distress, not just during Suicide Prevention Month.”

The proclamation’s theme highlights the importance of taking action as individuals and to recognize the impact of stressors in our day-to-day lives, as well how to develop protective measures against stress and suicide.

According to Dianne Parker, Navy Region Southeast assistant suicide prevention outreach coordinator, continuously providing program information to all personnel that explains prevention tips and how to recognize

indicators is a sure way to have a successful program.

“Unfortunately, suicide is one of the top issues military members and their families deal with,” she said.

“Our goal is to be proactive in reducing the number of suicides within the Navy through education and awareness initiatives, and this proclamation serves as the kickoff of suicide prevention month.”

The Navy’s 21st Century Sailor and Marine Program initiative encourages Sailors, commands, families, and civilian employees to empower themselves by taking personal responsibility for their health, wellness and growth — the important step in building resilience.

“I Pledge to Act,” a Web-based effort encouraging all Sailors, families and members of the Navy community to take steps to build personal resilience, support their shipmates and intervene if they notice signs of distress, is one way to help with suicide prevention and awareness.

“The program recognizes that in the military community, suicide has been the second or third leading cause of death for the last decade,” Parker said.

“The goal is to try to recognize warning signs and help our fellow Sailors, their family member and civilians.”

Despite great strides in our country to understand mental illness and encourage improvements in conversation surrounding it, too many people still suffer in silence.

Cmdr. William Stallard, director of Navy Region Southeast’s Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operations explains, “Suicide has been one of the most challenging problems throughout the ages.

“Professionally, I have studied this

phenomenon for 25 years; also I have had countless interactions with persons who were suicidal.

“Last year as duty chaplain, I responded to five suicides and one homicide, so I know firsthand how difficult it is on the families of those who kill themselves, the impact on the command’s morale and the unplanned loss; plus the toll it takes on the first responders and caregivers.”

The Navy’s 2014 suicide prevention message “Every Sailor, Every Day” stresses the necessity of the Navy community to

strengthen their connections with those around them and to make sure open communication, individual responsibility, peer support and bystander intervention are a part of everyday activities.

“Completed suicide has second and third order effects such as moral and psychological injury to family and friends,” Stallard said.

Thus it is imperative we do the best job possible as suicide prevention coordinators, facilitators and leaders in order to strive to ameliorate this traumatic social problem within the military and beyond.”

For more information about the Navy’s 21st Century Sailor and Marine Program and Suicide Prevention Month, go to http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/21st_Century_Sailor/suicide_prevention/spmonth/Pages/default.aspx

Suicide Prevention: One Completion; One too many!

by Patrick Reinford, Individual Deployment Support Specialist, FFSC

Recently, renowned comic and actor Robin Williams apparently committed suicide.

While many were saddened by his death, several organizations took the opportunity to remind the general public that suicide prevention is a continuous effort.

During the month of September, the Navy encourages Sailors, family members, commands, work-centers, installations and other organizations to learn the warning signs of suicide and how to respond.

Without the proper intervention and treatment, individuals who are suicidal may succeed at ending their lives.

Suicide prevention goes beyond training to recognize risk factors, warning signs or what to do in a crisis.

While these things are critical elements of readiness, actual prevention happens every day when we do something to show that we care.

What would you do if you know someone who is considering suicide?

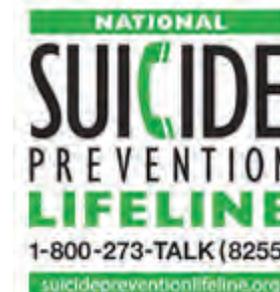
A suicidal person may not ask for help, but that doesn’t mean that help isn’t wanted.

According to various suicide studies, most people who commit suicide don’t want to die.

They just want to stop hurting.

If you think a family member, friend and or co-worker is considering suicide there are several suicide resources and referrals available such as:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255, <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>),
- National Suicide Hotline (1-800-784-2433),
- Base Chaplain (361-961-3751),
- Base Police (361-961-3333),
- Military OneSource (1-800- 342-9647),
- Naval Health Clinic Mental Health (361-961-3620),
- and Fleet & Family Support Center (361-961-2372)



NASK hunting regulations revised, fees reduced

by FC1(SW) John Sessions & Fifi Kieschnick, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Hunters eagerly anticipate opening day. Doesn't matter what the game is or what the preferred weapon of choice is for hunting that game.

Opening day – those are the “magic” words.

Outdoor and hunting enthusiasts all across South Texas are familiar with the Navy's 6,800 acre Escondido hunting ranch owned and operated by NAS Kingsville.

The ranch is located in the southwest corner of McMullen County, about 25 miles outside of Freer, Texas.

It was originally bought by the Navy to serve as a buffer area to the “Dixie” target range, which is part of the NAS Kingsville's McMullen Target Range Complex.

“Hunting is one of the primary types of recreation in the South Texas area and is encouraged on board the Dixie Annex,” said Capt. Christopher Misner, commanding officer, NAS Kingsville.

“But we have closed the lodge there, rewritten our hunting regulations, and are only allowing night hunting on Dixie Annex by reservation. Reservations are required so that the duty Huntmaster may be made available.

“And, we are now calling the property ‘Dixie Annex’ to reflect official government property records.”

But, what hunters may not know is that hunting is also authorized aboard the Naval Air Station on weekends during hunting season from our 10 blinds.

Additionally, bird hunting is authorized in the South Field of the Air Station.

Deer drawings will not be held for hunting aboard NAS Kingsville; you may harvest five deer per year, three of which can be bucks, which is in compliance with Kleberg County regulations.

Only Dixie Annex requires the harvesting of deer by drawing a permit.

It is imperative to fully understand the procedures for bringing firearms onto the installation, which is allowed for hunting purposes only.

Only patrons with unloaded/show clear firearms are permitted access.

Hunters must register their weapons into the Consolidated Law enforcement Operations Center (CLEOC) database at NAS Kingsville Security Department Police Station at least 24 hours prior to the hunt.

All hunters must register their firearm in CLEOC for hunting whether on board the Naval Air Station or Dixie Annex.

When entering the Air Station, inform the sentry that you have an unloaded firearm in the vehicle which you plan to register for hunting. You will be escorted to security to verify the condition of the firearm and register it into CLEOC.

Once registered, the printed registration must be retained with the weapon at all times.

On the day of the hunt, inform the sentry at the main gate that you intend to hunt, provide the CLEOC registration and state that you have an unloaded firearm in the vehicle.

Patrons will then travel directly to the police station to meet the Huntmaster.

“NAS Kingsville is probably one of a very few military installations that allows hunting on its property,” Misner said.

“We have examined our applicable instructions and, due to the limited size of available hunting areas, have made extensive revisions to ensure safety and provide the maximum opportunity for participation by all hands.”

Hunting seasons, methods of take and game limits are in accordance with federal regulations and the state of Texas, except as modified by the revised NAS Kingsville instruction.

“The regulations have been revised and fees have been reduced to make hunting more affordable for our ‘blue shirts,’ our Sailors who may not have been able to afford to hunt locally,” said Lt. Cmdr. Shane Dudley, air traffic control facilities officer, who has been designated by the command as the NAS Kingsville Huntmaster.

The only patrons who will be able to hunt aboard NAS Kingsville – the Air Station or the Dixie Annex – are active-duty and retired military personnel, Reservists, National Guard, disabled veterans, Department of Defense civilians, dependent family members (with dependent ID), and immediate family guests of the patrons.

Hunting of both big and small game and birds is open to all eligible personnel.

“Besides no overnight stays or lodging available at the Dixie Annex, the biggest change hunters will notice is a significant reduction in the fees and costs associated with hunting here,” Dudley said.

“Everyone going into the field, whether hunting or not, must have a valid Kings Hunt Club Card, which costs \$25.”

The other fees associated with hunting vary on which property the patron wants to hunt and the size of the game involved.

“We have eliminated, daily hunt fees, blind fees and ‘kill fees,’ which are associated with hunting,” Dudley added.

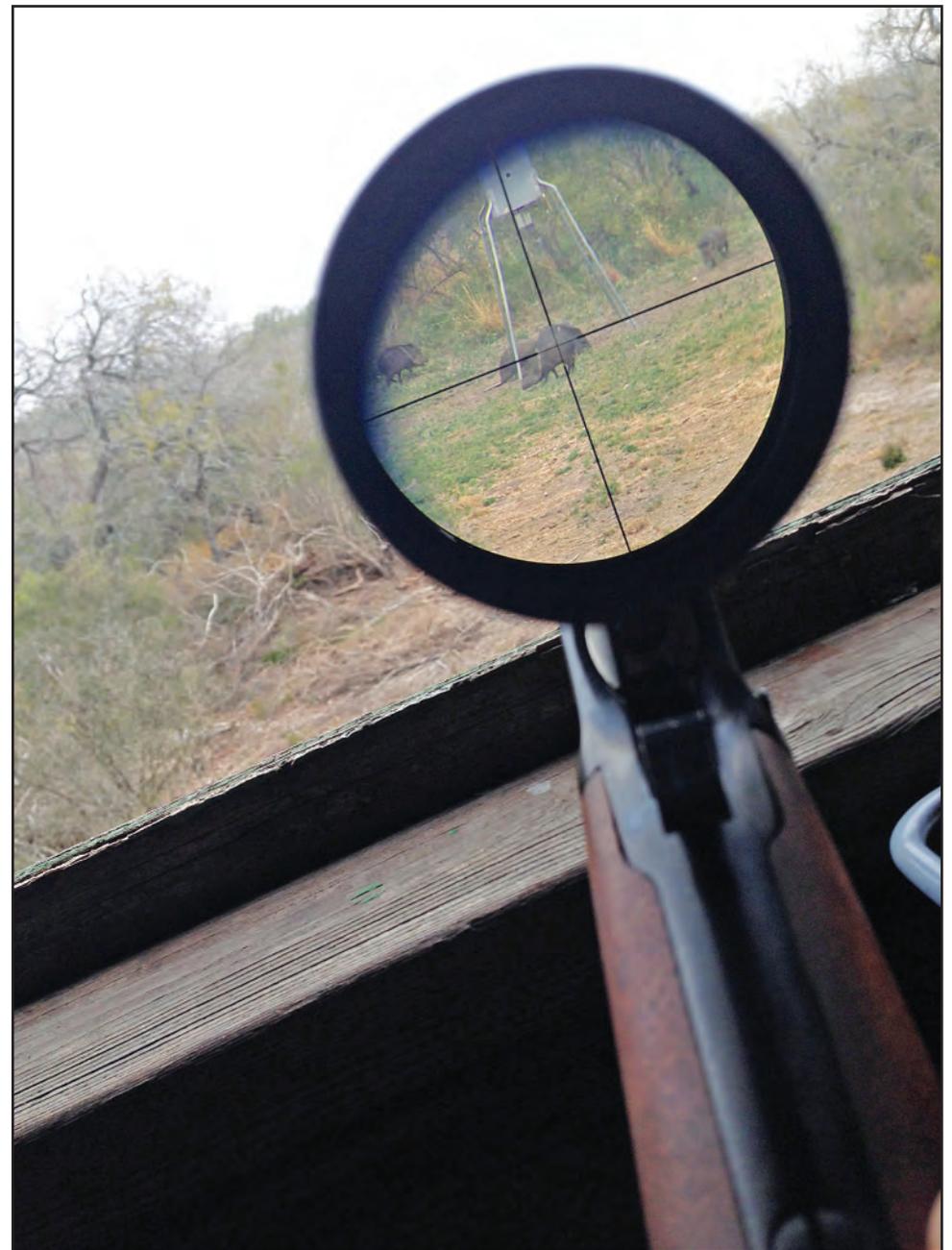
“That also makes it more affordable for our patrons. That is also a big change in our instructions.”

During hunting season, hunting will begin with check-in at 5 a.m. and end at sundown.

When checking in, personnel must show a valid photo ID showing date of birth, their King Hunt Club Card, hunting permit purchased at Outdoor Recreation, Texas state hunting license, proof of successful completion of a hunter education training course regardless of hunter's age, and appropriate weapons permits.

The minimum age to hunt or possess a weapon, aboard NAS Kingsville or the Dixie Annex, is 9 years old. All minors and guests must be accompanied by an eligible sponsor.

When departing from the field, hunters must contact the duty Huntmaster, report back to the check-in point, then depart.



All game harvested is recorded and a game log is kept, as per natural resource and Texas Parks and Wildlife Managed Land Program regulations.

This season, deer hunting at Dixie Annex is by special permit (tag) only; there will be three drawings held: one for youth ages nine to 16; active-duty NAS Kingsville personnel E-5 and below; and general authorized patrons.

Eligible or sponsored youth draw for hunting will be held Oct. 1. There will be a youth-only hunt held Oct. 11-13. All unfilled youth tags will be returned to the Huntmaster and be added to the General Drawing.

The draw for E-5 and below personnel and the general drawing both will be held Oct. 20. Winners of the E-5 and below and general drawings will have from Nov. 1 to Feb. 15 to fill the tag. All remaining unfilled tags will be returned to the Huntmaster by Feb. 15.

Drawing entry fees are free for the youth-only drawing and NAS Kingsville E-5 and below drawing.

General drawing fees are \$5 for antlerless-

only tags and \$10 for buck-only tags.

There is no limit to the number of entries for the general drawing, however an individual may only win up to three permits for the season.

All permits and deer drawing tickets go on sale on Sept. 5 and may be purchased at Outdoor Recreation.

The permit to hunt is good for the entire hunting season – which is also a change in the NAS Kingsville instructions. Night hunts may be authorized aboard the Dixie Annex by reservation only.

All the particulars about hunting aboard the Air Station and the Annex can be found in NASKINGS Instructions 1710.27K and 1720.27KK and NASKINGS Notice 1710.

Visit or call Outdoor Recreation at (361) 516-6449 for more details, and to purchase Hunt Club Cards, draws and permits.

Additionally, you may email KNGV-huntmaster@navy.mil, for more information or to make reservation for night hunts.

And, keep your sights on opening day.

71 years and counting in Navy Uniform

Editor's Note: As part of the "Keep the spirit of '45 Alive!" movement to commemorate the upcoming 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II, we'll be running occasional profiles of local veterans of that war.

by NASCC Public Affairs

His uniform hangs a little differently than when he joined the Navy in 1943.

But the pride in wearing his uniform still is apparent for retired Lt. Cmdr. W.L. "Babe" Crouch.

Born in Wilson, Okla., on Sept. 25, 1925, he moved to Kilgore, Texas in 1932. That was where he enlisted in the U.S. Navy – and found himself at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

"Boot camp was in Hangar 41, where the Coast Guard is now," he said.

"In those days, there were big P-4Ms (Coronados) on the ramp. That whole area was filled with seaplanes.

"There were 1,100 of us in the hangar. Marine Drill instructors ran the boot camp. It was a long two weeks and five days.

"When I graduated, I went to Kingsville, where I was a plane captain. My job was to keep five aircraft ready to fly at all times.

"I was there eight months and then came back to NAS Corpus Christi to attend firefighting school."

In 1945, Crouch received a new assignment – a sea-going tug, the USS Sagamore (ATA-208), stationed in the Southwest Pacific.

"We left Hawaii Dec. 24, 1945," Crouch said. "We'd been in the South Pacific but picked up a dry dock that was used by submarines and took it through the Panama Canal, to Charleston.

"Then we cruised to Norfolk, Va., where we would be home-ported."

His 89-year-old hands shake a little as he reaches for a glass of water, but his voice remains strong and calm as he remembers duty stations and good times.

Like in 1949, when he was promoted to Second Class Petty Officer.

"It was hard to get promoted as a Boatswain Mate because there were too many of us," he said.

"They'd promote one on the East Coast and one on the West Coast per year."

While aboard the USS Mindora (CVE-120), he changed his rate to Aviation Boatswain Mate and made First Class in 1951.

Then he was transferred to Fleet Aircraft Service Squadron as Beach Master and later to the USS Wright (CVL-49) as Flight Deck Supervisor.

While aboard the Wright serving in Japan and Korea, he advanced to Aviation Boatswain Mate Chief in 1954.

Transferring back to NAS Corpus Christi in 1955, Chief Crouch was assigned to the NAS Security Police.

"I was assigned to Security for six

months, and then took over the fuel truck farm," he said. "I was in charge of fueling all the aircraft."

Crouch took the test for Limited Duty Officer and was commissioned an Ensign in June 1957.

After LDO and Uniform Code of Military Justice Schools, he was assigned to Fleet Aircraft Services Squadron 102 at Sangley Point, Republic of the Philippines.

In December 1960, he was promoted to lieutenant junior grade and reported to the Bureau of Naval Weapons Representative as Production and Quality Control Officer.

There, he became involved in the Lunar Excursion Module used in the moon landings, the C-141 Project and was responsible for Doppler Navigation Systems, Helicopter Towed Sonar, Terrain Avoidance System.

"This was the most interesting job I had in the Navy," Crouch said, excitement exuding through his wiry frame.

"I worked with the vehicle that went on the moon, the LEM Project. It was a General Dynamics vehicle.

"Then I was involved with Polaris missiles, where we made the shells of the missiles. I was in charge of Quality Assurance and Production on that stuff.

"There were so many things like 'Project Whisper,' where we built a torpedo that would house a person. We took it to sea, and launched it and then came in to San Diego.

"We were not using conventional power for this vessel; we used material used for acetylene torches for power. The vessel could go nine-knots.

"The problem was the vessel oscillated up and down, so that personnel inside would get sick. That didn't work so it was never used."

Another project involved examining how dolphins moved so fast in the water.

"In order to find something that moved similar to dolphins, we found that tadpoles moved through the water like them," he said.

"We put a tadpole in a container one-and-a-half foot by three feet long, filled with milk. Then we mounted a high-speed camera and took pictures if the tadpole swimming.

"Both the tadpole, and the dolphin, would oscillate, throwing their weight through the water. Something else is that we'd blindfold dolphins and have them run through the sticks, using their sonar. That was so much fun; it took a lot of time."

Lt. Crouch later made two deployments to West Pac aboard the USS Yorktown (CVS-10) in Vietnam.

"There was always a destroyer around to

tell us what was going on," he said.

"We flew sorties, carrying bomb pods on each aircraft. We got word that the Vietnamese had infiltrated a village. The destroyer called the squadron and told us to wipe it out.

"Five planes took off and fired off all their rockets at one time – it took out the village."

Crouch retired from North Island, Calif., on June 30, 1973 – having achieved the rank of lieutenant commander.

"I took a six month vacation and traveled," he said, smiling.

But the next year Crouch joined the United States Navy League and the United States Naval Sea Cadet Program, which caters to youth ages 11 thru 17.

He was the first recipient of the Nicholas Brango Award (Sea Cadet Officer of the Year), three Scrolls of Honor, seven Distinguished Service Ribbons, first Regional Director of the Year Award, Chairman's Award (highest NSCC award) and numerous commendations.

Crouch met Lt. Cmdr. Suzy Williams, NSCC in the early 1990s when they were both working as Naval Sea Cadet Corps Field Reps and later as NSCC National VPs.



'Babe' Crouch as a young Sailor

For over 20 years they have partnered in training thousands of Sea Cadets.

They were married March 22, 2002. "She's become my guiding light," he said.

"She's what keeps me going. Without her I'd get lazy, I wouldn't do the things I do."

Crouch and Williams are seen often at various events around the Air Station, especially the quarterly Service Member of the Quarter luncheons.

Asked when he might retire, Crouch smiled.

"When they put me in a pine box," he said.

Lt. Cmdr. W.L. "Babe" Crouch, USN (Retired)

Lt. Cmdr. W. L. "Babe" Crouch is a veteran of World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, Azores and Cuba. He joined the Navy in September 1943 and attended Boot Camp at NAS Corpus Christi in Hanger 41 for two weeks and five days.

Lt. Cmdr. Crouch is authorized the following ribbons: Expert Pistol Shot Medal; Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal; Korean Service Medal; Navy Achievement Medal; United Nations Service Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Good Conduct Medal; Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; American Campaign Medal; Navy Occupation Medal (European Class); Vietnam Campaign Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Armed Expedition Medal; Naval Safety Excellence Ribbon and Navy Commendation Medal.

In 1998, Lt. Cmdr. Crouch was awarded the Secretary of the Navy Superior Public Service Award through the Navy League of the United States for projecting a positive image of the United States Navy to the youth of today.

Lt. Cmdr. Crouch joined the Navy League's Naval Sea Cadet program in 1973 and continues until today allowing him to wear the Navy Uniform for over 70 years. He has served as Sea Cadet National Vice President; Southwest Field Representative of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana; Southwest Regional Director; Navy League National Board of Directors; Commanding Officer of the Alamo Division and Training Ship Alamo and Regional Director for Region 8-5 and Recruiting Officer for TEXAS Division.

For eight years (from 2002- 2010) Lt. Cmdr. Crouch and his wife, Lt. Cmdr. Suzy Williams, NSCC, conducted 54 weeks of training, with up to 120 cadets at a time: Recruit Trainings (including the first NSCC 10-Day model and first NSCC Spring Break Recruit Training), Ceremonial Honor Guard Trainings, Master-At-Arms Trainings, and Air Traffic Control Trainings.

In 2004, Crouch was named an Admiral in the Texas Navy and cited as a beacon of hard work, dedication, and impeccable service to the United States Navy, the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps and his country.

Awards and Achievements

Winging — August 29



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Winging officials, from left: by Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain; Cmdr. Jason Wood, Commanding Officer, Training Squadron 35; Col. John Rahe Jr., Commanding Officer, MATSG-22; Cmdr. Samuel D. Gage, Executive Officer, Training Squadron 31; Cmdr. Rick Van Derostyne, Chief Staff Officer, Training Air Wing 4.

Wingees, in alphabetical order: 1st Lt. Benjamin M. Ables, USMC; Lt. j.g. Will A. Appling; Lt. j.g. Valigene R. Balvin; Lt. j.g. Terrence P. Barcelon; Capt. Ramon A. Bernd, USMC; 1st Lt. Robert W. Craun, USMC; Ensign Nicholas C. Jones; Ensign Robert Garland Lahr; Capt. Kurtis R. Larson, USMC; Lt. j.g. Michelle J. Leclerc, USCG; 1st Lt. Beau J. Mabery, USMC; 1st Lt. Jeremiah J. Manzo, USMC; Lt. j.g. Michael A. Thomasson.

City Councilman, Navy Reservist



Petty Officer 1st Class Joe D. Villa, a Master at Arms assigned to the Navy Reserve's Navy Security Force on NAS Corpus Christi and City Councilman of Rockport, is given the oath of reenlistment by Mayor Charles "CJ" Wax, Major General United States Air Force (ret), at Rockport City Hall on Aug. 9. *Photo by MC1 Ruben Perez*

Honore Honored for 20 Years Service



Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. Roy Kelley presents Mr. Kerry Honore a certificate of Recognition for 20 years service *Photo by Richard Stewart*

VT-28 continued from page 1

Christino did much of his career flying the P-3.

“When I was in the Naval Academy, I wanted to fly tailhooks,” he said.

“But then I went on an aviation cruise with an F-14 squadron, and I loved the flying – but the lifestyle was kind of a wake-up call. Back then there wasn’t any X-Box or Internet; there wasn’t even a gym on the ship.

“I came back and talked my roommate, who got a ride in a P-3. And he talked about, as a lieutenant, you can go somewhere in the world, take your crew and 10 maintainers, and you’re the United States Navy wherever you are.

As a lieutenant, you’re representing the country and the Navy. I thought that was a great idea... you’re half warfighter, half ambassador as you represent the Navy.”

Other tours included a joint experience with Strategic Command in Hawaii.

And he was with the first P-3 squadron to be stationed in Iraq at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The P-3s essentially replaced Air force C-130s in the aerial surveillance mission, in part because of their capabilities, he said.

“Also, the Navy is more flexible – we don’t need 72 hours to prepare for a mission,” Christino said.

“There are days where you go out there and an officer walks up, he’s got a red binder, and he says, ‘Your mission just changed. We’ve got Special Operations folks that need help.’

“It was an interesting tour, though, because we’re Navy guys looking at a lot of dirt, not a lot of water.

“I’ll tell you, going out there and supporting the guys on the ground was definitely the most rewarding missions I’ve done in my career.”

In some ways, his career is coming full circle – he’s going out to be a navigator on the USS George H.W. Bush and Navy aviators are again engaged in combat actions in Iraq.

“Thinking about those guys that are doing those missions and flying off the carrier – when I first got here, those were the guys that we were training,” he said.

“So I think that we’ve upheld that standard, the ‘Ranger Standard,’ as we like to call it here, of quality instruction and building the foundation for future naval aviators.

“Walking away from this job, I know that we did everything we could to prepare them for those combat operations.

“That’s the emphasis that we put on here to keep the big picture – that someday you’re going to be the one out there.”



Christino with the T-34C – ‘a fine aircraft with a great history’

Recognized for Actions after T-34C Crash



On May 1, a T-34C from VT-28 crashed in the Gulf of Mexico, leaving an instructor pilot and a student pilot in the water. In August, two squadron mates and member of Training wing Four were recognized for their actions after the crash.

From left: Rear Adm. Roy Kelley, Chief of Naval Air Training; Marine Corps Capt. Oscar Carrillo; Lt. Patrick Dougherty; Ensign Daniel Gore; and Capt. John Kelsey, Commodore, Training Air Wing Four.

Carrillo was pilot in command of another VT-28 aircraft and immediately assumed duty as on-scene commander for the search and rescue effort, conducting three separate search

patterns, deconflicting the three search platforms and expedited the helicopter recovery of the downed pilots. Gore, a student pilot in the aircraft with Carrillo, assisted in the search and rescue and spotted one of the pilots in the water, then helped direct rescue craft to recover the pilot.

Dougherty, Aero-Medical Safety Officer for TRAWING Four, “identified material failures in two separate sets” of the life support gear that failed to operate properly, replicated the failure in a controlled environment and resulted in a fleet-wide alert to test critical life saving equipment.

Photo by Richard Stewart

DEOMI Releases 2014 Hispanic Heritage Month Observance Poster

National Hispanic Heritage Month
SEP 15–OCT 15, 2014

HISPANICS:
A Legacy of
HISTORY
a Present of
ACTION
and a Future of
SUCCESS

Created by DEOMI by Robert Brown & Pat Hester

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated each year from September 15 through October 15, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), on Aug. 25 released an original artwork poster.

DEOMI graphic designer Mr. Robert Brown describes this year's Hispanic Heritage Month observance poster:

"The images on the film strip represent the movement and growth of various Hispanic cultures and portrays their rich and vibrant diversity in the past, present, and future," Brown said.

What is Hispanic Heritage Month?

This month has been designated to celebrate the rich heritage and cultural diversity that Hispanic Americans have contributed to our country.

According to the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers, this year's theme is "Hispanics: A Legacy of

History, a Present of Action, and a Future of Success."

This observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson; it was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period—September 15 through October 15.

The celebration commences on Sept. 15 because five Latin American countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua – declared their independence from Spanish colonization on this day in 1821.

Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

The Department of Defense is committed to honoring and recognizing Hispanic Americans that have and continue to serve in defense of our nation and simultaneously contribute to shaping the culture of the United States. Department of Defense components are encouraged to conduct appropriate activities and programs in recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Annual Navy Ball Golf Tournament 2014
FRIDAY
OCTOBER 10, 2014

Gulf Winds Golf Course
Naval Air Station Corpus Christi
11001 D Street,
Corpus Christi, Texas

NAVY LEAGUE
CORPUS CHRISTI COUNCIL

Entry Fee: \$35 per person
0800 & 1400 Shotgun starts

Entry forms will be
at the Gulf Winds
Golf Course Pro Shop

For more information
contact Andrea Drake,
Director at 961-3250.

RAIN DATE: 17 October 2014

Entry Fee Includes:
Cart, Green Fees, Meal (Burger, Chips and Drink)
and \$5 contribution towards the Navy Ball 2014.

Format: This is a 4-person Florida Scramble. Golfers may sign up as individuals or as a team. There will be prizes for Closest to the Pin as well as for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams. Event is open to the first 36 paid teams (or 144 players). For installation sponsorship/access details contact YN1(SW) Brian Herrera at (361) 961-2633 or by email at brian.herrera1@navy.mil. Deadline for entry is Friday, 3 October.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MORNING

0700: Check-In Begins
Driving Range Opens

0745: Announcements
Starters Briefing

0800: Shotgun Start

AFTERNOON

1300: Check-In Begins
Driving Range Opens

1345: Announcements
Starters Briefing

1400: Shotgun Start

This is not an official DOD event. Neither the Navy, the Department of Defense, or the US Government endorse any non-federal entity, including the sponsors of this event.

Hosted by NAVY LEAGUE Corpus Christi Council

SCHOOL'S OPEN!

DRIVE CAREFULLY AND WATCH OUT FOR KIDS

STOP

Editor continued from page 2

But you cannot:

- Participate in partisan political fundraising activities (except as permitted elsewhere in the directive), rallies, conventions (including making speeches in the course thereof), management of campaigns, or debates, either on one's own behalf or on that of another, without respect to uniform or inference or appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement. Participation includes more than mere attendance as a spectator.
- Use official authority or influence to interfere with an election, affect the course or outcome of an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or require or solicit political contributions from others.
- Serve in any official capacity with or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club.
- Speak before a partisan political gathering, including any gathering that promotes a partisan political party, candidate, or cause.
- Participate in any radio, television, or other program or group discussion as an advocate for or against a partisan political party, candidate, or cause.
- Solicit or otherwise engage in fundraising activities in Federal offices or facilities, including military reservations, for any political cause or candidate.
- Display a partisan political sign, poster, banner, or similar device visible to the public at one's residence on a military installation, even if that residence is part of a privatized housing development.
- Sell tickets for or otherwise actively promote partisan political dinners and similar fundraising events.

Other "no no's" are listed, and if not listed, are covered under the general guidance: "Activities not expressly prohibited may be contrary to the spirit and intent of this Directive. Any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating the Department of Defense or the Department of Homeland Security (in the case of the Coast Guard) or any component of these Departments with a partisan political activity or is otherwise contrary to the spirit and intention of this Directive shall be avoided."

Federal civilian employees are covered under the Hatch Act, with details available online at: <http://www.oge.gov/Topics/Outside-Employment-and-Activities/Political-Activities/>

The rules are similar to those for military members:

Don't use your federal position, federal status, or on-duty time and/or resources to sponsor, support, or campaign for any candidate, or run for any partisan office, including Democratic, Republican or third-parties.

Violations can, at a minimum, result in disciplinary action for military and civilian alike and, in the most extreme, carry the



US NAVY 239TH BIRTHDAY BALL

Saturday, October 18, 2014

OMNI CORPUS CHRISTI HOTEL
900 North Shoreline Phone: (361) 887-6715




2014 Schedule of Events

Cocktails	6:00 pm
Program	7:00 pm
Dinner	8:00 pm
Dance	9:00 pm

2014 Ticket Prices

E1-E4, GS1-4, NF1	\$25
E5-E6, GS5-7, NF2	\$35
E7-O3, GS8-10, NF3	\$40
O4, GS11, NF4 & Up	\$45
Civilian Guest	\$50

(Non DoD Civilians)

DRESS FOR THE EVENING:

O4 & Above: Dinner Dress White
O3 & Below: Service Dress White
(Optional Dinner Dress White)
Civilians: Coat and Tie or equivalent

FRA OMNI Room Rates+tax are as follows:

Single/Double Room—\$109
Triple Room—\$119
Quad Room—\$129

2014 Ticket Purchase Deadline:
3 OCTOBER





"This is not an official DOD event. Neither the Navy, the Department of Defense, or the US Government endorse any non-federal entity, including the sponsors of this event."

potential for jail time.

One of the easiest and most common ways of falling afoul of the rules is forwarding

some political email on your government email account.

It's easy to do – and a sure-fire way to get

in trouble for politicking on the job!

So don't do it.

Think before you click.