

# WINGSPAN



Vol. 20, No. 26

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

December 25, 2014

## Happy Holidays



Goodbye 2014  
Hello 2015  
Happy New Year



Be Careful With  
Space Heaters

page 3



ITT Bus Trip to  
Spurs Game

page 5



## Tree Lighting

(above) Becky Smith stands with the Navy Gateway Inns & Suites Holiday Card, which took the First Place Award in the Morale, welfare and Recreation Holiday Card Decoration Contest at the NASCC Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 10.

(left) The Air Station Fire Dept. delivers Santa to the ceremony.

More photos on page 6 & 7.

Photos by Laurie Garcia, MWR PA

## Skipper's Column

by Capt. Steve Banta



Banta

Thank you to everyone at NASCC for such a successful year!

As we get ready to usher in 2015, let's look back at 2014.

We continued to meet our mission, support our tenants, and take care of each other.

My first six months on board seem to have flown by, and during that time alone, the base

received outstanding scores on eight separate inspections, as well as top-notch reviews during the recent visit by the Commander of Navy Region Southeast, Rear Adm. Mary Jackson.

NASCC's success is due to integrity, leadership, and teamwork that everyone exhibits on a daily basis. It is a distinct honor to be a part of this professional team!

As we reflect back on this past year, please keep in mind our country's service members overseas away from their families, many serving in harm's way.

We are truly fortunate in our country to have these remarkable men and women who serve so courageously and selflessly.

During the remaining portion of this

## Thanks To All for 2014

holiday season, and especially for New Year's Eve, please be careful on the roads.

If you are travelling out of town, be sure your chain of command knows where you are in case of emergency.

Check and service your vehicle before taking a trip.

Enjoy your New Year's celebrations (there's one at the Catalina Club!), but please, PLEASE don't drink and drive.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone back safe after the holidays.

Finally, I'd like to thank you all again for a great year, and for all of your service.

I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable New Year, and I'm looking forward to another great year here at NASCC!

## Chaplain's Message

by Fr. John Vidal

If you've been the slightest bit observant as you drive down Lexington Avenue past Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Chapel, you will have noticed that a Nativity Scene was placed on the front lawn.

Additionally, you may have noticed that the scene did not include the baby Jesus.

I've had many comments and questions about this.

Some were alarmed that we had been forbidden to do so.

Others feared that the crib and baby had been stolen.

Happily neither of these concerns is true.

The reason stands behind the Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic Church and several liturgical churches, including the Orthodox Churches, Anglican and Episcopal Churches, Lutheran Churches and others.

The church uses a liturgical calendar to teach us about salvation history.

It begins with the season of Advent on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which this year fell on Nov. 30.

Advent points to the birth of Jesus on Christmas day but urges us also to prepare for His second coming.

The First Sunday therefore has a theme of Waiting for the return of Jesus.

The Second has a theme of Preparing for the return of Jesus.

The Third has a theme of Rejoicing in the Incarnation and the Fourth of Anticipation.

The birth of the Christ Child, the celebration of the Incarnation is the second season of the year, the Christmas season, which lasts for 12 days and ends with the Epiphany on Jan. 6.

The Epiphany remembers the visitation by the "12 Wise Men" or Magi.

[Editor's note: The number of Magi varies, with most Eastern traditions using

12, while most Western traditions use three.]

Because of this we don't place the baby Jesus in the manger until late Christmas Eve and we will leave the Nativity Scene up through the Epiphany.

In case you were wondering, the Liturgical Calendar continues on with a period of Epiphany (which in the modern calendar is considered part of "ordinary time," something I will explain below) where we are reminded that Jesus is the Messiah and Savior and of our responsibility to share this Good News or Gospel.

The Epiphany Season ends with Ash Wednesday, the first day of the Season of Lent.

Lent is a time of Penance, where we follow our Lord's example in the wilderness and fast, examine our lives and repent of our sins (of course this should go on throughout the year...).

Lent is followed by Holy Week, beginning on Palm Sunday and takes us to the Sacred Triduum, the three most holy days of the Christian Year beginning with Holy Thursday.

On these three days we remember the Last Supper, the Passion and Death of our Lord on Good Friday, Holy Saturday when we remember that Jesus remained in the tomb for three days and, finally, we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Day.

You might consider these three days as the Christian Passover.

Easter is celebrated for the 50 days of the Easter Season and ends with Pentecost, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the "birthday of the Church."

Pentecost is followed one week later by the celebration of the Holy Trinity, which "wraps things up."

The calendar then concludes with "Ordinary Time," also known as Trinity

## Where's Baby Jesus?

Season.

This is the time in which we are reminded that we are to live our lives in accordance to the command of our Lord to Love one another as He Loved us.

During this time, the Scripture readings focus on the earthly ministry of our Lord.

This "ordinary time" concludes with the Feast of Christ the King, the week before, you guessed it, the First Sunday of Advent.

The Scripture readings, which line up with the liturgical calendar, are read during Mass over a three-year Sunday Lectionary Cycle that covers about 10 percent of the Old Testament and 40 percent of the New Testament.

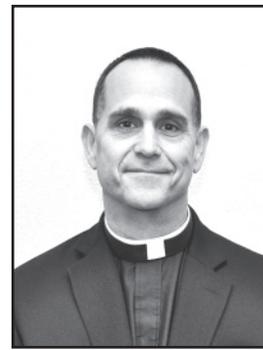
If you include the daily Mass lectionary (a two-year cycle), you would hear readings from about 80-90 percent of Scripture.

Those of you who are curious about how this breaks down by Book of the Bible, you can go to <http://catholic-resources.org/Lectionary/Statistics.htm> for a book-by-book analysis.

I hope this clears up some of the questions that some of you from other Christian traditions may have and helps those of different faiths in our community understand a little bit more about Catholic Christians.

I invite all those who celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord to rejoice with me as we see the baby Jesus back in the Nativity Scene outside Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel on Christmas Eve.

Merry Christmas!



Vidal

## Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister

Ye Olde Editor is burning up "use-or-

lose" leave as the year ends – so you readers get a break from my random rambling

## Enjoy the Holidays!

thoughts. Enjoy the holidays and I'll see you all next year!

## Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi

"Exceeding Expectations Through Pride In Performance"

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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

# Home Heating Safety: Be smart when cold weather arrives

by NASCC Fire Chief John Morris

Though we are fortunate to live where a really cold day may be in the high 30 or 40's and the need for supplementary heat in our homes is less likely, it is still important to be aware of the potential hazards associated with cold weather from a fire safety standpoint.

As I write this in mid-December, we have experienced a couple cold fronts with temperatures dipping into the high 30's and 40's.

My first thought when "cold" weather hits the area is that our firefighters would likely be responding off-base to a fire involving the use of a space heater.

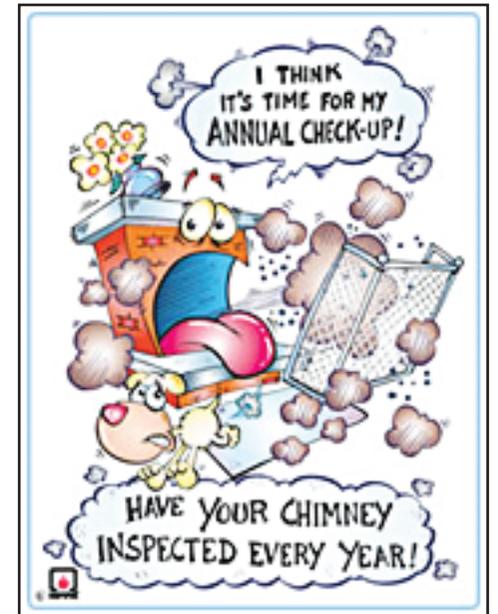
We have a few factors that increase the likelihood of home fires, and the first cold snap, and a resident's need to stay warm often precipitates an increase in home fires – often in older homes and mobile homes that may not have central heat and air conditioning.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2011, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 53,600 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 400 civilian deaths, 1,520 civilian injuries, and \$893 million in direct property damage.

These fires accounted for 14 percent of all reported home fires.

Based on most recent statistical data covering 2007-2011 annual averages:

- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (33 percent) of home heating fires and four out of five (81 percent) of home heating fire deaths.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (28 percent) was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
- Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half (53 percent) of home heating fire deaths.
- Half (50 percent) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.



For more information, please view the following video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=lb1EVo49nXQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=lb1EVo49nXQ)

Images courtesy NFPA



Space heaters can keep you warm – but also can be dangerous. Always keep at least three feet from any possibly flammable material and never leave unattended.



January 12 - May 12, 2015

Sign-Ups Begin January 2, 2015

at the Fitness Express, bldg. 103

The biggest loser is a weight loss challenge program designed to promote health and wellness and aid individuals in their weight loss goals.

#### RULES

All participants must complete a signup sheet.

Weigh ins must be completed no later than January 12, 2015 by 1600.

Non-active duty participants must pay a \$10 fee at the date of sign up.

Individuals are expected to weight in, with the trainer on duty, on a bi weekly basis.

Weigh outs must be completed on May 12, 2015 by 1600.

Winners will be announced May 15, 2015.

All participants will receive an MWR Fitness Express T-Shirt.

The Biggest Loser will have his or her picture place on the Fitness Express bulletin board.

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

## DoD releases 2015 Military Pay and Compensation Rates

by Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Department of Defense on Dec. 22 announced the 2015 military pay and compensation rates for service members, with most service members receiving a one percent increase in basic pay.

The new rates for basic pay, basic allowance for housing, basic allowance for subsistence, and the cost of living allowance rates for the contiguous United States will take effect on Jan. 1, 2015.

Basic pay for service members will increase one percent, except for general and flag officers who will not see an increase in 2015.

For example, an E-4 with 3 years of service will see an increase in basic pay of \$22.20 per month, while an O-3 with 6 years of service will receive a basic pay increase of \$54.30 per month in 2015.

Basic allowance for housing rates for service members in 2015 will increase on average \$17 per month, or 0.5 percent.

Rates are calculated using median

current market rent and average utilities (including electricity, heat, and water/sewer) for each pay grade, both with and without dependents.

Two changes were made to BAH rate computations for 2015: renter's insurance, which contributed an average of one percent to rates, was eliminated, and the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act reduced housing rates on average one percent for service members.

However, individual rate protection for service members remains an integral part of the BAH program.

This means that even if BAH rates decline - including through the elimination of renter's insurance and the reduction in the calculated rate - a service member who maintains uninterrupted BAH eligibility in a given location will not see a rate decrease.

This ensures that service members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if local housing costs decrease.

## Don't get stopped with an unregistered vehicle on base

by Rod Hafemeister

Although most Department of Defense installations, including Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, have eliminated the issuance of and requirement for base vehicle stickers, drivers are still required to register any vehicles they will be operating on base.

Air Station Security has seen an increase in unregistered vehicles since the end of vehicle stickers and wants drivers to know that is a violation that could get you a ticket and a trip to traffic court.

The requirement is included in NASCCINST 5500.7A, "Motor Vehicle Traffic Safety Regulation and Traffic Court Procedures and Penalties"

According to Chapter 2, Vehicle Registration, Passes, and Visitors, all vehicles operating on board NASCC should be registered with the Pass and Tag Office within 30 days of arrival for duty/employment at NASCC.

Registration typically is included as part of the check-in process; if you later acquire a another vehicle, you are required to register it within 30 days.

The registration requirement covers personnel who are assigned/employed on board the air station and residents of Laguna Shores Housing and Shields and Cove RV Parks.

Vehicles may be registered by the active duty military sponsor, an adult dependent of that sponsor, station employees, and non-affiliated residents of Laguna Shores Housing, and Shields and Cove RV parks.

To register a non-commercial vehicle, the following must be presented:

#### Personal Identification.

The driver shall present a valid State driver's license and/or OF-346, as applicable to the class of vehicle to be operated. The driver's license must contain a photo of the member.

In addition to a valid driver's license, military personnel and Government

employees shall also present an Armed Forces ID Card and/or Common Access Card (CAC).

Contractors shall present a valid DoD or DON approved form of identification for base access. Dependents shall present their Dependent ID Card.

#### State Registration Documents.

The driver of the vehicle shall present a valid State vehicle registration.

The name of the registered owner must either be the sponsor or dependent of that sponsor.

If the vehicle is a leased vehicle, then the driver must present a valid lease agreement.

If the vehicle is operated by someone other than the owner or one of the owner's dependents, then the driver shall present a notarized Certificate of Permission for Principal Operation of Motor Vehicle (Borrowed Vehicle).

The certificate may be obtained from the Pass and Tag Office and is to be filled out with all the vehicle information by the registered owner in front of a notary.

The notary must sign and stamp the certificate with their seal. Once it's properly filled out and signed by a notary, it's good for three years.

#### Proof of Insurance.

Proof of insurance consists of a printed insurance card, or other documents issued by the insurance company, that has the name of the insurance company, policy number, and policy effective/expiration dates.

The insurance coverage shall be a minimum of \$30,000/\$60,000 per accident for liability coverage, and \$25,000 per accident for property damage.

Insurance coverage of the registered owner is considered proof of liability for members of the same family, unless otherwise stated on insurance agreement.

Service members can calculate their BAH payment by using the basic allowance for housing calculator at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahcalc.cfm>.

The 2015 basic allowance for subsistence rates for military members will increase by 2.9 percent over last year. The new rates are:

- \$367.92 per month for enlisted members
- \$253.38 per month for officers

The annual adjustments to basic allowance for subsistence -- a monthly nontaxable cash payment to military members intended to be used to buy food -- are linked to changes in food prices as measured by the annual change in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cost of Food at Home Index.

From the beginning of October 2013 through the end of September 2014, the index rose by 2.9 percent, forming the basis for the increased BAS rates.

The Defense Department also released its 2015 contiguous United States cost of living allowance rates.

Roughly 12,000 members will see a decrease in their CONUS COLA payments, while some 7,000 members will see an increase or no change, and 4,000 members will no longer receive a CONUS COLA payment.

CONUS COLA is a taxable supplemental allowance designed to help offset higher prices in high-cost locations, and rates vary based on location, pay grade, years of service and dependent status.

Rates can increase or decrease depending on the prices in a specific duty location compared to prices in an average CONUS location.

Service members can calculate their CONUS COLA rate at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/conuscalc.cfm>.



## NEX offers special promotion for Baby Days

The NEX, along with the MILITARY STAR® Card program, has teamed up to provide a special offer on baby cribs, mattresses, dressers, travel systems, strollers, car seats, booster seats, high chairs and play yards.

From Dec. 31, 2014 – Jan. 13, 2015, customers using the MILITARY STAR® Card to make in-store Baby Day purchases of \$149 or more can take advantage of no down payment, no interest and no payments for six months.

The promotion is also available for special order items.

The MILITARY STAR® Card offers many benefits including 10 percent off the first day's purchases (up to the customer's credit limit), no annual fee, low interest rate and 24-hour customer service including online access.

MILITARY STAR® Card applications are available at any NEX. The application can be processed the same day at the NEX customer service desk.

## Protect Our Bays: Be careful about what goes down storm sewers



Storm drains aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi all empty into surrounding waters.

NASCC has a permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination system to operate our municipal separate stormwater sewer system.

The permit requires an annual Base Clean Up project and requires minimizing trash, garbage and debris going into storm sewers –

including grass clippings and cigarette butts.

If we see debris or an oil sheen coming from our outlets, we must report it to regulators.

We all have a stake in ensuring we keep our waters clean and ask all tenant commands and all personnel on the Air Station to support the requirements of keeping debris, oil and other pollutants out of the storm sewer system.

**NASCC Public Works Environmental**

This league is open to youth ages 5 - 12.

# Youth Activities 2015 Youth Basketball League

**Registration Ends: January 2, 2015**

**Register: Building 1756 • Monday - Friday**

**Practices Start: Week of January 19, 2015**

**First Games: Saturday, January 31, 2015**

**Registration Fee: \$50 per player**

Registration fee includes cost of uniform.

Late registrations after  
January 2, 2015  
will be an additional \$15.00.

**Parents Association for Youth  
Sports (PAYS)**

**Required Parents Meeting/Training:**  
This training is required for parents of participants!  
Good for 1 Year.

Take Class Online at  
<http://paysonline.nays.org/>  
Cost: Free

Parents must select installation for the training to be free.

Due by January 30, 2015

**Volunteer coaches and assistant  
coaches are appreciated!**

Coaches are required to complete the  
CYP volunteer packet and the  
NAYS Coaches Code of Ethics.  
Coach's volunteer packets (with completed  
training) are due to the Youth Activities  
Center no later than **December 12, 2014.**



For information, please call 961-2355.



## Trip with ITT

March 12, 2015

\$140.00 per person

**Cavaliers vs. Spurs Trip Includes:**

- Round trip transportation on charter bus to the AT&T Center in San Antonio! Game ticket to the Cavaliers vs. Spurs!
- Group departs from the Wings Auditorium, Building 100, NAS Corpus Christi at 1400 on Thursday, March 12, 2015.
- Arrive in San Antonio at 1700, dinner will be a planned 2 hour stop. (Please bring money for dinner.)
- Arrive at the AT&T Center by 1930 for game.
- The bus is scheduled to load up and depart AT&T Center at 2230 and is due to return to NASCC no later than 0100 on Friday, March 13, 2015.

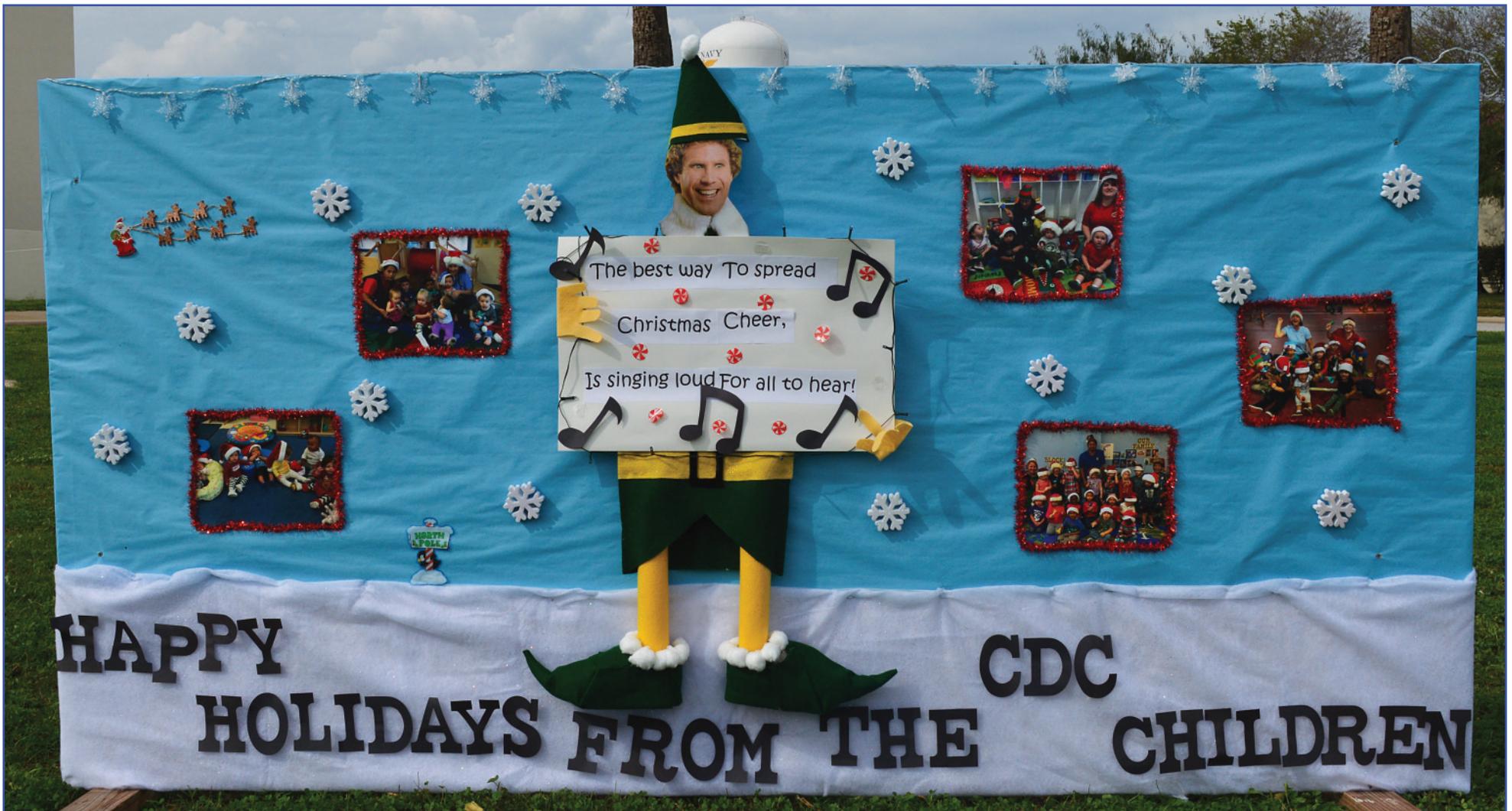
**Sign up at the ITT Office  
In building 1757.**

Deadline for Sign-Ups is 1200 on  
February 5, 2015.

For Trip to take place must have a minimum  
of 45 sign ups and a maximum of 56 sign ups.



For more information, please call 961-3961.



Tree Lighting continued from page 1

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 10 included holiday cards from various organizations on the Air Station, carols by the children from the Child Development Center and a visit from Santa Claus, who lit the tree and even asked the Skipper, Capt. Steve Banta, and Command Master Chief Rick Mathis for their wishes.

Photos by Laurie Garcia, MWR PA

