

# Wingspan

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • September 2, 2004

## Mobile Mine Assembly Group welcomes new commander

By Lt. Herlinda Rojas

Cmdr. John M. Dennett relieved Cmdr. Terry W. Auberry as Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG) in a traditional change-of-command ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi on August 16.

Cmdr. Dennett, a native of Alamogordo, N. M., enlisted in the U.S. Navy in August 1975. Following recruit training in San Diego he attended Fire Control Class "A" School at Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Ill., followed by the AN/SPG-51D Radar Technician Class "C" School in Mare Island, Calif.

Upon completion of training in May 1977 he was assigned to USS California (CGN 36). In January 1981 he cross-decked to USS Mississippi (CGN 40) to fill a critical billet gap as the Tartar Systems Technician.

In June 1981 he attended Instructor Basic School at Fleet Training Center (FTC) Norfolk. This was followed by an assignment as an Instructor/Course Supervisor for the MK 74 Missile Fire Control System at Combat Systems Technical Schools Command (CSTSC) Mare Island, Calif. At CSTSC he was designated a Master Training Specialist and in September 1983 promoted to Chief Fire Control Technician (Missiles). In August 1984 he returned for duty aboard USS California (CGN 36), home ported at Naval Air Station Alameda, Calif.

Cmdr. Dennett was commissioned an Ensign through the Limited Duty Officer program (Surface Ordnance) in September 1986. Following a series of schools he reported in December to the USS Gridley



Cmdr. John Dennett

(CG 21) in San Diego. During this period he served as Ship's Maintenance Management Officer, IC/NTDS Officer and Fire Control Officer.

In August 1991, he was assigned to the NROTC Unit at the University of San Diego. At the same time he graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's in Business Administration from National University.

He reported to USS Valley Forge (CG 50) in San Diego as the Systems Test Officer in March 1993. While assigned to Valley Forge he completed studies with National University and in July 1994 earned a Masters of Science in Logistics Engineering Management.



Cmdr. Terry Auberry

In March 1995, Cmdr. Dennett was assigned as a Nuclear Weapons Inspector at Field Command, Defense Special Weapons Agency, Kirtland Air Force Base, N. M.

Cmdr. Dennett reported to USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in March 1998. Though initially detailed as the Combat Systems Maintenance Officer he was flitted up in July 1999 and served as the Combat Systems Officer.

Cmdr. Dennett reported to Mine Warfare Training Center in March 2000 where he directed the Mineman Class "A" School and various Class "C" Schools.

In June 2002 Cmdr. Dennett reported to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (Guam) as the Assistant Chief of Staff Ordnance and Ordnance Program Manager. During this tour he provided ordnance logistics support for units in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Fleets and Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Cmdr. Dennett's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy Achievement Medal (two awards), the Good Conduct Medal (three awards) and various other campaign and service awards.

During his tenure as COMOMAG, Cmdr. Auberry was recognized for his outstanding management and oversight of the Navy's entire sea mine inventory. He served as operational and group commander for seven mine assembly units located worldwide and ten continental United States based reserved mine assembly units.

His efforts from August 2000 to August 2004 were instrumental in a ten percent improvement of overall fleet mine readiness, an increase in worldwide pre-positioned ordnance stock in direct support of national war plans and the reconstitution of a critical submarine laid mine system.

Under his command, his units participated in 116 mine training exercises and were responsible for delivering 1,764 exercise and training mines for use in those exercises.

Cmdr. Auberry's next duty station is Navy Region Mid-Atlantic in Norfolk, Va., where he will serve as the N-34.

## NAS Navy Lodge beginning to take shape

### New facility slated to open November 1

Story and photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland



Construction crew workers prepare to lay sewer and water pipes in front of the new NAS Navy Lodge. When completed, the facility will have enhanced landscaping and improved drainage, in addition to outside lighting.

For transitioning military personnel and their dependants, retirees, reservists, DOD civilians and visiting dignitaries the difficulty of appropriating adequate quarters for short and extended stays will soon become a whole lot easier. Construction of a new NASCC Navy Lodge on Ocean Drive adjacent to the Senior Officers Housing Area is designed to alleviate the crunch of available room space, according to NAS Commanding Officer Capt. Paula Hinger.

"It will be a very positive asset for the Naval Air Station," explained Hinger. "We'll be able to provide better lodging amenities, and not have to send military personnel and their families, especially reservists, out into town because we don't have enough available rooms here on the base. We've had to utilize what available space we have in building 1281 (the Breezeway Inn) as temporary living and lodging quarters for years."

In addition to the Naval Air Station, the new facility will also temporarily house personnel from NAS Kingsville and Naval Station Ingleside.

"We're servicing a wide area, in addition to the three bases," said Hinger. "This new facility will be close to all the major base facilities, and with the number of conferences we have during the year with Corpus Christi Army Depot and MWR, we shouldn't have to turn people away for lack of good lodging."

The 150 ft. long by 50 ft. wide three-story building has 52 rooms, consisting of three different class categories-standard, business and handicap. When finished, each room possesses new appliances, an enlarged living area, a kitchen, a full bathroom with combined tub and shower, and an enlarged closet space. In addition, each floor has a coin-operated self-

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Wingspan

## From the Skipper



Hinger

### Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility

By Capt. Paula Hinger

October is Crime Prevention Month 2004, and I challenge the entire Naval Air Station Corpus Christi base community to make crime prevention a priority, especially youth crime prevention. I am also speaking for the many individuals who have taken personal responsibility for their neighborhoods and community organizations that work for the common good.

Crime Prevention Month 2004 reflects the fact that time, money, and other resources spent on prevention yields tremendous benefits in reducing crime and making com-

munities stronger, safer, and better places to live, work, and play. Crime remains at historic lows in the United States and, although this is something to celebrate, we must not stop working to continue reducing crime on our base, city, state, and in our country.

During Crime Prevention Month, government agencies, civic groups, schools, businesses, and youth organizations in Texas will showcase their accomplishments. They reach out to educate and empower the public through educational campaigns, and explore new partnerships that build stronger communities where crime cannot survive.

In 1984, the National Crime Prevention Council, the nation's focal point for preventing crime, designated October as

Crime Prevention Month. The month-long celebration recognizes successful crime prevention efforts on the local, state, and national levels to generate interest and enthusiasm for prevention efforts to continue multiplying and growing even stronger and become more widespread.

To assist our community with crime prevention, there are several options for everyone to get involved. One program is our tip line available at 961-COPS, where you can leave an anonymous detailed message and it will be investigated. For emergency service you can call 911 or 961-3491. Our NASCC base security force is always here to help, and will continue to be proactive in protecting this base and its residents.

## Chaplain's Corner

### Follow the cowboy, not the sacred cow

By Chaplain Armando Torralva

When I arrived at Kingsville, I noticed a street sign on U.S. 77 pointing to Santa Gertrudis Street. The name Santa Gertrudis intrigued me. What did it refer to? Later I learned that the name refers to a special breed of cattle development at the King Ranch by crossing Indian Brahman cattle with British Shorthorns.

Learning about the Santa Gertrudis reminded me of cowboy movies where they had cattle drives from Texas to Kansas. You could always count on a stampede scene. It didn't take much to spoke the cows: bad guys trying to rustle a few, bad weather, a gunshot or howling coyotes. Inevitably, someone would get caught in the middle of the stampede and lose his life, wagons would be tuned over, or some of the cows would be killed. It could get pretty messy.

Cmdr. Auberry's next duty station is Navy Region Mid-Atlantic in Norfolk, Va., where he will serve as the N-34.

Life can resemble a cattle drive. Some cows cause problems for everyone else. Take for example the sacred cow. The sacred cow has been around since the days of Moses. He has always known just the right trail to follow to find food for the other cows. Because of his track record, a lot of other cows revere the grass where he grazes. In a sense, the sacred cow stampedes the herd into believing him. If any other cow suggests grazing somewhere else, that cow gets ignored or even condemned.

"We've always grazed here," they say.

Unfortunately, the sacred cow knows only one way. He doesn't keep up with weather developments to know if there's been any change at the watering hole or grazing area. Not keeping up with the times leads to a sad ending for the sacred cow and those who follow him.

The bullheaded cow is another one to watch out for. He acts more like a bull than a cow. He throws his weight around like a

bull, but he's only a cow. He doesn't like to follow anyone and always wanders off because he would rather blaze a trail of his own. Worst still, he thinks he knows more than the Cowboy does. He and his "compadres" often get lost as they meander, disrupting the schedule of the drive. Bullheaded cows have been known to separate themselves from the rest of the heard and run into a pack of hungry wolves. Too bad, but that's what they get for being so bullheaded.

You may want to look at the heard you're in. Don't let the sacred cow stampede you into a certain direction because it's the only familiar way to the watering hole. Things may have changed and you may need to change your course. Don't follow the bull-

Chaplain's Corner continued on page 3

## Healthwatch

### Soothing pain key to maintaining active lifestyle

By Lt. Nate Ruttig

Pain, quite simply, is just that. Getting rid of pain is often frustrating. There are many over the counter pain relievers on the market today and choosing the right pain-reliever(s) for any one person may take some experimenting. Individuals respond differently to different drugs. What works for a family member or your friend may



Ruttig

not work for you. Generally, pain-relievers are divided into three categories:

- 1.) Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDS), such as ibuprofen, naproxen and ketoprofen.
- 2.) Acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol and many other cold and flu preparations.
- 3.) Narcotic analgesics.

The one thing that all pain-relievers have in common is that they work best if taken with plenty of water. Water dissolves the medication, helping it to work faster, and it will also help prevent stomach upset. Acetaminophen, found in Anacin Three, Datriil, and Tylenol is considered the safest pain-reliever for pregnant women and can safely be taken in combination with ibuprofen. If combining these two pain-relievers, take the minimum dose for each. Many individuals "pop" ibuprofen or acetaminophen post-exercise. New evidence has been discovered that the use of pain-relievers after exercise blocks muscle building.

Whatever pain-reliever you chose, be smart. Never exceed the maximum daily dosage on the label and never drink alcohol while using any type of pain-reliever. Too much acetaminophen can harm the liver and an overdose of any NSAID can cause kidney problems and/or bleeding in the stomach. Children under age 18 should not receive aspirin, ever, unless prescribed by a physician, due to the risk of Reye's syndrome. Pregnant women should only take acetaminophen, unless their healthcare provider says otherwise.

Finally, remember that pain is your body's way of telling you that something is wrong. If over the counter medications are not controlling your pain, or if you have been taking a pain-reliever for more than 10 days, it is time for you to schedule an appointment with your healthcare professional.

September 2, 2004

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## Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi  
"Exceeding Expectations Through  
Pride In Performance"

### Commanding Officer

Capt. Paula Hinger

### Public Affairs Officer

Lt. j.g. Daniel Harmon

### Editor/Writer

JO2 Jeffrey Fretland

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## Worship Services

### CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Catholic Chapel  
Sunday Mass - 8:30 a.m.  
Daily Mass:  
Monday - Friday - 11:40 a.m.  
Religious Education: Sunday - 9 a.m.

### PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Protestant Chapel  
Protestant Worship Service:  
Sunday - 10 a.m.  
Sunday Bible Study - 8:45 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.



**Albert Hinojosa**

**Budget Technician, NASCC Comptroller's Office**

A resident of Corpus Christi, Hinojosa recently transferred from the Naval Station Ingleside Comptroller's Office to NASCC. He has been employed nine years with the Non-Appropriated Funds Division, and three years with the Civil Service branch.

Hinojosa likes his occupation as he enjoys laboring with numbers.

"I like a good challenge," said Hinojosa. "I also feel like I am assisting the Navy."

Hinojosa's future goals include continuing his college education, and improve at his job.

Hinojosa is married with a 15 year-old daughter.

"I'm just happy to come back to work at NAS Corpus Christi," he said.



**QM1 (SW) Kevin Johnson**

**Leading Petty Officer, NAS Headquarters Quarterdeck**

A native of Portland, Texas, Johnson has been in the Navy for 18 years and has been on board NASCC since December 2003.

His previous duty stations include USS Avenger (MCM 1) and Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

"I enjoy my job because it keeps me very busy with the day to day duties, such as being the building monitor, safety petty officer, and training petty officer," Johnson explained.

Johnson's future goals include obtaining a marine pilot's license and making Chief Petty Officer.

Johnson's hobbies include motorcycles, fishing and golf.

Johnson is married with two children, Mackenzie, 14 and Cassy, 10.

**NAS Navy Lodge continued on page 1**

service laundry for patrons to use. Satellite TV, DVDs and data ports are also available for laptop computer users.

"The new Navy Lodge is comparable to a Hampton Inn or a Holiday Inn Express," said Navy Lodge Program Director Mike Brockelmann. "We want military personnel and their families to receive the same high standard of quality they would receive if they were staying off-base."

An added advantage involves the use of reinforced steel rods within the building's walls to protect against hurricanes.

"We've re-enforced the Navy Lodge to comply with local zoning codes," said Ronald Baxley, project manager for Cadell Construction Co. "This new building should be able to withstand wind gusts up to 135 mph."

The prospect of establishing a new Navy Lodge facility for NASCC came to fruition in 2003. Groundbreaking for the new building began in March. The \$5 million facility is expected to be completed and operational around the first of November, and will employ between 20 to 30 people.

**Chaplain's Corner continued from page 2**

familiar way to the watering hole. Things may have changed and you may need to change your course. Don't follow the bullheaded cow that strays from the herd. He's not interested in getting to the waterhole; he's only interested in doing his own thing. Remember that there are wolves out here, waiting for the right time to pounce on an unsuspecting cow.

Your best bet in a cattle drive is to follow the Cowboy. He'll know if the watering hole is still here. If not, he'll find another. You many need to make some trail adjustments as you follow the Cowboy, but that's O.K., as it beats listening to the beef of either the sacred or bullheaded cow. By the way, if you haven't figured out by now who the Cowboy is, give me a call. I would love to introduce you to Him!

**FREE CLASSIFIEDS**

**FOR SALE:** Singer Sewing Machine with Cabinet \$125.00 Wooden Ladder \$15.00 Table Lamp & Shade \$20.00 Plastic Dog Bed and Pad \$10.00 Call (361) 775-1558.

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**September Calendar of Events**

There are two months left until the 2004 General Election for the President of the United States, 34 U.S. Senators, and 435 U.S House of Representatives. You and your family members are encouraged to take the time to ensure you are all registered to vote in your state of residence and to request a Federal Absentee Ballot for the general Election if necessary. Every vote counts! There are a number of ways in which to vote. In Texas, if you are registered at the Department of Motor Vehicles you are also registered to vote at the same time. If not, there is a postage-paid Texas voter registration card that can be acquired at the NAS Post Office or through the NASCC Voting Assistance Officer (Lt. Heather Coats, at 961-4960/4961, or contact her by e-mail at heathercoats@navy.mil.) For Nueces County voter registration, call the voting office at 888-0404. You can also check out the following websites for voter registration: [http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/online\\_fzca.pdf](http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/online_fzca.pdf), <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/vagchapter3.html>, or <http://www.tvap.gov/pups/vag/vagchapter3.html>.

Motorcycle riding classes are being held Sep. 16 and 17. For more information, contact Jennifer Garrett at the NAS Safety Office, at 961-3673, or [Jennifer.sgarrett@navy.mil](mailto:Jennifer.sgarrett@navy.mil).

Attention young football fans! The Williams Sports Entertainment Group and the NASCC AIMD Truax Field will be working together to host the 2004 National Football League Punt, Pass and Kick Competition for the South Texas Region. Event will be held at Bill Whit Park in Corpus Christi on Sep. 11, 2004. The competition is broken down into different age categories, which are eight to nine, 10 to 11, 12 to 13, and 14 to 15 years of age, with boys and girls competing separately (age will be determined as of Dec. 31 of the current year). Children must show a birth certificate for age verification. Bring the forms and birth certificates to get your child registered. Registration will begin at 7 a.m. and the first competition for the eight and nine-year-olds begins at 8 a.m. Volunteers form NAS are needed to assist with this event. If you would like to volunteer or need further information contact AM2 Joseph Williams or AZ2 Lakeisha Thomas at 961-3181 or 961-5051, or by e-mail at [joseph.r.williams@navy.mil](mailto:joseph.r.williams@navy.mil) or [lakeishathomas@navy.mil](mailto:lakeishathomas@navy.mil).

Open season for the Federal Employee's Group Life Insurance is scheduled to begin during this period. Eligible federal employees will be afforded the opportunity to take life insurance coverage, if not already enrolled. Coverage can be added for eligible family members. For more information, contact Elva Hernandez at (361) -516-6101 or DSN 876-6101 or via e-mail at [elvahernandez@navy.mil](mailto:elvahernandez@navy.mil).



*Do you yearn to investigate and learn more about and explore your Christian faith?*

**Come and join us for a meal and fellowship on Tuesday, Sep. 14 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. as we explore and celebrate God's Word through the Alpha Course held in Bldg. 333, Catholic Fellowship Hall adjacent to the NAS Catholic Chapel. For more info, Contact Sister Patrice, Director of Faith Formation, NAS Religious Ministries Dept., 961-4999 or Tim Hatch at 937-2458.**

**Career Counselor's Corner**

**Blue to Green Program now available to sailors, airman**

By NCC (SW) Terri Green



Sailors and airmen may soon be able to "Go Army" under a new Defense Department program intended to rebalance the size of the military. The program is generating new opportunities for continued service and career advancement for those willing to transfer into the Army from other services.

Under "Operation Blue to Green," the Army will reach out to sailors and airmen and underscore the advantages of swapping their present uniform for Army green.

At the same time, the Navy is planning a force reduction of 8,000 in fiscal 2005, with the Air Force trimming more than 20,000 over the same period.

When the shifts are done, officials said, Pentagon leaders are determined to see to it that the best people are still in uniform -- even if that means a different uniform. They plan to achieve that outcome entirely by way of voluntary choice.

Where necessary, the Army plans to use bonuses to stimulate the needed service transfers and to carefully guide the experience mix so that promotions stay strong.

The focus of the effort centers on grades E-1 through E-5, but other grades will be considered in meeting Army needs. For example, the Army will continue to have a sizable demand in areas that share much common ground with other services in knowledge, skill and ability. These include law enforcement, health care, communications and intelligence.

As an incentive to join the Army under Operation Blue to Green, bonuses are being offered to those who have skills that convert to the Army's most needed military occupational specialties (MOSs).

"There are 120 Air Force specialty codes that will transfer into 37 Army MOSs, and the Navy has 112 ratings that will transfer into 42 Army MOSs," said Col. Norvel Dillard, chief

of the Army's Enlisted Accessions Division. "Those are 'Job One,' but we're looking at others as well. We're also looking for officers, primarily junior officers."

Anyone who makes the shift would carry over all creditable active federal service, and procedures will ensure that those migrating within the active force experience no break in service.

Hagenbeck noted the program is being designed to make certain there is no break in service and no impact on Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits already "banked" by a member.

In the past few weeks, more than 1,000 sailors and airmen have checked out the Operation Blue to Green Web site, and answered a questionnaire and indicated intent to transfer. Nearly three-fourths of those exploring the option say they are "very interested" or "ready to transfer."

The procedure is generally expected to operate like this—the Army will first match its needs to the skills in other services. An outgrowth of that effort will be the identification of places where that audience is concentrated, so that an orientation team can be scheduled to visit that base. They would then meet with interested members and their families and explain the options.

Following a short presentation, one-to-one dialogue would be encouraged with team members on the spot—some from the Army's Recruiting Command, who can explain the mechanics of the program, and some from operational Army units eager to explain the Army today. The Blue to Green Web link also is being expanded to include chat rooms.

Once a person's eligibility is confirmed, the losing service would be contacted to effect an agreement to release. New service agreements would be drafted, and the sailor or airman would make the move. In many cases, they would carry a directly transferable skill. Otherwise, training in the new skill would be scheduled as part of the move. In order to qualify, the sailor or airman must be eligible for re-enlistment, must be physically fit, and meet Army height and weight standards.

If the skill is transferable, the new soldier would be scheduled for a new, four-week Warrior Transition Course, where he or she will be offered a curriculum that provides essential skills and abilities needed in their new service. Topics would include an orientation on organization, rank, uniform wear and career progression. The first WTC is scheduled to start in September at Fort Knox, Ky. It is planned as transition training, not boot camp, officials said.

Those transitioning to a new skill, particularly in combat-arms areas like special operations, would participate in the full range of developmental training to hone current talents and provide a new set of skills and abilities. Officers would not attend WTC, but would normally attend training unique to their branch depending on their grade and experience.

Upon transfer, new soldiers would be eligible to compete for promotion so long as they meet Army minimums, which can be years shorter than other services.

More information on Operation Blue to Green, go to the related websites listed below. Operation Blue to Green Program U.S. Army Recruiting Command [www.go.army.com](http://www.go.army.com).

For more information, contact NCC (SW) Terri Green at 961-2372/3722.

**Navy Medical Corps celebrates 57th anniversary**



Naval Hospital Corpus Christi's physician contingent of Medical Service Corps (MSC) officers, part of the over 3,200 active duty and Reserve MSC personnel, celebrated 57 years of dedicated and committed service to Navy Medicine August 4. Front (from left): Lt. j.g. Willie McCoy; Lt. Jose Nieves; Lt. Tracy Fosterfowler; Capt. Patti Ireland; Capt. Eleanor Valentin, NHCC executive officer; Lt. j.g. Kevin Lyle; Mr. Dwayne R. Meeker (USN, Ret.). Back (from left): Lt. Gaspar Cantu; Lt. Gerald Hall; Lt. Joseph Lawrence; Capt. John Rezen; Lt. Randy Birt; Lt. Peter Im; Lt. Rodney Ball. Not pictured: Lt. Wayne Boucher. Deployed: Cmdr. Benjamin Ernst; Lt. Mary Jean Burkes; Lt. j.g. Mathew Marcinkiewicz; Lt. j.g. Steven Brewster, and Lt. j.g. Jose Sanchez. (Photo by Bill Love)

## Your vote counts more than you think

By FLTCM (SW/AW) “Buck” Heffernan



I'd like to refresh your memory about the 2000 general election. While there was a significant amount of controversy surrounding the Florida ballots, the real interesting fact is that the 2000 election was the closest in our nation's history. In the electoral vote, George W. Bush defeated Albert A. Gore 271 to 266, but lost the popular vote 50,456,002 to 50,999,897. Because the vote was so close, it is easy to see that every vote counted.

Voting is a right and a privilege secured by all of us who have fought for our country for more than two centuries.

I once heard someone say, “Voting is a God-given right.” I couldn't help but think how wrong that person was. No one “gave” us the right to vote. The right to vote was fought for. The right to vote remains today because our military protects our free and democratic way of life. The right to vote should not be taken lightly -- too many people paid too many sacrifices to secure it.

My hope is that every Sailor understands how to vote in the November 2nd general election. The process is not that complicated, but we have many young Sailors who will vote for the very first time in November. It is up to our leadership to ensure every Sailor has the knowledge and choice to vote.

Whether you are stateside, on a ship, or deployed overseas, we have a process that makes it possible for your vote to count. Personally, it does not matter to me if you are Republican, Democrat, Independent, Green Party, etc. What matters to me is that you have the ability to exercise your right to vote and participate in the democratic process.

Every command in the Navy should have a voting assistance officer. The chief of naval operations' challenge to every voting officer is to contact 100 percent of our Sailors to ensure they have the necessary information to obtain an absentee ballot. My hope is that his challenge is met because unlike so many things in life that we have no choice about, we all have a say in deciding who our elected officials are, including our commander-in-chief. If you have not been contacted, ask the question to your chain of command. Your Leading Chief Petty Officer should be able to direct you to your command's voting assistance officer.

The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) clearly stated it is the job of leadership to ensure Sailors understand how to vote, not to make them vote. Voting is a personal choice. If a Sailor chooses not to vote, that is his or her choice.

For all of our Sailors who are stationed overseas or on deployed ships, your SF 76 (Registration and Absentee Ballot Request - Federal Post Card Application) should be mailed no later than 30 August. If you are stationed in the United States, you should have your SF 76 mailed no later than 15 September.

If you desire more information on voting, I would suggest you visit the following website: [www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap](http://www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap). The FAQ (frequently asked questions) provide you answers to most questions.

In addition to any information you have already been provided, the Navy is going to conduct a Voting Awareness Campaign September 3-11 in conjunction with Armed Forces Voting Week. This period of time is critical in reaching not only our active duty Sailors, but also our family members and our Navy civilian workforce. Please assist me in publicizing the need for everyone to become involved. The military vote is extremely important...especially when you consider we are a country at war. If you fully participate in our democratic process, you can take pride in knowing you personally make a difference.

## MWR News and Events

### Aquatics

**The Bayside Pool will only be open on weekends from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. until Labor Day, Sep. 6, 2004.**

**The Oasis Pool is open for lap swim. The hours of operation are as follows:**

**Tuesday through Friday:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Saturday:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Sunday and Monday:** Closed

*For more information, please call Earl Olsen at the Oasis Pool 961-4257 or 961-3260.*

### Corpus Christi Bay Club

Join the Corpus Christi Bay Club for some delicious, terrific specials during the month of September. They have their menu filled with lots of delicious entrees during the entire month, so stop by and enjoy some tasty food and great company at the Bay Club.

#### Specials for September:

Sep. 3 and 10: Shrimp a Peel Buffet \$15.95 (All you can eat)

Sep. 4: Medallion of Beef Bernaise \$14.95

Sep. 11: Chateaubriand Flambe for Two \$29.95

Sep. 17: Surf and Turf \$13.95

Sep. 18: Flaming Kabobs \$12.95



All the above specials are served along with the A La Carte from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Prices are for club members. An additional \$1 per person is added for non-members. Salad, ice tea or coffee is included with all the meals. Reservations are required for the specials in order to serve you better.

#### Special Events for September:

**Sep. 17:** Winging designation ceremonies will be held in the main ballroom at 3:30 p.m.

**Sep. 24:** Mongolian Barbecue Night

**Sep. 25:** Member's Appreciation Night with a free meal offered for CCBC members. The menu includes spaghetti with meat sauce, tossed green salad with ranch dressing, Italian mixed vegetables, garlic bread and butter, and iced tea and coffee. Please contact the Bay Club if you plan to attend so we will be able to serve you better. Cost for non-members is \$8.95, children five to ten years old \$4.50 and children under three years of age eat free.

**Reminder: The Bay Club will be CLOSED on Sep. 6 in observance of Labor Day (Federal Holiday). For more information, please call the Corpus Christi Bay Club at 961-2541.**

#### E-Street Gym

**Unit Sports Day:** Start getting your teams ready for unit sports day. Registration for this annual event runs through Sep. 17. Each department needs to select a sports day coordinator and submit the name to the athletic director. Sports day will be held on Thursday evening, Oct. 14 and all day Friday, Oct. 15 to avoid the summer heat. For additional information, please contact Mike McClure at 961-2401, or e-mail him at [mike.b.mcclure@navy.mil](mailto:mike.b.mcclure@navy.mil).

**Sports at a Glance: The Captain's Cup Tennis Doubles** will run from September through October. Deadline for registration is Sep. 3. **The Captain's Cup Bowling League** is scheduled from September through March. Registration deadline is Sep. 17. **The Captain's Cup 10K Run** will be held Sep. 25, and the deadline for registration is Sep. 22.

Holiday hours will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Labor Day Sep. 6 and Columbus Day Oct. 11.

*For more information, call the E-Street Gym at 961-2401.*

#### Fitness Express

**Taekwondo Classes:** These are available for children ages three to 16 on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 5:30 p.m. The cost for these classes is \$35 per month.

**Personal training:** Our certified fitness trainers give you a workout to get you started on a weightlifting program, refresh an existing training program or supercharge the intensity of the old program. The sessions are free of charge, and fitness assessments are also free.

**Other Fees:** Monthly membership fees include unlimited group exercise. The fees are \$15 for DoD/NAF employees working on base, \$25 for other government employees and Navy League members, \$5 unlimited group exercise for retired military and all dependants, a \$3 guest fee per day charge, and locker fees from \$3 for women to \$5 for men per month. There is no fitness center fee charge for active military, retired or reserve military members and dependants. Daily lockers are available free of charge. Bring a lock to secure your locker.

**Towel Coins:** You may purchase a towel coin for one dollar. This coin may be traded for a towel when you arrive. When you bring the towel back to the front counter, your coin will be returned.

**Weight Training Equipment:** The Fitness Center has variable weight and plate loaded equipment in addition to dumbbells and barbells. We have personal trainers and recreation specialists to guide you in accomplishing your fitness goals. *For more information, please call the Fitness Express at 961-3164.*

#### Gonzalez Liberty Center

The Gonzalez Liberty Center is here to meet your recreation needs. There are many fun activities planned for the upcoming months, along with ongoing activities at the GLC to fill your month with non-stop excitement. It's time to pull out your favorite barbecue recipes and test them out at the third annual **Rib Cook Off** at the GLC! Registration is going on from now until Sep. 16. There is no entry fee required. Ribs will be judged according to tenderness, tasteness and uniqueness. Trophies and prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners, and the team that displays the best showmanship. Register at the GLC today! *For more information, contact the Gonzalez Liberty Center at 961-6405.*

#### Information, Tickets and Tours (ITT)

Stop by ITT today to get your tickets to the best summertime fun around. There is something for everyone, including food, music, sports, and a whole lot more. ITT is offering discount tickets to Six Flags Over Texas as part of their military special of \$15.50 per person. Tickets are only valid on **Sep. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 or 26.**

The “**Blues on the Bay**” concert tickets are also available. Do not miss an opportunity to see the legendary BB King, Chris Duarte and other performing artists.

ITT also has tickets to the following Dallas Cowboys' games:

**Oct.10: Dallas Cowboys vs. New York Giants**

**Nov. 25: Dallas Cowboys vs. Chicago Bears**

**Dec. 26: Dallas Cowboys vs. Washington Redskins**

Tickets are \$40 per person for each of the games. The new 2005 Entertainment books are in and can be purchased for \$20 per book. They contain a variety of entertainment and



restaurant options in Corpus Christi for you and your family to enjoy. For more information on schedules, ticket prices and other services available, please call ITT at 961-3961 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

**Navy Ball Tickets on sale now!** This year's celebration of the Navy's 229<sup>th</sup> birthday will be held on Oct. 16 at the American Bank Center Banquet Hall (formerly the Bayfront Convention Center). Tickets will be on sale until Oct 8. **Ticket prices are as follows: E-1 to E-4 is \$15, E-5 to E-6, GS1-5, NF2 employees \$30, E-7 to O-4, GS 6-8 and NF3 employees \$40, and O-5 and above, GS9 and above, and NF4 and above employees \$50. Civilian guest fees will be \$55.** Attire for the evening is as follows: Officers, dinner dress white jackets, and for enlisted personnel, service dress whites. Civilians and guests may wear semi-formal attire. **For more information, call 961-2268.**

#### Outdoor Recreation Center (ORAC)

ORAC is ready for fall and wants to get you ready too! Take advantage of all the classes that ORAC is offering. Some of the classes offered at the ORAC Marina include:

#### Sailing and Motor Boat Classes

#### Scuba Classes

#### Windsurfing Classes

**Also Available:** ORAC not only offers classes but meets all your fishing, camping and fun time needs. You can stop in and get all the gear you need for fishing, camping and kayaking excursions.

The hours of operation for the Outdoor Adventure Recreation Center are as follows:

**Thursday to Monday:**

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Tuesday and Wednesday:**

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*For more information, please contact the ORAC staff at 961-1293.*

#### Pizza Sub Pub

The Pizza Sub Pub is offering these specials:

Lunch delivery is available between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. with a \$10 minimum purchase. Luch cards are also available. Have it stamped every time you purchase a lunch between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (must be \$3.95 minimum or more). After purchasing seven lunches, your eighth one is free. The Pizza Sub Pub menu includes pasta dishes, salads, sub sandwiches, pizza, and beverages. *To call in your order, please dial 961-2249.*

## National policy to be enforced Labor Day weekend

By MA1 Jose Olivencia

With more people expected to travel on America's highways during the Labor Day holiday, this week could be one of the deadliest periods ever for impaired driving fatalities. To protect Corpus Christi families during this holiday period, NASCC Police will support Corpus Christi Police and Texas state officials in efforts to protect citizens from impaired drivers.

The ***You Drink and Drive You Lose*** National Mobilization, launched in December 1999, is a comprehensive impaired driving prevention effort focused on highly visible criminal justice-related efforts to deter impaired driving and is designed for use by states and communities to save lives.

As part of the ***You Drink and Drive You Lose*** National Crackdown, NAS Police will be working with local and state agencies to protect everyone from impaired drivers during this busy time of the year. From August 27 to September 12, 2004 local and state officials will be out in full force conducting sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols throughout the Base and Corpus Christi to arrest and prosecute these criminals to the fullest extent of the law.

There will be no warnings. Our message is simple. Violators can forfeit their licenses, remove time away from their jobs, and lose money in high fines and court costs as well as possibly face imprisonment for repeat offenses, assault and vehicular manslaughter. Refuse a blood alcohol concentration test and you can lose your license on the spot and have your car impounded. You will be spending your money on bail and towing fees instead of picnic food and back to school shoes.

After a decade of gradual success, fatalities in alcohol-related crashes have not significantly improved nationally in the last three years. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that alcohol-related fatalities rose slightly from 17,400 in 2001 to 17,419 in 2002. An estimated 258,000 persons were injured in crashes where police reported that alcohol was present - an average of one person injured approximately every two minutes. If you find it hard to figure out if you've had too many drinks to drive - don't risk it. Chances are if you're feeling “buzzed” you are too impaired to drive safely. Risk driving at an illegal level, and chances are law enforcement will catch you and you'll spend the holiday in jail.

Nine out of 10 Americans who participate in social events where alcohol is served feel that people should use designated drivers. It is suggested that party hosts include alcohol-free beverages and protein-rich foods, along with reminding guests to plan ahead and remember the following advice:

## Station Sports Top teams in softball feted

Congratulations to the following teams for winning the Captain's Cup Softball League tournament held recently. The Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) “Big Doggz” captured the first place finish, and the CCAD Warriors clinched the second place seed. *(Photos by Mike McClure)*



**The CCAD “Big Doggz” finished a successful season (15-1) under team captains Gregory Johnson and Glen Huff.**



**The CCAD Warriors (14-2) were led by team captains Jeremy Garcia and Ted Leal.**

- Don't risk it. If you plan to drive, don't drink.
- Choose a sober designated driver before partying.
- Take mass transit, a taxicab or ask a friend to drive you home.
- Spend the night where the activity is being held.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement officials.
- Always wear your safety belt - your best defense against an impaired driver.

Studies from the NHTSA show that the majority of Americans consider drunk driving one of the nation's most important social issues, ahead of healthcare, poverty/hunger, racism and education. Nearly 97 percent of Americans view drunk driving as a major threat to the community. As a result, the majority of Americans support increased use of enforcement efforts like saturation patrols and sobriety checkpoints to protect innocent victims. Furthermore, two-thirds of Americans also strongly endorse the use of stricter and more severe penalties against drunk drivers.

In 2004, Corpus Christi has had 134 alcohol related accidents resulting in 17 fatalities. There have been approximately 32 DWI incidents on board NAS Corpus Christi this year. NASCC Corpus Christi Police will be conducting random field sobriety checkpoints throughout the station during the ***You Drink and Drive You Lose*** campaign. We highly recommend the designated driver practice, but if you find yourself without a ride home, **DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE**. Contact the NAS base police at 961-2375/2282 or the NAS quarterdeck at 961-2383. We will pick you up and ensure that you arrive safely at your residence.

For more information about the campaign, visit NHTSA's web site at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov).

# AWARDS AND

# ACHIEVEMENTS

## Commander Mine Warfare Command recognizes hard chargers

Commander Mine Warfare Command's Commanding Officer Rear Adm. Michael Nowakowski presented awards to the following military and civilian personnel during a ceremony held Aug. 12. (Photos by Lt. Herlinda Rojas)



Capt. James R. Righter, Jr., Mine Warfare Command Assistant Chief of Staff for Expeditionary Warfare, was presented with a Meritorious Service Medal from Rear Adm. Nowakowski for his service while on staff at CMWC from October 2002 to September 2004.



Rear Adm. Nowakowski presented MA1 Jeffrey E. Wright, CMWC Operations Department (N3), with his fourth Good Conduct Award for outstanding naval service.



Robert I. McGrath, Mine Warfare Command Operations Department Deputy was named CMWC Civilian of the Year for 2004. He was recognized for conceptualizing and developing pre-planned responses for Homeland Defense scenarios, decreasing the mine warfare response time to potential terrorist mining events, refining and exercising the heavy weather moor in support of a hurricane threat and developing the sorts matrix for High Speed Vessel 2 Swift. Rear Adm. Nowakowski presented McGrath with a framed certificate and a \$250 check to commemorate his achievement.



Rear Adm. Nowakowski presented IT2 (SW) Joseph G. Licastro, CMWC Force Information Technology Department (N6), with his second Good Conduct Award for his faithful, zealous and obedient naval service.



## Pilots receive wings



The following personnel received their "wings" designating them as aviators, during a "winging ceremony" at the Corpus Christi Bay Club Aug. 6. In alphabetical order: 2nd Lt. Eric Brown, USMC; 2nd Lt. Stephen Bush, USAF; Ensign Daniele Ditre, Italian Navy; 1st Lt. Timothy Drieslein, USMC; Ensign William Fineran III, USN; 1st Lt. Josh Leibel, USAF; 1st Lt. Rebekah Montgomery, USAF; 2nd Lt. Tomothy Ray, USAF; 2nd Lt. Trenton Selah, USAF; 2nd Lt. Jeremy Sparks, USAF; Ensign Matthew Swartzwelder, USN; 2nd Lt. Edward Wineland, USAF; Lt. j.g. Coburn Yearian, USN, and Ensign Erik Zwitz, USN.

## Public Works Dept. recognizes outstanding employees



Mr. Mark Stroop (above) receives a certificate designating him as the NAS Civilian of the Quarter for the third quarter from NAS Commanding Officer Capt. Paula Hinger Aug. 19.

Mr. Reynaldo Aleman (left) receives a citation from Capt. Hinger (right) recognizing Aleman's 30 years of faithful government service during an awards ceremony Aug. 19 at the NAS Public Works Center Building 19.



## NHCC recognizes outstanding boss



Mr. Dan Cyr (left) received the Naval Hospital Corps Christy Supervisor of the Quarter designation for the third quarter calendar year 2004, from NHCC Commanding Officer Capt. Alton L. Stocks, Medical Corps, during an awards ceremony Aug. 12 in the NHCC auditorium. Mr. Cyr was cited for his many years of leadership at Naval Hospital Corpus Christi.

