

WINGSPAN



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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

May 7, 2009

Preparing for the 34th Annual Beach to Bay Marathon

Story and photo by Bob Torres

Hundreds and maybe thousands of runners are preparing for the 34th Annual Beach to Bay Relay Marathon that will be held here May 16.

The marathon begins on the beach, just South of Bob Hall Pier, comes through the Air Station, goes up Ocean Drive and finishes at Cole Park near downtown Corpus Christi.

The marathon entails a six-person team and runners have come from as far as England and Kenya to run the "Beach to Bay."

"We're really excited about this year's race, because we already have record numbers signing up," said Doug McBee, race coordinator. "This year we have a special race being added.

"An Army unit in Tikrit, Iraq, will be running a race there, in the desert, at the same time we're running ours here. We sent them

T-shirts, like what we're wearing and they'll run it there, with our t-shirts. It's a 'first' for this type race and we're particularly excited about that."

"Is it still on," asked Liza Gallegos calling from Austin, TX. "I heard it might be called off."

Lisa, who has run here for the past three years, did not want to be left out.

The third Saturday in May is Armed Forces Day and, since the first Beach to Bay in 1976, it's been held on Armed Forces Day to honor our nation's men and women in the Military.

The race has grown since its inception in 1976, to 1,719 teams in 2008 totaling more than 10,500 runners.

For more information go to the website at: beachtobayrelay.com.

To volunteer, contact MA1 Ryan West at 961-2288 or EM1 Jason Kreger at 961-1356.



Thousands of runners are preparing for the 34th Annual Beach to Bay Relay Marathon that will be held here May 16. Last year's runners (above) appreciated a cooling shower as they ran through NASCC.



NASCC's Newest Master Chief

Page 3

Plus: Chief's Board Deadline May 15

Page 11



CCAD Extends Life of AF Pave Lows

Page 4



CNATRA Art Exhibit

Page 10

NASCC Fire Department grabs Region honors again

by Rod Hafemeister

The Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Fire Department has been named Navy Region Southeast Fire Department of the Year (Large Category) for 2008.

Fire Chief John Morris said that the honor is even better because it's a repeat – the department won the award in 2007, as well.

"It feels great, especially knowing that we are competing against large high visibility bases such as Pensacola, Jacksonville and Mayport as well as a bunch of other smaller bases throughout the Southeast Region," he said.

"Though we don't chase awards, the awards process serves

to validate the fantastic work that our personnel do each and every day and provides a little extra motivation to keep trying new and innovative ways of doing things."

The awards submission included details of how busy the Fire Department was in 2008:

• 1,653 calls for service, includ-

ing 20 fires;

• 211 calls for Emergency Medical Services (EMS);

• Supported more than 350,000 air operations;

• Limited total fire loss to \$88,000, or .0024% of the total \$3.6 billion at-risk value.

Morris said the secret is hard work and sharp focus – and strong support from the command.

"Though we are continually moving forward on various initiatives in Operations, Fire Prevention and Training, the support from the front office is critical," he said. "We have been fortunate over the last three years to have great support from the two Skippers and XO's that has allowed us the freedom to fast track on some of these ideas.

"Oh, the other secret is Shanita Jones who does a fantastic job of maintaining the administrative side of the house – which is a lot like herding cats."

Fire continued on page 25



The men and women of the NASCC Fire Department celebrate being named Navy Region Southeast Fire Department of the Year (Large Category) for 2008 with a group photo.

Skipper's Column

by Capt. Randy Pierson



Pierson

I want to thank everybody for showing real Navy spirit during the base cleanup April 20.

On the day after the South Texas Shoot-Out Air Show, NAS Corpus Christi's people proved their commitment to the Navy's Earth Day theme by partnering to

clean up our base and shoreline.

Navy's Earth Day 2009: Partnering for the Planet

In addition to a scheduled FOD Walk-down by squadron personnel, more than 250 people from more than 20 commands volunteered to help, along with retirees and a City of Corpus Christi official.

With Ground Electronics wake-up music in the background, NEX provided us with coffee and honey bun snacks, and the effort kicked off at 8:15 a.m.

Divided into eight teams, everybody put on their sunscreen, hats and gloves, grabbed up industrial-sized trash bags and trash pickers, and scoured every part of the installation.

The final trash haul included everything from thousands of cigarette butts to construction debris - and even three HEB shopping carts.

A great MWR lunch wrapped up things by noon, and more than 300 trash bags went to the dumpsters.

One major lesson that everybody learned was how disappointing it is to clean up somebody else's trash.

In the spirit of Earth Day and Navy pride, I hope every year there is less and less to pick up.

Chaplain's Message

by Lt. j.g. Rob Fasnacht, Chaplain

To all who organized and helped with the Air Show, I would like to thank you. It was a fabulous event that my kids greatly enjoyed.

On Monday morning, my daughter was disappointed to learn that the Air Show was over and we would not be attending for the fourth day in a row.

The only draw back from the event is that I received a more than minor sunburn on my face and hair line.

In Michigan, one never had to worry about applying SPF 5000 in the middle of April, but I was quickly reminded that I am not in Michigan anymore.

My failure to pay attention to this detail has caused me great discomfort.

As I was training to become a chaplain, I was reminded on more than one occasion to "pay attention to the details."

Now that I am a chaplain with staff working for me, I have had to repeat the same standard Navy line, "Pay attention to

the details."

The idiom, "the devil is in the details," is actually a derivative of, "God is in the details." It becomes a point of perspective.

For too long, I have wasted an unbelievable amount of energy trying to ignore the details.

I was always a "measure once, cut twice" sort of guy. Now I am learning the importance to "measure twice and cut once."

I save myself and others around me time, money and resources when I don't have to do simple tasks twice. I am learning to be efficient. I am learning to pay attention to the details.

While the Blue Angels are flying in their diamond formation, every detail must be hyper-analyzed. Their lives and the lives of the spectators are at risk if they fail to pay attention to the smallest of particulars.

As a viewer of the Air Show, I expected nothing less than perfection from the Blue

Pay Attention to the Details

Angels. As a division officer, why shouldn't I have the same expectation of the people who work for me?

Why don't I expect my staff to pay attention to the smallest of details. I have people who come to me with true life or death situations.

I must raise my own personal bar of efficiency and proficiency in the details.

Then it can trickle down to my staff and to those I serve and serve with.

God is in the details and I must learn to be like the famous monk, Brother Lawrence, to do any and every task as if I was doing it for the Creator Himself.



Fasnacht

Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

As I write this - one week into the swine flu scare and a week before you get to read it - I am reminded of the admonition on the cover of the fictional *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*: "DON'T PANIC."

By now, we should have a better idea whether we are facing a serious pandemic (defined as, "An epidemic (a sudden outbreak) that becomes very widespread and affects a whole region, a continent, or the world") or if the new H1N1 influenza strain is not as dangerous as feared.

We don't have a story on it in this issue because, with our two-week schedule,

whatever we print would be hopelessly out of date by the time you read it.

We've posted a link on the Website to the CDC and will update the site if appropriate, but this is a case where the instant communications of television and the Internet will do a much better job of providing timely information.

But... make sure you activate your mental garbage filters. A quick scan of the blogs and discussion boards finds a lot of misinformation and outright balderdash out there.

And it's not just folks on the "fringe" - there are countries out there banning pork products or destroying their livestock, despite the overwhelming assurances by medical experts that you cannot catch this bug by eating pork.

Locally, at least some folks appear to have hit the panic button early. My wife came home from the store and said there wasn't a bottle of bleach or can of Lysol on the shelf

- people were making a run on disinfectants the way they go for bottled water when a hurricane threatens.

But so far, the medical types have said the most important things you can do is 1) wash your hands well and often, and 2) stay home if you get sick, so you don't spread it.

The big question - which may have been answered by now - is why people aren't dying from it the way they have in Mexico.

I heard a radio interview with Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. He suggested that it may turn out the death rate is actually very low everywhere - but that Mexico had a lot more people infected than they had realized, meaning more deaths even with a low death rate.

And remember, the CDC says that influenza of whatever type results in an average of 36,000 deaths (mostly from

Editor continued on page 19

Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi
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Commanding Officer
Capt. R.F. Pierson

Public Affairs Officer
Robert D. Torres
Robert.Torres1@navy.mil

Editor
Rod Hafemeister
rodney.hafemeister@navy.mil

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Marty Barnholtz surprised with advancement to Master Chief

by Rod Hafemeister

The Navy accomplished something April 27 that the friends of Senior Chief Martin Barnholtz thought they'd never see – Barnholtz without something to say.

Minutes after having Master Chief Petty Officer anchors pinned on his collar, Barnholtz drew applause and laughs when he said, "For the first time, I think I'm speechless."

But he quickly recovered, with advice to Sailors coming up behind him.

"Always take the hard jobs, the challenging jobs," he said. "Even if you don't think it's challenging, always do your best at it."

"Always do your best at everything and you will be recognized for what you do."

Barnholtz was born on Jan. 29, 1968 in St. Louis Missouri. He graduated high school in 1986, joined the Navy in February 1987 and completed ET A school in Great Lakes, Ill., in September 1988.

His duty stations have included the USS White Plains, Naval Computers and Tele-communications Area Master Station WESTPAC (Guam), Service Schools Command Great Lakes ET "A" School, USS Inchon, USS John F. Kennedy, and two tours at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

After completing two years of his second tour aboard NASCC he volunteered for an Individual Augmentation tour to Afghanistan and returned in November.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (four awards), and Army Achievement Medal.

The advancement to the Navy's top enlisted rank was a surprise, Barnholtz admitted – made more so by the sudden way it happened.

The Master Chief list came out that morning, and Barnholtz was the only Senior Chief at NASCC to make the list.

Word went out to assemble his fellow Chiefs and friends and co-workers. And that afternoon, Commanding Officer Capt. Randy Pierson and Command Master Chief Pat Flavin pinned the new anchors on Barnholtz in front of NASCC headquarters.

Flavin reminded those assembled that, by law, only 1 percent of the enlisted force can

be Master Chiefs.

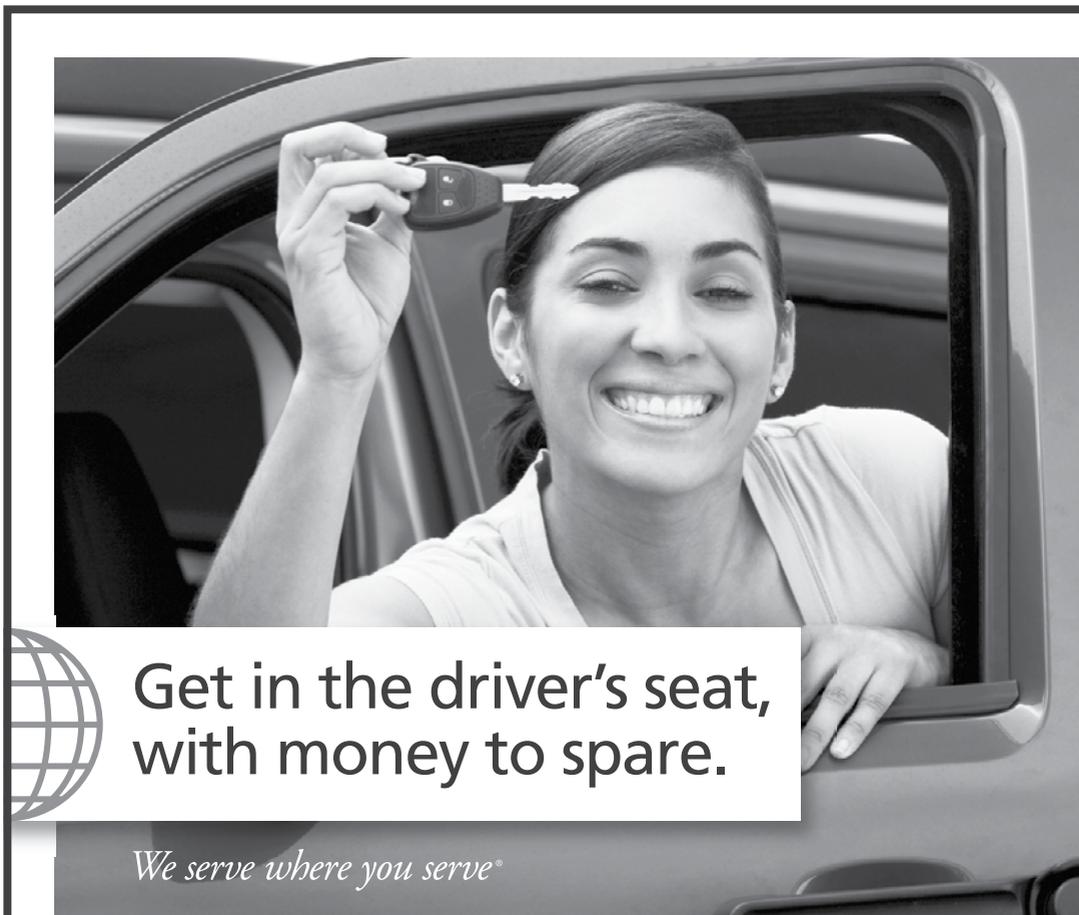
"If you want to know how to reach Master Chief, look at Marty Barnholtz's record – look at what he did," Flavin said.

Navywide, 396 of 3,329 board-eligible active-duty Senior Chiefs were advanced to Master Chief in this year's advancement cycle.



NASCC Command Master Chief Pat Flavin (l.) and C.O. Capt. Randy Pierson (r.) show off the Master Chief anchors they just pinned on former Senior Chief Martin Barnholtz.

Photo by Bob Torres



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Structural Integrity Program Keeps Pave Hawks in the Air

by **Brigitte Rodriguez, CCAD Public Affairs**

Air Force Combat Search and Rescue helicopters continue to save lives, thanks to structural upgrades by the Corpus Christi Army Depot.

The first HH-60G Pave Hawk to receive the upgrade rolled out of CCAD during a special ceremony April 7.

The Director of Aircraft Sustainment for U.S. Air Force Special Operations Forces and Combat Search and Rescue, John Adams, was at the depot to accept the prototype Structural Integrity Pilot Program Pave Hawk presented to the Air Force.

"These are special aircraft," said Wayne Duffy, CCAD Air Force Liaison. "Their mission is combat search-and-rescue. They go in to rescue airmen and wounded (service-members). If necessary, they can fight their way in and fight their way out."

Because the future of the next Combat Search and Rescue project to replace the HH-60G fleet, CSAR-X, is awaiting results of the Quadrennial Defense Review, this small fleet of 101 Pave Hawks will have to extend their service life and workload.

"There's no longer a timeline for when we'll actually replace the HH-60 and get a new platform so that's why this SIP is all the more important," Duffy said.

"We're going to have to extend the lifetime of this aircraft."

SIP is designed to prolong the life of the aircraft through a structural upgrade that either

replaces or modifies parts on the airframe.

"Basically, we do 100 percent replacement of structure integrity of this aircraft to make it last another 10 years or so," said Daniel Prado, Depot Production Manager.

Pave Hawks are highly modified versions of the Army Black Hawk helicopter. The in-flight refueling probe is a noticeable addition to the Pave Hawk. Not so apparent is the upgraded communications and navigation suite.

These differences require special attention when being modified.

The program is not new to CCAD; structural integrity improvement is implemented on other product lines. For example, the A2A Black Hawks go through a process which accomplishes similar goals.

Pave Hawks, however, could not use an identical process. Instead, a new process for modification was engineered due to differences in part and airframe design.

A part which fit perfectly on a Black Hawk, for instance, would not fit on the Pave Hawk because of its fuel probe.

CCAD's team of professionals went in and fashioned the modification, developing new tools to get the job done.

Support for the program continues to increase. Recently, the program received money for a new structure fixture that will decrease work-in-progress time during several phases of the program with alignment



John Adams (right), Director of Aircraft Sustainment for U.S. Air Force Special Operations Forces and Combat Search and Rescue, addresses the Corpus Christi Army Depot artisans involved and talks about the importance of the Pave Hawk Structural Integrity Pilot Program to the Combat Search and Rescue effort. Wayne Duffy, CCAD Air Force Liaison instrumental in coordinating the project, listens.

Photo by Ed Mickley, CCAD Public Affairs

and installation.

Dedicated CCAD artisans have been modifying and repairing airframes on HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters in the program since May 2008.

During his visit, Adams thanked all those involved for their efforts.

"We would like to thank you for what

you do every day, turning out about 20 Pave Hawks a year to keep us safe and sound and to keep those missions going," he said.

Prado applauded the crew.

"I'm blessed that I have the talent that I have right now with these guys," he said. "They applied themselves and they did real well on it. They're pretty innovative folks."

There's a lot to see and do in Corpus Christi and the "B" can get you there. Visit the Downtown and Harbor area sites by catching the Trolley or the Harbor Ferry that make up the Shoreline Connection. Or you can connect to other transportation that will take you all around town!

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Another way to see the city. What's not to like?

May is Motorcycle Awareness Month — ‘Share the Road’



Motorcyclists taking the Experienced Rider Course on the training range along the seawall. Training in at least one of the three courses is mandatory for anyone riding on a Navy installation. Training in each of the three motorcycle courses is free for all active duty, reserve and retired military members and their dependants and government civilian employees. Eligible riders can sign up for a training course online at: www.navymotorcyclerrider.com

Story and photos by Rod Hafemeister

“How many motorcycles have you seen today?”

That’s the theme for May, Motorcycle Awareness Month, said Dan Miller, motorcycle safety instructor for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

Although you can ride motorcycles year-round in South Texas, there’s a definite increase in bikes on the road when the weather turns warm.

And the idea is to remind both riders and car and truck drivers that they share the road, Miller said.

“I’ve identified more than 300 motorcycle riders here on NAS Corpus Christi, and I honestly haven’t been able to identify everyone yet – I’ve still got commands coming in with their lists,” he said.

All motorcyclists who ride on a Navy installation are required to pass an approved motorcycle safety course and wear appropriate protective equipment, including boots, gloves, helmet and reflective material.

“From what I understand, all insurance companies give you a discount if you’ve had some kind of motorcycle training, so that’s another reason to get it,” Miller said.

Since Oct. 1, the beginning of the fiscal year, Miller has trained more than 100 riders: 17 in the Basic Rider Course, 49 in the Experienced Rider Course and 38 in the Military Sportbike Rider Course.



The NASCC Navy Exchange is now carrying approved helmets and reflective vests for motorcyclists.

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Area Navy Marine Corps Relief Society honors volunteers



The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 24, recognizing volunteers from Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Naval Air Station Kingsville and Naval Station Ingleside. Pictured, in alphabetical order, are: Sara Conner, Barbara Day, Cmdr. Bryce Gibb, Tammy Hoyt, Susan Lacey, Cmdr. Bruce Lankford, Lisa Lankford, Carol McDermott, Kathleen Newman, Tambi Parker, Capt. Randy Pierson, Sherri Pierson, Amy Pincelli, Martha Price, Susan Price, Nanci Pruter, Capt. Leland Taylor, Chief Thomas Taylor, Senior Chief Dewite Wehrman and Lynda Wood.

Photo by Bob Torres



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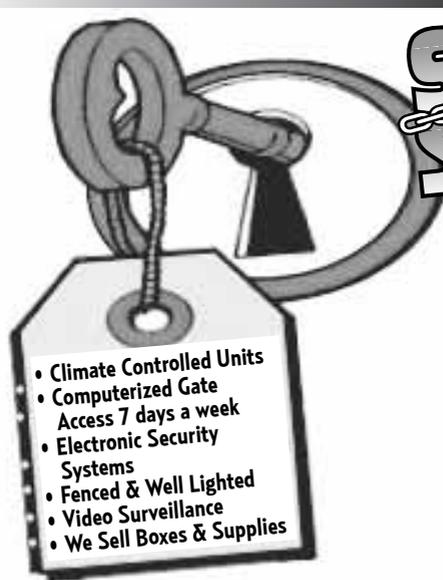
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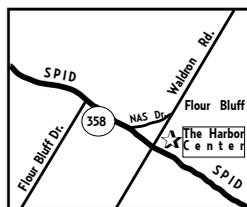
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VBSS: Evolving with the mission

by Ed Barker, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Whether it's searching a Dhow in the Persian Gulf for hidden weapons, or boarding and inspecting a suspected pirate mothership off the coast of Somalia, Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) teams are playing an important part in the Navy's 21st century Maritime Strategy.

Managed by the Center for Security Forces (CENSECFOR) in Norfolk, Va., formal VBSS training was created following the first Gulf War in 1990 as a way to standardize and continue the Maritime Interception Operations introduced there as a result of U.N. Resolutions.

"The course was designed to standardize what was previously done through on-the-job training and passdown," said Kurt Martin, Anti-Terrorism Program Manager for CENSECFOR. "We introduced the curriculum in 1998 and updated it in 2005 to reflect what the teams would be facing in the fleet."

Cmdr. Steve Murphy, commanding officer of USS Mahan (DDG 72), is currently operating as part of Combined Task Force (CTF) 151, a multi-national task force conducting counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden.

"Time and again on this deployment, the investment in training of my VBSS team has paid off," said Murphy. "Whether in support of the counter-narcotics mission or our new, more aggressive approach to stopping piracy, extensive training and the teamwork and principles of risk management that it has instilled has resulted in safe mission accomplishment."

Although anti-piracy operations are getting the lion's share of the news coverage, Martin notes that VBSS teams are not specifically trained for an anti-piracy mission.

"You won't find the term 'anti-piracy' in any of the CENSECFOR VBSS training



Lt. j.g. Lawrence Heyworth, a boarding officer for the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) VBSS team, climbs a ladder to board the decommissioned amphibious transport dock EX-Duluth (LPD 6) during training at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 James E. Foehl

Initial VBSS skills training is delivered by CENSECFOR at four locations: Chesapeake, Va., Mayport, Fla., San Diego, Calif., and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The initial training continuum includes three courses lasting a total of eight weeks, with some team members receiving additional follow-on training. Skills taught in the VBSS courses include tactical movement and shooting, defensive tactics, repelling, searching and other team skills.

The center's training covers both VBSS Level I, which focuses on ships that comply with the instructions of the inspection team, and Level II, which addresses the tactics used to board vessels that are non-compliant. Level II ships have freeboard (the distance between the waterline and the main deck of the ship) of 25 feet or less above the water. Non-compliant vessels that have greater than 25 feet of freeboard, or that are actively opposing the boarding, are handled by teams of Special Operations Forces (SOF).

curriculum," he said. "The fact that the ships depend on the VBSS teams is a by-product of the cohesive unit that forms, and their ability to deliver the team via Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boats (RHIBs), board vessels and, if necessary, defend themselves should the situation arise. VBSS teams are on Navy ships throughout the world 24/7, keeping the bad guys from smuggling everything from guns to cocaine."

"VBSS teams are an all-volunteer force, and generally consist of young, athletic Sailors that are gung-ho," said Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Michael Edwards, training and readiness action officer for Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic. "It's an intense program that is challenging to complete, but the experience and results are worth it. The missions are interesting and varied; as a VBSS team member afloat, life is never dull."

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C. C. Hooks Salute the Services

Stoy and photo by Rod Hafemeister

Military members and their families can enjoy discounted tickets May 11 -16 as the Corpus Christi Hooks baseball team holds its "Salute to Service Week" at Whataburger Field.

The Hooks, the AA-affiliate of the Houston Astros, host the San Antonio Missions May 11-12 and the Frisco Roughriders May 13-16.

The Service Salute follows on the successful pair of Military Appreciation Nights the Hooks hosted last year, this time with a different theme each night.

Monday, May 11 – Honoring Aviation History in South Texas

- Display of Naval Aviation exhibit from the Chief of Naval Air Training exhibit at Galvan House

- Anniversary of enactment of the Air Medal in 1942 and honoring local recipients

- Party Areas open – Pool & Spa, AT&T Suite Seats (2 owner's experiences included w/booking)

- Reserved Seating \$8 (regularly \$10) and General Admission/Grass \$3 (regularly \$5).

Tuesday, May 12 – Salute to Service Half-price Night

- Half-price tickets for military (\$5 and \$2.50) – show IDs at box office

- USS Lexington Night – Lex promotion & giveaways, Lt. Lex on hand

- Party Areas open – Pool & Spa (2 owner's experiences included w/booking)

Wednesday, May 13 – Awareness Night for USO

- Proceeds from ticket sales support USO – tickets regular price

- Hooks seat cushions to first 2,500 fans courtesy of Coastal Bend Chevy Dealers

- Party Areas open – Champion Club, AT&T Suite Seats (2 owner's experiences included w/booking)

Thursday, May 14 – Salute to Service Half-price Night

- Half-price tickets for military (\$5 and \$2.50) – show IDs at box office

- Air Force recruiting table & pre-game swearing-in ceremony – available to other branch recruiters w/purchase of 250 tickets

- Game to be aired live on Fox Sports Net

Friday, May 15 – "Soldiers on the Big Screen"

- Military movie clips for game situations

- Recorded messages from servicemembers here and abroad

Saturday, May 16 – 60th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

- Hooks camo jersey to first 2,000 fans courtesy of Citgo

- Flyover

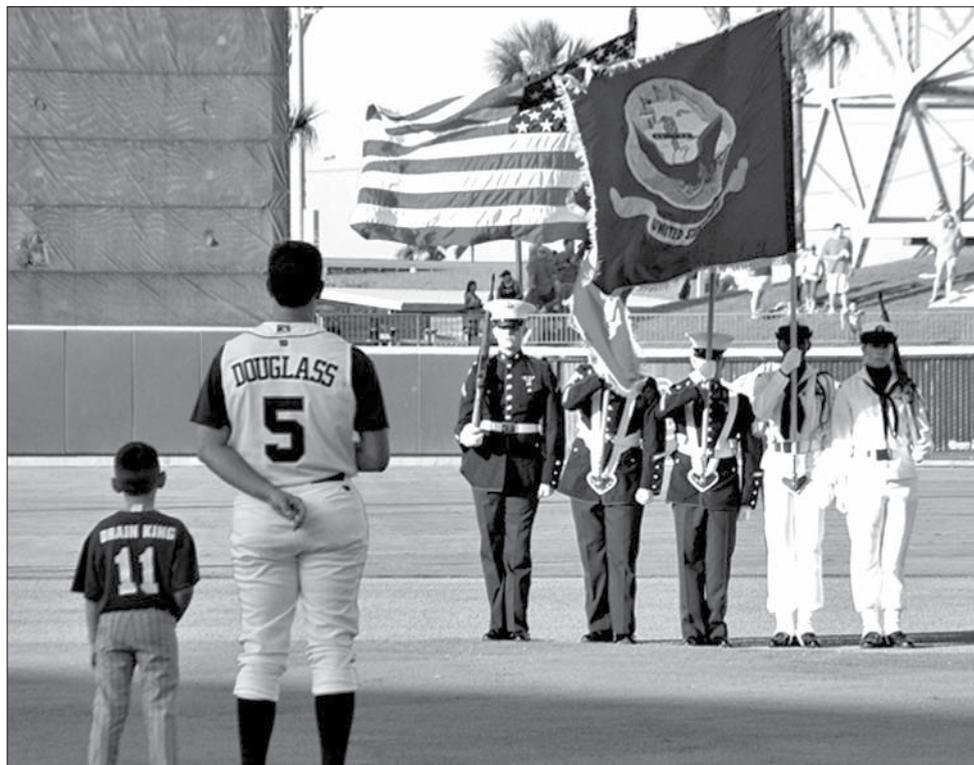
- Color guard

- Patriot Guard Riders around warning track pre-game

- Branch songs played in-between innings

Tickets can be purchased online at: www.cchooks.com/grouptickets/military
Username: military Password: cchooks

Hooks promotions coordinator, Seamus Gallivan, also is asking for contact information on local Air Medal recipients for the May 11 event and video clips for May 15. He can be reached at 361-561-4689 or by email at sgallivan@cchooks.com.



NASCC Color Guard at Hooks' Military Appreciation Night in 2008

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Naval Aviation Art Exhibit part of city's Military Appreciation Month



(above) An F/A-18 Hornet. (below) Early Naval aviation training.

Photographs highlighting the history of Navy air training in South Texas will be on display in Corpus Christi for most of May, thanks to the Chief of Naval Air Training.

The city's Parks & Recreation Department's Cultural Services Division will host an exhibit of artwork from various photographers, starting with the beginning of Naval aviation up to current aircraft.

The exhibit, put together by CNATRA, will be on display May 4-29 in the Galería Galván at Heritage Park. The artwork comes from photographic archives from CNATRA, DoD and personal collections.

A free "Meet the Navy" reception will take place from 6-8 p.m. on May 7 at the Galván House.

CNATRA took its roots in Corpus Christi in 1938 and has been training aviators ever since.

Composed of five Training Air Wings located at Naval Air Stations in Corpus Christi, Kingsville and Florida and Mississippi, and training nearly 2,000 aviators each year, the air wings are home to 17 Training Squadrons.

In addition, joint training is also conducted with the Air Force on bases in Texas, Oklahoma and Georgia.

For more information regarding the Cultural Services gallery schedule, call 361-826-3449 or visit: www.ccparkandrec.com (click on "WHAT'S HAPPENING").

Photos from CNATRA collection

The Galería Galván is located in the beautifully restored Galván House in Heritage Park, 1581 N. Chaparral. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 9am–5pm, Friday 9am–2pm, and Saturday 11am–2pm.



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Preparation key to acing Chiefs' Board

by MCC Maria Yager, NPC PA

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – The May 15 deadline is fast approaching for more than 19,000 first class petty officers eligible for the FY-10 Active Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Selection Board who wish to submit correspondence to the board.

“Last year we received 14,492 packages. So far (as of April 22) we’ve got 419, but the busiest time is two to three days after the postmark deadline,” said Lola McGallagher, a contractor in Navy Personnel Command’s (NPC) Customer Service Center (CSC) who processes and logs selection board packages at NPC.

Selection board packages allow candidates to submit missing documents from the sections of their enlisted permanent personnel record which are viewed by the selection board.

Documents reviewed by the CPO board are:

- Procurement, enlistment/reenlistment data
- Classification and assignment
- Administrative remarks
- Separation and retirement
- Miscellaneous professional service history
- Enlisted performance data
- Training and education
- Decorations, medals, and awards
- Adverse information

A new program announced by NPC Jan. 14 in NAVADMIN 011/09 makes reviewing records and preparing for selection boards easier by providing Sailors online access to their record.

Web Enabled Record Review (WERR) allows Sailors with Internet access to view the same documents reviewed by selection board members when considering candidates for selection for chief, senior chief and master chief and other selection boards.

All active duty and Reserve personnel with a Bupers On Line (BOL) account, a Common Access Card (CAC) and a CAC-enabled computer can view WERR available through <https://www.bol.navy.mil>.

Sailors unable to access WERR may still order a copy of their record on CD Rom from the “Request Record on CD” link <https://www.bol.navy.mil>.

Candidates are encouraged to review their records before the board meets and submit any documents that are missing. NAVADMIN 250/08 provides guidance and mailing information for those who wish to submit a package.

“Make sure your full name and complete social security number, not just the last four, are on each document you submit to the board,” said McGallagher. “This better enables us to make sure the documents get to the right record.”

Sailors can confirm their package has arrived by clicking on the “Selection Board Status” link on the NPC web site, or by calling the CSC at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC.

Chiefs continued on page 18

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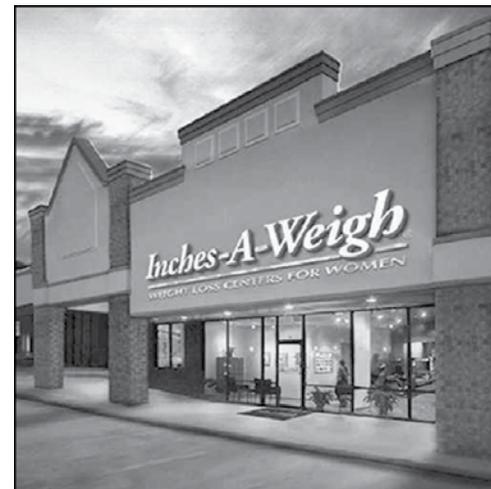


This issue at a glance

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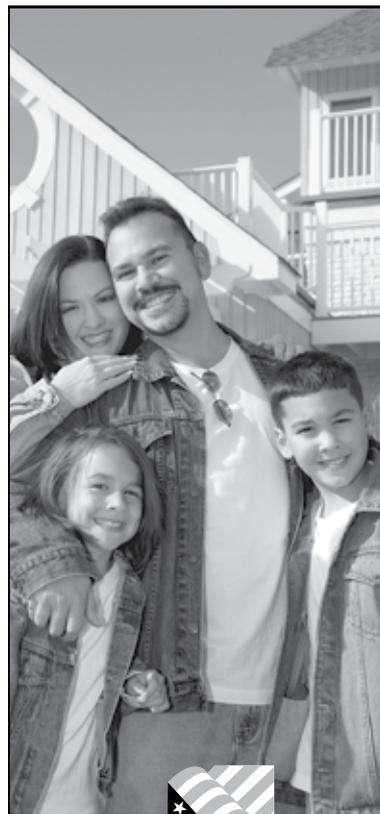
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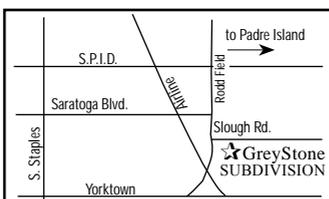
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Three more minesweepers leave Ingleside



USS Pioneer (MCM 9) departs Naval Station Ingleside on April 20, one of three mine countermeasures ships that left that day for their new homeport in San Diego, Calif. The change of homeport of Pioneer, USS Champion (MCM 4) and USS Devastator (MCM 6) was caused by the 2005 Defense Base Relocation and Closure Commission's decision to close NAS Ingleside and consolidate mine

warfare surface assets in one location to align resources, consolidate expertise and increase cost savings in maintenance, training and operations. The first two Avenger Class ships – USS Warrior (MCM 10) and USS Chief (MCM 14) – left Ingleside March 9 for their month-long journey to the West Coast and arrived in San Diego on April 17.

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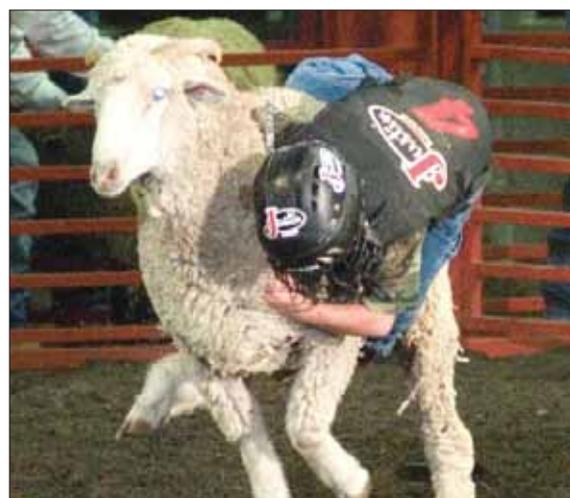
MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT



April 23 was opening night of the Buc Days PRCA Rodeo — and their 2nd Annual Military Appreciation Night with a theme of “Homecoming Heroes.” An All-Services Honor Guard presented the colors and NASCC Chief Petty Officer Charles Kittle sang the National Anthem, with Katie Murch, Miss Deaf Texas, signing the anthem. Then it was rodeo time, with bucking broncs, rodeo clowns and the crowd favorite, mutton-busting — where young children attempt to ride sheep. The rodeo also held special events for Corpus Christi Army Depot on April 24 and the U.S. Coast Guard on April 25.

The Buccaneer Commission is a non-profit organization that uses it’s 11-day festival to raise money for youth scholarships.

Photos by Richard Stewart and Rod Hafemeister



Awards and Achievements

Winging Ceremony — April 24



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Official party, from left: Lt. j.g. Robert Fasnacht, Chaplain; Butch Escobedo, Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce; Lt. Col. Robert K. Blagg, USAF, XO, VT-35; Maj. Steven Cogar, Operations Officer, MATSG; Cmdr. Dennis R. Crews, CO, VT-31; Cmdr. Mark F. Springer, CO, VT-35; Capt. David R. Price, Commodore, Training Wing 4; Rear Adm. William F. Moran, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group.

Wingees in alphabetical order: 1st Lt. James Paul Balcom, USAF; Lt. j.g. Warren Anthony Barlow; 1st Lt. James Michael Brophy, USMC; Ensign Michael Christopher Caruso; 2nd Lt. Trevor James Cook, USAF; 1st Lt. Nathan Reynold Dillon, USMC; 2nd Lt. Albert Nicholas Hainsfurther, USAF; 2nd Lt. William Tutt Holland, USAF; Ensign Phillip Daniel Jenkins; 2nd Lt. William Gilbert Kerr IV, USAF; Lt. j.g. Brendon William Kiely; Lt. j.g. Michael Krasniewski; 2nd Lt. Loren Matthew Miller, USAF; 2nd Lt. Chrystina Lynnai Short, USAF; 2nd Lt. Russell Baldwin Stanfield, USAF; Ensign Christopher David Stiphout; 2nd Lt. Dominick Michael Tatangelo, USAF; Capt. Jared D. Thompson, USAF; Lt. j.g. Patrick Elzear Veillette III.

Training Wing 4 Civilian Awards



At the April 24 winging ceremony, Capt. Dave Price, Commodore of Training Air Wing 4, recognized three civilians for their exceptional performance. Above, from left: Angel Acosta, VT-31 supply technician, earned the NSPS Civilian Employee of the Quarter for Technical Support Award; Stu Nagel, TW-4's

Student Control Officer, earned the NSPS Civilian Employee of the Quarter for Program Management award; and Bill Tinsley, TW-4's Ground School Instructor, was recognized for his 35 years of service to the Navy.

Photos by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

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Padula says 'Farewell' to HM-15



Departing HM-15 Commanding Officer Cmdr. David Padula receives a commissioning pennant from Master Chief Carrie Williams at his change of command ceremony April 23. Padula's next assignment is to the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D.C. Photo by Richard Stewart

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Classified continued on page 17

Wingspan on line at www.enic.navy.mil/corpuschristi
 Scroll down to the Wingspan Logo

Ros re-ups on the USS Lexington



Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Commanding Officer Capt. Randy Pierson presents EO2 Mardi Ros with a congratulatory plaque after Ros re-enlisted for six years on April 30. The re-enlistment took place aboard the historic USS Lexington.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

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Ask Dr. Garcia



Q: What is the one determinant factor needed in a marriage?

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Whenever you rise up in the morning or lie down at night or go through the affairs of the day, you are choosing continually to love that man or that woman you married.

Understanding that love is a choice will help keep you out of trouble when temptation comes (and it will).

Knowing you have made a decision to love your husband or your wife will carry you through those times when he or she has made you angry, or when you see that handsome or attractive coworker at the office.

You could have married someone else, but that's not the point. The point is, you made a decision.

When you married your spouse, you chose to love and cherish him

or her for the rest of your life. That love must be refreshed daily.

Keep in mind, that one of the most important foundation stones for a happy marriage is a sacrificial love for your spouse that you choose to renew daily.

Q: How can my husband and I tell that our marriage is healthy and thriving?

A: One sign of a healthy and growing relationship is a deepening level of intimacy in the interaction and communication of those involved in the relationship.

To put it in similar terms, long-term success and fulfillment in marriage depends to a large degree on the scope and depth to which a husband and wife develop their art of communication.

It is vitally important that you and your spouse learn how to listen to and understand one another and feel comfortable sharing your deepest and innermost thoughts, feelings, joys, sorrows, hopes, and dreams.

Marriage is a lifelong journey of adventure with surprises and challenges at every turn.

Learning to communicate effectively is also the journey of a lifetime. It is neither quick nor easy, but it yields increasing rewards of intimacy and fulfillment through the years that are well worth the hard work required.

Ruben G. Garcia, Ph.D., LMFT is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and co-founder of The Healing Institute. Submit your questions to Dr. Garcia via email at troubadour55@hotmail.com. You can also contact Dr. Garcia at (361) 814-4556.

NASCC's new home on the Web

The address for the NAS Corpus Christi website has changed.

The permanent address for the NASCC website is now:

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/CorpusChristi>.

This is the official public website for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

If you type in the old address, you will be redirected to the new website for a period of one month. Afterward, the old address will be defunct and no longer work.

Please take note and bookmark this address.

And while you're there, feel free to look around and suggest any changes, corrections or updates.

Email Wingspan Editor and new Web Guru Rod Hafemeister at:

rodneym.hafemeister@navy.mil and put "Website" in the subject line.

Chiefs continued from page 11

"We get them logged in pretty quickly, but it may take a few days longer when the big rush comes in," said McGallagher.

The selection board reviews the records of all eligible candidates and selects the best and fully qualified Sailors based on considerations identified in the precept. The precept, which may change from one selection board

to another, is a written order signed by the chief of naval personnel, providing general and specific guidance to the selection board.

The FY-10 Active Chief Petty Officer Selection Board convenes June 22 and is the largest selection board conducted in the Navy. The board typically lasts five weeks, with their results forwarded to the chief of naval personnel for final approval.

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Editor continued from page 2

complications rather than the flu itself) and 200,000 hospitalizations in the U.S. every year.

So this particular one, so far, hasn't shown itself to be especially deadly.

So "Don't Panic" – at least, not yet.

On a separate note, I meant to write something about this last issue but it was pre-empted by a more immediate topic.

I suspect most of you are rather proud of the way the Navy, and specifically some SEAL snipers, rescued Capt. Richard Phillips from Somali pirates.

Of course, the political chattering class did their best to make it a partisan political issue.

From what I've read, and especially the explanations from Defense Secretary Gates and other officials, it appears to have been relatively free of both political machinations and the dreaded micro-management from on high that we used to fear in special operations.

But one claim jumped out at me: Several commentators stated that the rescue was accomplished because of "the Navy the George W. Bush left for Obama."

That got my attention because of research I did a couple years ago into claims that President Clinton gutted the military.

That didn't quite fit with my personal experience: I remember the first President Bush cutting the military as part of the "peace dividend" after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In fact, the Army was already reducing itself in 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait – and had resumed cutting forces by the time I, was released from active duty in August 1991.

As a military reporter in the mid-1990s, I did several stories about military downsizing – and how it was essentially following the program instituted by the first President Bush.

The Department of Defense has a marvelous site for looking at military strength numbers, <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/MILITARY/Miltop.htm>.

Dig into those numbers – and keep in mind that a president doesn't really affect budgets and troop strength until the fiscal year after he takes office.

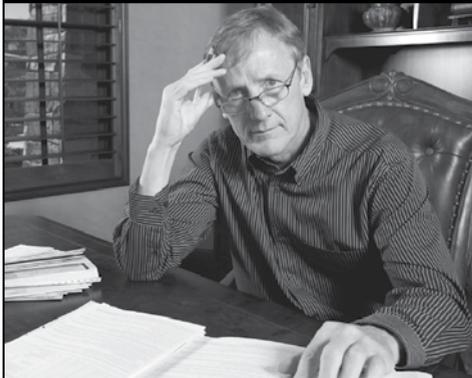
What you find is that, overall, the military lost almost 20 percent of its active duty personnel during the four years of George H.W. Bush – and almost 19 percent during Clinton's eight years, actually increasing again by the end of Clinton's second term.

Even more relevant is that the second President Bush reduced the active duty force even after 9/11 – cutting the Navy and Air Force faster than he built up the Army and Marine Corps while conducting the Global War on Terror.

The Navy had 377,810 active duty Sailors at the end of the final Clinton budget on Sept. 20, 2001. As of Sept. 30, 2008, it was down to 332,228 – and the goal for this fiscal year is to get down to 329,000.

So the real story is, the men and women of the Navy did an outstanding job in the rescue – despite what three administrations did to them during the past 20 years.

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NASCC workers spent the morning of April 20 on an Earth Day cleanup of the base, including (above) the Ocean Drive property outside the gate. (Inset) Trash collected included construction debris and even HEB shopping carts.

Photo by Christina Meza, NASCC Environmental; inset by Rod Hafemeister.

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CCAD celebrates Arbor Day



Corpus Christi Army Depot employees had a great time getting their hands dirty for Arbor Day, April 24. They planted a Hibiscus with bright yellow blooms in the Depot's Building 8 atrium. (l-r) Erica Webb, Manny Ruiz-Vasquez, Lynn Gomez, Marissa Arredondo, Tracey Busby, Sgt. Maj. Charles Beckman.

Photo by Ed Mickley, CCAD Public Affairs.

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On May 25th, 2009 the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority will implement significant changes to (15) fifteen routes and insert (2) new routes for more effective service. The RTA would like new and current riders to be aware of the significant changes and how it may affect their travel.

RTA will be offering Public Education meetings at various locations around town over the month of April and May. If you would like an RTA representative to host a group presentation or drop off information to your school, office or organization please call the RTA Customer Care Center at 361-883-2287.

- Route 2 Hillcrest + Sunday Svc Change
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- Route 5 Alameda/NAS
- Route 6 Santa Fe/Malls
- Route 8 Flour Bluff/Malls (NEW) + Sunday Svc Change
- Route 12 Hillcrest/Saxet/Oak Park
- Route 16 Agnes/Ruth
- Route 17 Carroll/Southside
- Route 21 Arboleda + Sunday Svc Change
- Route 26 Airline/Malls Connector
- Route 27X Robstown/Calallen Express

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MWR updates for Spring and Summer

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Hours of operation are:

- Monday – Friday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- Saturday 12 p.m.- 6 p.m.
- Sunday 1 p.m.- 6 p.m.

The Oasis Pool is open for lap swim only.

Hours of operation are:

- Monday – Friday 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4 p.m.- 6 p.m.
- Saturday & Sunday 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Registration for swimming lessons, pool parties, and pool passes will be May 11 through May 15 for active duty, reservists, retirees and their family members; May 18 through May 22 for DoD and contractors, 4 to 6 p.m. at Bayside Pool. Swim lessons are available at \$25 each person per class. For more information, call Earl Olsen at 961-3260.



Breakfast and an afternoon snack are included. Weekly fees are based upon total family income.

For more information, please call 961-2355.

MWR Open Golf Tournament

The MWR Open will be held on Friday, May 22, at the Gulf Winds Golf Course.

This tournament is open to all hands; it will be a four-man scramble format with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.



Team meeting begins at 8:30 a.m.

Come enjoy prizes, food, and great fun! Entry fee is \$25 per person and includes green fees, cart fees and lunch.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, May 20.

Call the GWGC at 961-3250 for additional information.

New Hours for the Child Development Center

Beginning May 18, the Child Development Center will change hours of operation.

The new hours of operation will be: Monday through Friday - 5:30 a.m. – 6p.m.

For more information, please call the CDC at 961-1165.

Ceramic Kids Summer Camp

Kids are invited to join in on the fun with the Ceramic Kids Summer Camp.

This event will be held every Wednesday from June through August until school starts.

Kids will learn the art of ceramics from pouring of molds, to a finished piece.

POC is Clarice Bookamer, owner of Clarice's Creations and award winning artist.

Please call her at 961-2459 to register for the Ceramic Kids Camp or for more information.

Summer Camp 2009

Registration for Summer Camp begins May 1st.

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Fire continued from page 1

Overall, the credit goes to the 67 personnel who work for him, Morris said.

"We have a great team of highly motivated personnel who are solidly behind a shared vision and willing to go the extra mile," he said. "We also submitted and were highly competitive in the Fire Prevention, Fire Officer (AFC Mark Weil) and Firefighter (Capt. Joel Davis) awards categories.

"I am confident that these submissions, while not selected, did tip the balance in our favor in being recognized as Fire Department of the Year."

The awards submission also stated that the "First Preventers" of the Fire Prevention Division executed 100 percent of the more than 650 required quarterly, annual and special facility fire inspections and drills, issued 849 hazardous operation permits, investigated eight loss-fires, trained 155 Fire Wardens, and delivered high-yield public education to more than 7,000 personnel.

And the Training Division readied 68 professional firefighters for battle through more than 36,000 man-hours "of expertly planned and executed in-service and formal training," including airfield, structural live-fire, confined-space and rescue training.

And while awards are nice, the real benefit comes from the recognition that department manages its resources and people efficiently and effectively, Morris said.

"I see what is happening in other places," he said. "And then I look around here and I see \$1.5 million in new fire trucks and a recently completed \$880,000 training facility.

"We also have the upcoming replacement of a badly deteriorated fire station at Cabanis to improve quality of life, cutting edge technology and seemingly never-ending advanced training.

"I see all that, and I know that we have received the much needed visibility that, bottom line, means resources come to us."

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South Texas Military Housing Spring Cleanout

South Texas Military Housing is proud to announce the second annual Spring Cleanout 2009.

This is a base-wide residential rummage sale, with more than 60 families participating throughout the base.

The Spring Cleanout is scheduled for Saturday, May 9 between 8 a.m. and noon.

The Coastal Bend Blood Center truck will be in our parking lot, too.

The Public is welcome to come and shop around for the best bargains anywhere.

Look for Flyers that will be handed out at the South Texas Military Housing Office and at base locations such as the Exchange and the MWR Offices.

Or call the Housing office at: 361-937-0190.

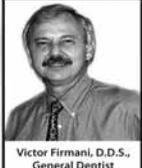
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Protect your pets in summer heat

by Shauna Moyer, Animal Health Aid, U.S. Army Veterinary Treatment Facility

You can imagine yourself sitting in a lounge chair, watching the waves, and sipping a cool drink. While you are kicking back and enjoying the hot weather, you might want to give a few thoughts to your four-footed friends.

They really don't see what all the fuss is about. As far as your pets are concerned, summer time is hot weather, hot cars, and long, anxious stays in kennels while you are away on vacation.

We are in South Texas, where the summers last about seven months.

The weather is overwhelming to us at times – so imagine what it is like for your animals.

Dogs and cats do not sweat; they only cool off by panting. As soon as the outside temperature reaches the dog's internal temperature of about 101.5 degrees, panting no longer works to cool the animal.

So, dogs and cats rapidly overheat on summer days.

Our furry friends show many different signs of trouble when they become overheated. Initial signs include rapid breathing or panting, rapid heart and pulse rates, weak pulse, pale or red gums.

It progresses to dry gums, excess salivation, decreased alertness, coma, seizures, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, and bleeding – and heat stroke.

Heat stroke can lead to organ damage of the brain, heart, liver, and kidneys, and even death.

That brings us to our next big question, should owners shave their animals during the summer months? Well, the jury is still out on that matter in veterinary circles.

You should definitely ensure that your pet's coat is clean and well brushed at all times. This will help keep the heavier

undercoat thinned out, allowing your pet to stay cooler.

If you do decide to shave your animals, do not shave them too short. Remember that their hair coat provides them protection from the sun (animals can get sunburns, too) and when laying on hot surfaces.

White animals do not have enough color pigment to protect their skin and thus can easily develop skin cancer just like people.

Apply sunscreen to a white dog or cat on their nose and ears tips.

You should try to keep pets indoors, in the air conditioning. If they are left outside, you should provide shelter for them from the sun and hot weather, such as a dog house.

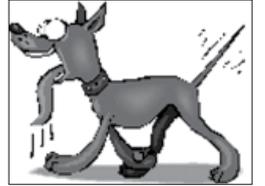
When going to the beach or park for the day you should leave your pet at home, unless you can bring shade and plenty of fresh water.

Avoid leaving a pet under a tree. The tree's shade will rapidly disappear as the sun moves across the sky.

And **NEVER** leave your pet in a parked car. Even a car parked in the shade with partially opened windows can become a furnace. On an 80-degree day, the inside of your car can reach 120 degrees within minutes. No pet can survive that heat.

Next time you decide to take Scruffy to the beach with the family remember how hot it really is out there. Your pets would rather lie on the couch and watch Animal Planet all day.

If they are going to be outside in the yard don't forget the shade and plenty of water. Your pets will love you even more for it.



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VA taking applications for new GI Bill Benefits

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced May 1 that Veterans can begin submitting applications on-line for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

“There is no better investment than education,” said Tammy Duckworth, VA's assistant secretary for public and intergovernmental affairs. “The Post-9/11 GI Bill will provide new opportunities that are essential to our Veterans, our workforce and our economy.”

Veterans, service members, reservists and National Guard members with active duty since Sept. 10, 2001, may be eligible for this benefit. Veterans will remain eligible for benefits for 15 years from the date of last discharge or release from a period of active duty of at least 90 continuous days.

Eligible applicants must have served for an aggregate period of at least 90 days since Sept. 10, 2001, or served at least 30 continuous days on active duty since Sept. 10, 2001, and received a discharge for disability.

Benefit payment rates range from 40 percent of the maximum benefit for a person with at least 90 days, but less than six months

of aggregate service and up to 100 percent of the benefit for people with at least 36 months of aggregate service or 30 continuous days and a discharge due to a service connected disability.

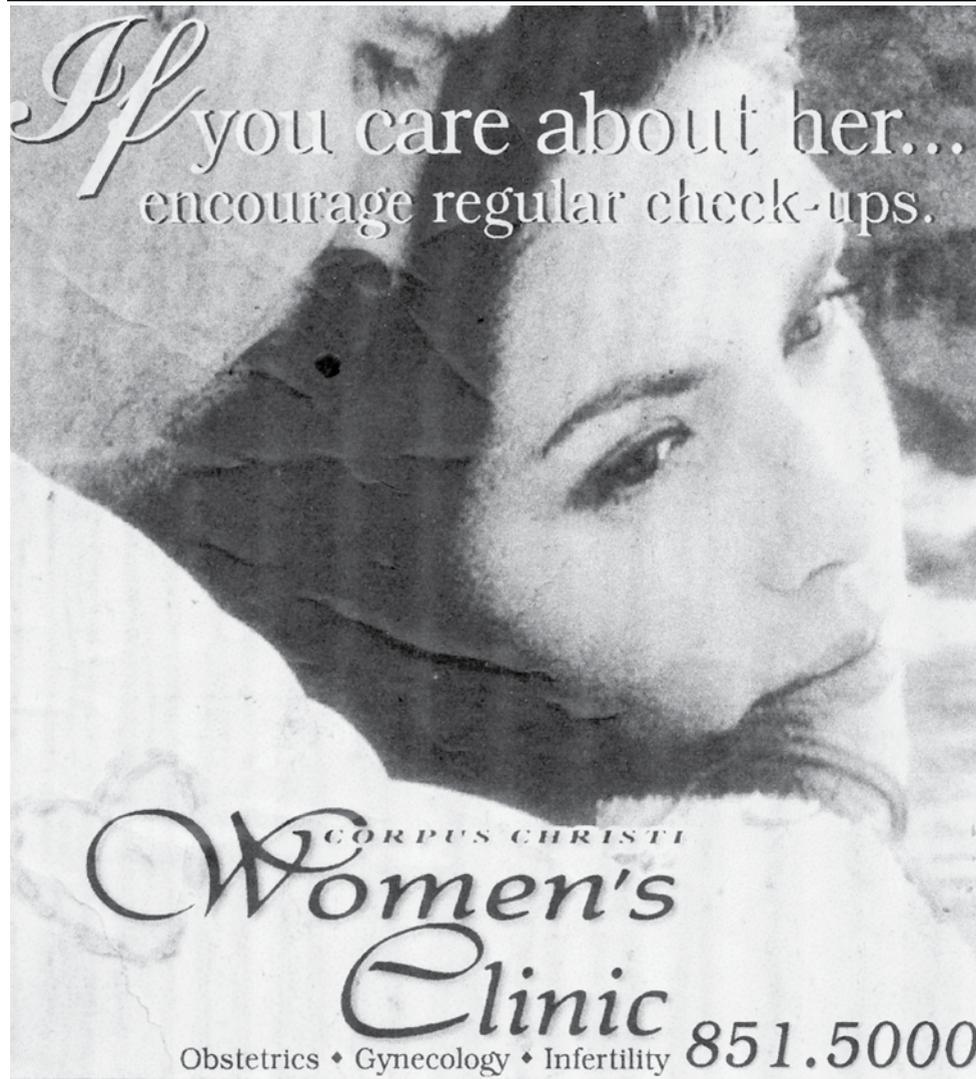
Prospective beneficiaries may apply on-line through the GI Bill Web site at www.GIBILL.VA.gov.

Qualified Veterans will receive a “Certification of Eligibility” as well as additional information regarding benefits they may qualify for under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which will become effective on Aug. 1, 2009.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, passed by Congress last year, is the most extensive educational assistance program authorized since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944. It provides eligible applicants with tuition payments to assist them in getting a college education. For many participants, it also provides a housing allowance and a stipend for books and supplies.

Information about the new program and VA's other educational benefits can be obtained through www.GIBILL.VA.gov or by calling 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551).

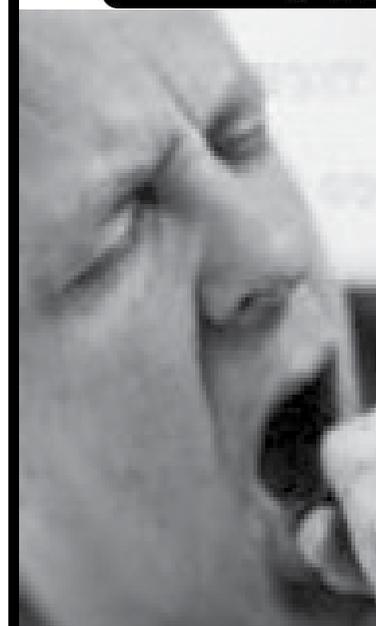
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Jim Lee, Ph.D., Professor of Economics
Texas A&M University of Corpus Christi
Tuesday, May 19th, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Lee will talk candidly about issues affecting your immediate financial future, including the current performance of stock prices versus fixed-income instruments, problems with Social Security, and health care costs. He'll offer specific perspectives on retirement and the Corpus Christi community.

Our next event:

"Some Rob You with a Pen: A Guide to Protecting Your Assets"

Bob Guess, Author and Host of *The Dollars & Sense Radio Show*, Founder, Senior Financial Services
Thursday, June 18th, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Both events will be held at The Corpus Christi Country Club

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Refreshments will be served. • Limited Seating.

Please RSVP: (361) 356-1710

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