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WINGSPAN



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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

March 13, 2008

VT-35 wishes fair winds and following seas to Lt. Col. Ullmann

by Capt. Brad Shearin, USAF, VT-35 PAO



Lt. Col. Jon Ullmann passes command of his duties as VT-35 Commanding Officer during a ceremony on March 6.

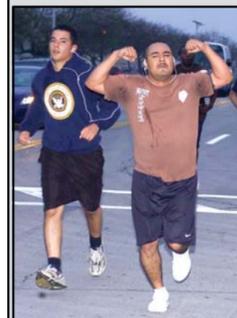


Cmdr. Mark Springer, new Stingray Commanding Officer, is piped aboard during the Change of Command ceremony. VT-35 Change of Command continued on page 6

What's Inside



Enlisted Pilot recounts Naval career
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Hundreds turn out for Warrior Run
Page 10



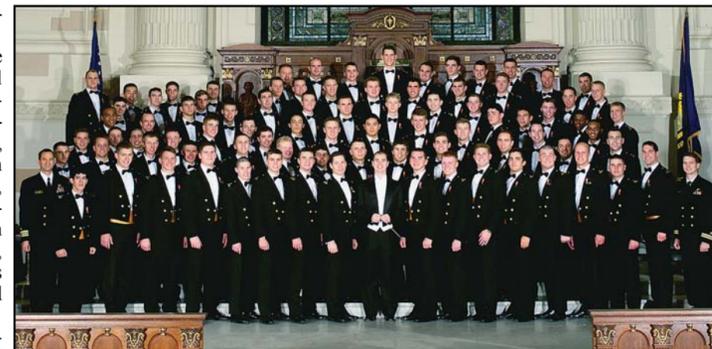
Junior Sailor of the Year honored with NAM
Page 11

U.S. Naval Academy's Men's Glee Club to perform in Corpus Christi

by US Naval Academy Department of Music

The 75-member Men's Glee Club from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., will drop anchor in Corpus Christi, TX for a performance on March 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Cathedral, located at 505 N. Broadway. The Men's Glee Club appears as part of the Cathedral's Annual Artists Series. No tickets are required, but preferred seating is available by calling 361-888-7444. The Naval Academy's Men's Glee Club is one of America's premier choral groups. The program will provide an evening of fine music and entertainment featuring sea chanties, barbershop harmony, popular music of the past and present, patriotic selections, mu-

sic of the theater and fine classical music. The Men's Glee Club is the largest and most active musical organization at the Academy, presenting more than 100 performances annually. In recent years, the Glee Club has appeared on several network television shows, most notably "The Kennedy Center Honors" (CBS), "Christmas in Washington" (NBC and TNT), NBC's "The Today Show", ABC's "Good Morning, America", and "The Early Show" on CBS. The midshipmen also participate in annual performances of Handel's *Messiah*, which are televised nationally on PBS. Among the more notable



The US Naval Academy's Men's Glee Club will perform on March 14 at the Corpus Christi Cathedral. The concert is free, but preferred seating is available. Men's Glee Club continued on page 14

Photo by Lt. j.g. Caleb Booher, Asst. Public Affairs Officer

Photo by Richard Stewart, Base Photographer

Skipper's Column

by Capt. Timothy Coolidge

A lot of you will agree with me that it seems that days are going by faster since the New Year. Just the other day, we celebrated the holidays, then ran the Wounded Warrior Run, executed a controlled burn on the airfield, and on March 15, we will be supporting the Wounded Warrior bicycle race.



Coolidge

will start the race outside the North Gate at 11:30 a.m. Some of these service members have taken horrible wounds in their quest to keep our country free. We'll have cyclists here from across the country! Of course, we will have plenty of local cyclists and volunteers participating, as well.

Easter - The season to care

It makes me proud to live in a country where those who serve are being shown the respect and appreciation they richly deserve. Our local community has embraced our service members and is not afraid to show their care. And that's what this Easter season is all about.

For Christians, Easter is the holiest of seasons, followed only by Christmas. Maybe that's why so many things seem to happen in the 40 days of the Lenten season. This season the days came early with Easter Sunday being celebrated on March 23. That's the earliest it's been in many years. And this year, there seems to be a resurgence of patriotism and support, both in religion and our military.

One priest mentioned that this year, people are being generous in the collection plate and parishioners are inclined to be even more generous in contributing to the community. We're taking care of our neighbors.

This will all come up again as we kickoff the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society's annual fund drive. Tambi Parker, our NMCRS Director, is asking for your help so that she and her brave band of volunteers can help others. NMCRS

has been around since the beginning of 1903. Monetarily, the Society has provided more than \$1.1 billion to our service members and their families in their time of need. I urge you to consider supporting the Society, because their mission is to help us and our families in time of need.

I can't tell you how many hours Tambi and her crew spent with military families during the hurricanes a couple years ago. I just know that a lot of our Sailors and their families who needed help got it. The NMCRS has also added a new program that allows qualified Sailors to receive up to \$300 for emergencies in just minutes.

While I'm encouraging everyone's support of NMCRS, I must also caution you to take a hard look at your own finances before making a contribution. If you have some discretionary income and are moved to give a donation, that's great! If you can't, that's okay, too. Perhaps giving some time to volunteer is another way you can contribute.

Captain continued on page 14

Chaplain's Message

by Cmdr. Chin Van Dang, NASCC Chaplain

A teacher is walking around the playground during recess. He spots a group of boys down on their knees. Alarmed, the teacher rushes over to them and asks, "What do you think you're doing?" "Shootin' craps," says one boy. "Oh, thank God," says the teacher, "I thought you were praying."

More than a hundred years ago, many people were indignant at Church leaders who spoke out against slavery. It was understood that the Church should talk about God, but not about political and economic issues. This was despite the fact that slavery did have to do with how we treat one another.

Today, we hear similar complaints when religion comes too close to real-life issues. Some people want the Church

Where to look for God

to take a strong, public, and specific stand on prayer in school and morality, but to shy away from topics that are more political or controversial; others think these topics are personal and private, not meant to be addressed by the Church at all.

People say so often, "I don't want to get involved." The Church community sometimes hears, "You should stick to God and not get involved in politics." The temptation is there to deal only with abstractions, to think that religion has mostly to do with saying prayers and taking care of ourselves and worshipping God.

Sometimes the temptation is to think that Lent is only about how we can make ourselves better as individuals, rather

than developing a personal commitment to God during those 40 days.

We miss God as He speaks to us in the events and people of ordinary life and need to look for the Lord in day-to-day living; both in the challenges we face, and in the people who are around us. The family that struggles to stay close together, the parents who are trying to do what is best for their children, young



Dang

Chaplain continued on page 16

Legal Corner

by Lt. Candice Albright, JAGC, USN

Navy Legal sees service members from every service branch and every rating come through our doors for the most popular document generated by our office: the Power of Attorney (POA). I have seen some things go terribly wrong despite a service member's best efforts to plan ahead for deployment or a Permanent Change of Station due to misuse of this document.



Albright

When preparing for deployment, a PCS, or even just a trip with the family, it is important to ensure that your family, property and finances are in good hands while you are away. This is where the POA comes in and can be very helpful. On

Use and abuse of Powers of Attorney

the other hand, if you are not careful, a POA can cause a major financial headache. This document serves a vital purpose and should be used, but preventing abuse is up to you.

There are two types of POA's: general and special. If you give someone a general power of attorney, then you have authorized that person to do almost anything you could do yourself; i.e., pay bills, open a new credit card, or sign your name to a contract. Our legal office drafts general POA's, but also asks questions of the individual to ensure he or she understands the importance of the document. However, we discourage the use of general POA's if, in our opinion, a special POA will adequately meet your needs.

Why do we ask these questions? It's simple: our office has seen too many cases of abuse of general POA's by people the service member thought he or she could trust. For example: You give your family member or

friend a general power of attorney to "take care of things" while you are on deployment. He or she is now your agent, also known as your "attorney-in-fact." Your agent uses the POA to cash your check, pay bills and take care of things around the house; all things that you asked him or her to do. But then, your agent sees a car he or she wants to buy. Your agent has poor credit, but you have great credit, so your agent goes down to the local auto dealer, picks out a car, shows them your POA and before you know it, you have co-signed a new car loan. Unfortunately, this does actually happen. We hope that the person or organization accepting the POA would be suspicious of anyone - even a spouse - using a POA in such a manner. Therefore, it is on you to prevent this from happening by using a special POA instead of a general POA.

Legal continued on page 16

Wingspan

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Blue Jacket pilot: Barney Bryant remembers his Naval Aviation career

by Lt. j.g. Caleb Booher, Asst. Public Affairs Officer

Barney Bryant is an 84-year-old veteran of two wars who recently wrecked his Honda 250 motorcycle. However, that's not the only unusual thing about Bryant. After two aviation careers spanning more than three decades, one in the Navy and one with the FAA, Bryant is not what you would expect. The highest rank this Naval Aviator ever held was Ensign, and he retired with his gold wings as a Navy Chief.

Between 1916 and 1947, more than 5,000 enlisted Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen went through the Enlisted Flight Training Program and were designated Naval Aviation Pilots (NAP). During WWII, 20 percent of Naval Aviators were recruited from the enlisted ranks, and many went on to receive commissions.

Bryant was 17 years old in 1940 when he dropped out of high school and enlisted in the US Navy. He was an Ordinanceman Third Class on a PBM, flying submarine patrols in the Caribbean, when he first heard about Sailors becoming pilots.

"Our [first mechanic] said, 'This is my last flight, I'm leaving,'" Bryant said. "Well, nobody got orders out! I asked him, 'What do you mean you're leaving?' He told me, 'I'm going to flight school, going to be a pilot.' I didn't know you could do that. He said all he did was ask for it."

So Bryant asked. Two years later, after countless hours in Piper Cubs, N2Ss and N3Ns, he graduated flight training and received his Wings of Gold.

"There were so many of us," said Bryant.

"Two hundred and fifty guys got their wings the same day. It was a big deal. And they asked us, 'How many of the AP's want commissions?' I held up my hand and there it was.

"Dad had always wanted me to go to college and be a doctor or a lawyer," Bryant continued. His father had grown up on a farm with eleven siblings. "None of them went to school... And I thought maybe that would help make it up to Dad."

So, in the summer of 1945, without even a high school diploma, Bryant earned his Wings of Gold and a temporary Navy commission.

Bryant and two other new Ensigns went to Saipan with a PBM squadron, but the duty was not as exciting as they had expected. "We didn't have any duties, no flying," he said. "When we flew, the plane commander flew the airplane and we either sat in the copilot seat or at the nav table."

Not long afterward, the Navy gave the temporary commissions a choice: agree to extend for one year maximum, resign, or revert to their previously held enlisted rank and rate.

Rather than continue doing nothing as ensigns, said Bryant, "three of us, all bull ensigns, resigned. The skipper was madder than hell."

Bryant immediately reenlisted as an Aviation Pilot First Class (AP1c) and went on to fly just about every airframe the Navy had to offer. "The best time I had," he said, "was probably at [Utility Squadron Four] from '55 to '58

when I came back to Corpus Christi. I was an instrument check pilot, flying seven types of aircraft, two or three in the same day."

He remembered a particular check ride he gave to a lieutenant junior grade when he cut one engine and had him prepare for an emergency landing. "He hadn't flown multi-engine before. Boy, he got right on top of it. Got it all set up... then he called for the [landing] gear and I cut the other engine on him," he said with a big laugh.

"About six months later, he pulled me aside and said, 'Thanks, Barney!' For what? 'Well I was about 200 miles out to sea, working the ship and brought her back in on one engine. If you hadn't given me that check ride, I'd be rolled up in a ball on the end of the runway right now.'"

Bryant laughed hard as he recalled the inci-

Bryant cont. on page 12



Contributed photo

Naval Aviation Pilot First Class (NAP1c) Barney Bryant is one of 5,000 Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen recruited from the enlisted ranks to complete flight school from 1916 to 1947.

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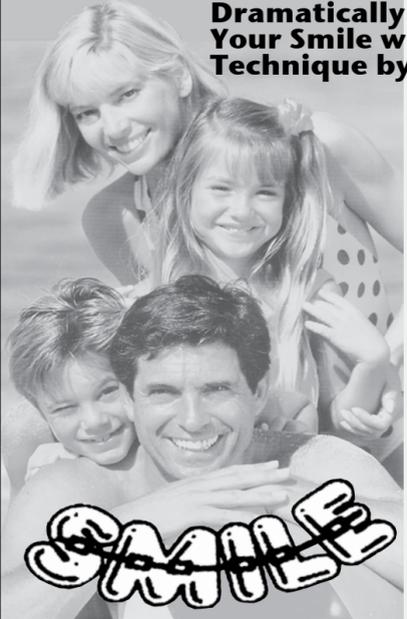
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General Petraeus describes factors affecting Iraq assessment in April

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

The top military commander in Iraq gave some insight on March 2 into his thoughts as he prepares to report to President Bush and Congress in April.

Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Force - Iraq, spoke with reporters accompanying Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who is visiting the country.

"The security trend lines all are favorable," the general said. "Attacks have continued to go down. We've had a five-month period consistently of a level of attacks we've not seen since spring of 2005. This past week was the fourth-lowest since October 2004."

Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker will explain why they believe attacks have come down when they report to the president and Congress.

The general said he is encouraged by the statistics and what he sees around the country. "In fact, the level of attacks has come down in recent weeks below a level we thought might be the 'irreducible minimum,'" he said.

Petraeus said he also will address the progress Iraqi security forces have made. "The Iraqi surge of 2007 was well over 100,000," he said citing the growth of the nation's Army and police force. "Added to that is the 90,000 Sons of Iraq - the concerned local citizens - who have added considerably. (These forces are) substantially 'thickening' our forces."

In formulating his recommendations, the general will also consider Iraqi civilian deaths. "If your focus is on securing the people, then it is a metric you have to pay attention to, and we

do," he said.

Crocker will lay out the developments in the political arena and describe the laws that have passed over the past couple of months. The ambassador will also talk about the potential for provincial elections in the fall and describe the economic situation.

The general will lay out his recommendations "for the process by which we'll assess conditions in the wake of the drawdown of the surge brigade combat teams." The drawdown of the original surge forces is set to end in July. He will also explain the factors he will consider in making recommendations on subsequent withdrawals.

The way ahead in Iraq will not be easy, the general said. "Each day something bad happens," he said. "(But) the relative degree of the bad news tends to be less."

The number of car bomb attacks has dropped, but there is a slight increase in suicide-vest attacks. Al Qaeda is having a tough time building car bombs and then getting them through checkpoints, Petraeus explained, but suicide vests are transportable and are now being handed to women.

The command has already drawn down a brigade combat team and a Marine expeditionary unit. Another brigade combat team will leave the country this month. Petraeus said the command will "thin out" Coalition forces as this occurs, and "not just hand off an area completely to Iraqi forces."

"We will maintain a sufficient footprint with

Petraeus continued on page 15



U.S. Army General David H. Petraeus appears before Congress in 2007 to give his assessment of progress in Iraq. According to the general, attacks have consistently gone down over the past year.

Photo available by public domain

Name the NASCC Sports Pub Contest

Get ready for game nights! The Pizza Sub Pub is undergoing some changes in the near future to become a Sports Pub and needs your help for a new name! If you're military, a DoD civilian, Contractor, or dependent 18 years and older, of NAS Corpus Christi or its tenant commands, you can enter your suggestion.

The contest began on March 1, but you've got until 4 p.m. on March 31 to get your ideas in. Visit the Pizza Sub Pub, on D Street in front of the NEX, or the MWR building and complete your entry form. In addition to choosing the new name, you can also provide a

brief marketing concept and logo sketch to complement. Winners will be required to execute and return an affidavit of liability release and a publicity release.

The Grand Prize winner will receive two 2008 Season Pass Tickets to the Corpus Christi Hooks Baseball Team. For full rules and regulations or if you have any questions, please contact MWR at (361) 961-2267.



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See pages 18



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Chaplain continued from page 2

people who are searching for where their lives are leading them, are not just engaged in mere human activities. They are doing things which are deeply religious. It is in these things of real life that they can look for and find God, for He is always available.

The mayor of a big city had the reputation of being hard to contact, by telephone and especially by personal inter-

view. One day a city official, feeling he had important business brushed past the receptionist, and headed for the mayor's inner sanctum. The young lady at the desk shouted, "You can't speak to His Honor now." Over his shoulder the visitor growled back, "Young lady, I talk to God twice a day and he listens to me. I can certainly talk to the mayor." He got his interview.

Legal continued from page 2

The special POA is very strict in its language and authorizes your agent to do only a specified act, such as maintain, use and register your car or ship household goods. The special POA is shorter, less convoluted and very clear about what the agent can and cannot do. This is in contrast to some general POA's, long documents which use language that may confuse a third-party considering acceptance. No matter their confusion, if the third party, in good faith, takes the general POA as your consent to the transaction, then you are most likely going to be liable to that third party despite your protests.

You can use a special POA for anything that a general POA would cover and without most of the risk of abuse of power that accompanies a general POA. However, if you are still considering a general POA, then ask yourself the following about your potential

agent: have I known my agent for less than one year? Does my agent have a history of credit problems, financial issues, forgery or theft? Am I having marital problems or is a divorce in the future?

If you answer "yes" to any of the above questions, you need to sit down with an attorney and discuss your options for a POA. We all love and trust our spouses, families and friends to act in our best interest. However, sometimes they act selfishly and the consequences can be disastrous. The use of general POA's can be very helpful, but sometimes the abuse of them is just not worth the hassle and a special POA is a better avenue.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about powers of attorney, please contact the Legal Office at (361) 961-3765, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.



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Ask Dr. Garcia

Q: *My husband and I both have full-time jobs. What are the effects on child development when both parents work?*

A: Since the 1970's, an increasing number of mothers, particularly of preschool children, have been entering the labor market. As mothers spend more time on the job and less in the home, family roles and patterns of functioning are changing.

In answering your question, it boils down to the similarity between the roles of the mother and father, parental attitudes toward the dual-earner arrangement and the mother's satisfaction with her work, and the relationship between parent and child.

With regards to role models, when children more often see both of their parents as providing for the family and as participating actively in family and childrearing tasks, the stereotypical roles of the breadwinner father and homemaking mother begin to fade away.

One researcher has noted, however, that although father participation increases in dual-career families, currently mothers are still doing most of the child care and housework. According to one recent estimate, men's contributions have decreased by about a third since the 1970's.

Working mothers report that time is their scarcest and most valued resource. A number of investigators found that working mothers and their school-aged children complain that mothers have too little time to spend with their children. However, greater father involvement may compensate for some of these problems. In both dual-earner and single-earner families, high father involvement is associated with higher IQ and achievement test scores, as well as with greater social maturity, in children.

There is some more good news. One study found no relationship between maternal employment and children's development from infancy to age 12 and concluded that no hidden effects were associated with mothers' working outside the home. In this same study, the children of both mothers who were full-time homemakers and mothers who worked outside the home were similar in cognitive, socio-emotional, academic, motivational, and behavioral domains from infancy through adolescence.

The attitudes of both parents toward the dual-earner arrangement and the mother's satisfaction with her work tend to modify the effects of maternal employment on children. If the working mother



Garcia

obtains personal satisfaction from employment, if she does not experience excessive guilt about being away from her children, and if she has adequate household arrangements to prevent her from being stressed by dual-role demands, she may be as good or better than a home-making mother.

One study found that mothers who derive a sense of satisfaction and self-efficacy from their homemaking role and working mothers who enjoy their employment both show more positive relations with their husbands and with their children than unhappy homemakers who would like to be employed.

Some evidence indicates that childrearing practices of working mothers may differ from those of homemaking mothers. Unless they feel guilty about leaving their children in order to work, employed mothers encourage their children to become self-sufficient and independent and to assume responsibility for household tasks at an earlier age. Early independence training may lead children to a higher motivation for achievement and performance.

On the other hand, maternal employment is associated with less supervision and monitoring of school-age children. This has adverse consequences for boys, such as lower school performance, behavior problems, and an increase in mother-child conflict. For both boys and girls, lack of supervision is associated with earlier dating behavior, precocious sexuality, and greater susceptibility to peer pressure.

Despite many predictions to the contrary, studies indicate that with adequate alternative child care and job satisfaction, maternal employment does not usually have detrimental effects on children.

Dr. Garcia is the owner of the Healing Institute for Marriage and Family Counseling.

If you have a question for Dr. Garcia, please email: trobquadour55@hotmail.com or call (361) 814-4556.

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VT-35 Change of Command continued from page 1

VT-35 held its ceremonial Change of Command on March 6 at Hangar 58. US Air Force Lt. Col. Jon H. Ullmann relinquished assignment as Commanding Officer to Cmdr. Mark F. Springer.

"This has been the best tour of my career," said Ullmann. "I can't point to one thing, as there have been so many. I can only say that I've never had a bad day in this squadron. I get motivated walking across the flightline, hearing the props beat the air into submission, walking past our Pilot for a Day pictures, and then seeing our crews briefing to go out and fly. I love coming to the squadron and working with our great team - active duty, reserve, contractors, GS - to get the job done."

The squadron is the only advanced pilot training squadron in the military with joint leadership (USN and USAF). The squadron was established on October 29, 1999; the first time a U.S. Navy command was established under the leadership of a US Air Force Commanding Officer.

In its first three years of existence, the command reached the pinnacle of the Naval Air Training Command. VT-35 was the Calendar Year 2000 recipient of the Chief of Naval Air Training's (CNATRA)

award for Training Excellence as well as the 2000 recipient of the Vice Adm. Goldthwaite Award for Training Excellence. The command exceeded all expectations in its first two years of existence, increasing pilot production by 20 percent for two consecutive years. In addition, VT-35 received the 2001 and 2002 CNO Aviation Safety Awards.

Cmdr. Springer, former XO of the squadron, takes over as only the fourth Navy CO of VT-35. Ullmann had high praises for his relief. "Cmdr. Springer will be a great steward of the Stingrays," he said. "I've enjoyed working with him and have come to recognize his many talents which will further the Stingray tradition of excellence. He's a great leader and an enthusiastic flyer who has helped me to become better personally as a commanding officer. The only comfort in leaving my command tour is to know that the Stingrays are in good hands."

VT-35 is the squadron of choice for those who are anticipating orders to the Naval Air Training Command. The Stingrays of VT-35 are committed to training the "World's Premier Military Aviators" while making significant contributions to the Naval Air Training Command and the local community.



Photo by VT-35 Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Jon Ullmann presents Pilot for a Day Caleb "Hot Rod" Rodriguez with a certificate as an Honorary Naval Aviator. Ullmann has been an advocate of the Driscoll Children's Hospital outreach program during his tenure as Commanding Officer of VT-35 and makes a point of being present to each Pilot for a Day luncheon in order to meet the children and present their awards.

Patraeus continued from page 4

an adequate, generally substantial, Iraqi force of police and Soldiers," the general explained. "It provides situational awareness and a link to the enablers that we can provide - indirect fire, close-air (support), medevac, quick-reaction forces and so on." The idea also maintains a fusion cell for intelligence.

"Obviously, as we draw down, (the Iraqis) have to pick up more of the responsibility, and that is the case," Petraeus said.

Al Qaeda remains the biggest threat and over time, Coalition and Iraqi forces have killed, captured or run off substantial numbers of the terror group. There is still a lot of work to do in the Diyala and Tigris river valleys, as well as in Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, and the surrounding Ninevah province.

"We are going after al Qaeda relentlessly wherever they are, and wherever we can find them, we put our teeth into their jugular," Petraeus said.

Mosul is an important place to al Qaeda. "Analysts have said that while Baghdad is critical for al Qaeda to win in Iraq, Mosul and its area is critical for their survival," the general said. Recent successes notwithstanding, Petraeus warned, a "final battle" with the terrorist group is not imminent.

"Al Qaeda is incredibly resilient," he said, "and they are receiving people and supplies through Syria - although numbers through Syria are down as much as 50 percent."

Coalition and Iraqi forces will take on al Qaeda in the north, but will do so on their timetable and according to their plans, the general said. He will not start shifting U.S. and Iraqi forces willy-nilly around the country.

"The key is to hang on to what you've got," he said. "You cannot, in your eagerness to go after something new, start to play 'Whack-a-mole' again. You have to hang onto the areas you've cleared; you have to have a plan before you go."

Coalition forces are moving to Mosul and Ninevah, but Petraeus said he will not risk losing gains made in Baghdad, the belts around Baghdad and in Anbar province to do so.

"Al Qaeda is trying to come back in," he said. "We can feel it and see it, and what we're trying to do is rip out any roots before they can get deeply into the ground."

The bottom line militarily in Iraq is a "feel" for the country and the determination of what constitutes an acceptable risk, the general told reporters. "At the end of the day, it's about feel," he said. "We have commanders in most cases on their second tours in Iraq, some on their third. Over time, you can start to feel where you can take a bit more risk and also where you cannot."

"You have to walk the streets, talk to the leaders, talk to your own commanders and then you bat it around every day," he said.

Petraeus said he doesn't feel any anxiety over his decisions. "If you want to talk about anxiety, talk about coming back to Iraq in February 2007 and being greeted by 42 car bombs," he said. "The level of attacks was more than 150 a day, and our losses were exceedingly tough."

With so much chaos in the country, it was hard just trying to get a handle on where forces needed to go, the general recalled. "We've worked our way through that," Petraeus said. "These additional concerns are very serious, but we're working on those with the Iraqi government."

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MAR 15 Whooping Crane Strut
361/729-2213, Rockport 5-10 K Run & 2 Mile Walk.

MAR 15 & 16 World Champion Rattlesnake Races 361/547-5476, Old San Patricio Event features rattlesnake races, art & food vendors, carnival, games, wheelbarrow races, boot races with a festival atmosphere.

MAR 24 Coastal Classic Auto Show
361/961-1181, Rockport. Plenty of classic autos to admire.

MAR 28-30 Chalk It Up For The Arts Festival of the Arts
361/826-3468, Corpus Christi A city-wide cultural event at the Art Center of Corpus Christi. Event includes free entertainment by a variety of dancers, musicians, theater, literature, folk arts, exhibits of visual arts and artistic crafts for sale. Enjoy the food & KidZone too! www.ccfestivalarts.org

MAR 29-30 Texas Quarter Horse Association. 361/387-9000, Robstown @ Richard M. Borchard Fairgrounds www.rmbfairgrounds.com

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Captain continued from page 2

One last point: if you look around and some of your neighbors seem to be away, it may be that he or she is serving an Individual Augmentation (IA) assignment. You probably know our Executive Officer, Cmdr. Bruce 'GI. Bo' Lankford and our Security Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Shields are two of the 15 NASCC Staff serving as IA's.

We're not the only command on base to send members on IA's. The Naval Health Clinic has 22 service members deployed. HM-15 has five serving on IA's and 97 deployed to their permanent detachment in Bahrain. Training Air Wing Four has 11 IA's and CCAD has 22 civilians serving overseas in support of the Global War on Terror (GWOT).

Coming off sea duty, most of us look forward to some dedicated family time. The GWOT has cut into that shore duty, but the cause is just and the dedicated men and women continue to rise to the challenge. I'm not the only one to ask, "Where do we get such men and women?"

This reminds me of a former Marine Corps Commandant, Gen. P.X. Kelley, who was visiting Marine burn victims at BAMC in 1983. The Marines were undergoing cold weather training at Camp Fuji, Japan. A fuel bladder located above the camp burst, sending fuel cascading down the hill. The fuel was ignited by heaters and washed into the huts where they slept.

Kelley approached one Marine, bandages all over his body, with his head wrapped in white gauze. He couldn't see because his eyes were covered. But when he heard the Commandant was by his bed, he popped as close as he could to the position of attention, and said, "Semper Fi, General!"

Kelley was touched by the attempt of someone so grievously hurt who made the effort to acknowledge him. He shook his head in wonder, turned to the Sergeant Major and whispered, "Where do we get such men?"

That's how I feel about all our servicemen and women - military and civilian. We're engaged in a war that has implications for everyone in every country. As a commanding officer, you make me proud.

Men's Glee Club continued from page 1
certs in Washington's Kennedy Center, Dallas's Meyerson Symphony Center, San Diego's Copley Symphony Hall, a concert with the Boston Pops, a sold-out performance in New York's Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, and several appearances as Guest Artists with Symphony Orchestras in Charlotte, N.C., Columbus, O.H., Phoenix, A.Z., and Nashville, T.N.

International appearances include performances in Rome, Naples and London on a European concert tour in 2005.

"We are looking forward to bringing this nationally acclaimed Glee Club to Corpus Christi," said Dr. Aaron Smith, Naval Academy Director of Choral Activities. Corpus Christi and Ingleside are true "Navy towns," and with NAS Kingsville not too far away, a lot of our Naval Academy graduates will be able to attend this performance," said Smith.

"The purpose of this trip is to represent the Naval Academy and to introduce our midshipmen to students, families and school officials to promote the opportunities that a Naval Academy education can provide," said Mr. Don Nelson, the Academy's Assistant Director of Admissions. Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of America's favorite choruses!

Nashville Star winners continue to next round

by Ens. Nolan Lucas, Wingspan Contributor

Service members from NAS Corpus Christi auditioned for Nashville Star's first all-military casting call on Feb. 28. HM-15, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, NAS Corpus Christi, and Coast Guard Station Port O'Connor were all represented. Three contestants were selected by local radio and music personalities to represent the Naval Air Station and the city of Corpus Christi in a nationwide selection from all U.S. military installations.

The Gulf Stream Center was filled with music and applause as each contestant performed an acoustic version of a song of their choice. From Brad Paisley's "Online," to the Allman Brothers' "Ramblin' Man," the contestants wowed the judges. Judges included two local choir directors and Chris and Mark from the K99.1 "No Name" morning show.

After each contestant finished and the scores were tallied, the winners were announced: BM3 Dennis Marinelli, USCG, AE1 Tracy Acosta, and Cmdr. Chris Barcomb, both from HM-15.

With the help of John Frisco, Gonzalez Liberty Center Manager, and EN1 Carol Winkler, coordinator, these gentlemen have been set apart from the rest with feature biographies, videos and photos, which will determine whether they hold any of the 10 spots on Nashville Star, featured on NBC.

All three winners say they were shocked to be selected to as finalists and expressed how proud they are to represent their commands and serve in this capacity.

Nashville Star continued on page 10



Lt. Cmdr. Jay Woelkers, NHCCC Administrator, competes for a spot on Nashville Star on Feb. 28.

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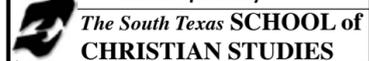
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Looking back: NAS Corpus Christi celebrates its 67th birthday

Courtesy of nascc.navy.mil

The official step leading to the construction of the Naval Air Station was initiated by the 75th Congress in 1938. A board found that a lack of training facilities capable of meeting an emergency demand for pilots constituted a grave situation. They recommended the establishment of a second air training station, and further, that it be located on Corpus Christi Bay.

NAS Corpus Christi was commissioned by its first skipper, Captain Alva Berhard, on March 12, 1941. The first flight training started on May 5, 1941. Former President George Bush was in the third graduating class, June 1943, and the youngest cadet ever to graduate.

In 1941, 800 instructors provided training for more than 300 cadets a month.

The training rate nearly doubled after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. By the end of World War II, more than 35,000 aviators had earned their wings here. Corpus Christi was the only primary, basic and advanced training facility in existence in the United States. At one time it was the largest pilot training facility in the world.

The training program is much longer now, approximately 18 months, due to the increased complexity of today's aircraft. Currently, Training Air Wing Four produces more than 600 newly qualified aviators each year.



(above) Sailors walk by the CNATRA building located on Lexington Blvd.

(left) N3N Biplanes line up on the flightline. These training planes were painted bright yellow, in comparison to today's orange-and-white, and were nicknamed "Yellow Peril."



Save A Life Tour is a safe way to learn effects of drunk driving

by NAS Corpus Christi Safety Department

A life can be saved with one sentence, one decision, or just one action. Military, civilian, and dependents of NAS Corpus Christi can learn ways to save a life with something as simple as a right decision.

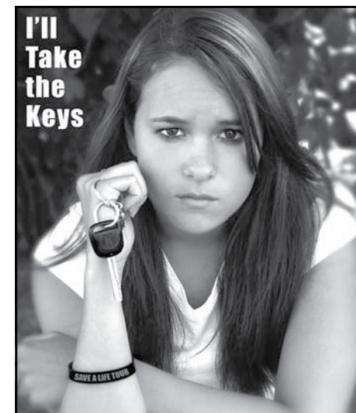
NAS Corpus Christi is sponsoring the "Spring Brake 2008," March 25 and 26, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Gulf Stream Recreation Center. The free event features the high-tech "Save-A-Life" interactive drunk driving simulator.

The "Save-A-Life" Tour allows a participant to experience firsthand how alcohol impairs driving while the participant remains sober and stationary. The simulator includes a driver's seat and three screens that provide a 180-degree field of visions and images in rear-view mirrors. It gradually changes response times, minimizing the dulling effects of alcohol.

As in real life, the vast majority of impaired drivers who take on the simulator have accidents caused by narrowing of focus and concentration to what is directly in front of them, and ignoring dangers around them.

"Spring Brake" 2008 will include information booths from Texas Department of Transportation, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), Safety Office, and Security. It is scheduled as part of a 120-day "Save-A-Life" to commands across the

country. The focus of each stop includes alcohol awareness, drunk driving and safe driving, and myths and truths about alcohol and drugs. "Save-A-Life" helps commands foster changes in attitude and behavior through awareness, while deglamorizing alcohol use in the areas of DUI/DWI, underage drinking, and alcohol-related fatalities.



"Save A Life" will be held at the Gulf Stream Recreation Center on March 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Bryant continued from page 3

dent. "That made me feel good," he said. "I was respected."

After 20 years in the Navy, Bryant retired in 1960 as a Chief Aviation Pilot (CAP) having logged more hours in more aircraft than the majority of officer aviators of the time. However, he hadn't had enough flying yet. He went on to spend 17 more years in the FAA as a check pilot, retiring again in 1978.

Still, he remembers his Navy career most fondly.

"There was just something about it," said Bryant. "You know, when a Sailor, a plane captain comes up on the wing and helps strap a guy in, and if he's strapping in another white-hat, he's kind of proud. It was a real morale booster for the guys on the line."



Photo by Lt.j.g. Caleb Booher

Bryant leans against the T-28 outside of the Bay Club. The T-28 "Trojan" is one of the many aircraft that he flew during his extensive Naval career.



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AROUND THE BASE IN 2008



Photo by Richard Stewart, Base Photographer

(above, from L to R) Cmdr. Chris Barcomb, HM-15, AE1 Tracy Acosta, HM-15, and BM3 Dennis Marinelli, USCG, were selected from a group of contestants to compete in NBC's Nashville Star.

(right) Contestants gather following their performances at the Gulf Stream Center on Feb. 28. Each contestant sang an acoustic version of the song of their choice and winners were selected from a panel of judges comprised of local music talent and radio personalities.

Nashville Star continued from page 2

"I hope more people will get exposed to the Coast Guard if I make it to the national spotlight," said Marinelli.

The military is where Barcomb got his start in guitar strumming and singing publicly. While at NAS Roosevelt Roads in 1996, Jim Engles, an F-14 pilot started the duo, "Thunder Lizards." The "Thunder Lizards" played mainly for tips and entertainment of the bar, but was the start of a different career for Barcomb.

All three contestants felt this audition and the all-military casting call was a great way for the public to support its service members and also for the military community to support one another.

"I'm so impressed with each one of these contestants. I really hope our three winners make it to the show," said John Frisco.

While the upcoming season will feature country music talents such as Billy Ray Cyrus, Wynnoa Judd and Cowboy Troy, we hope to see BM3 Marinelli, Cmdr. Barcomb, and AE1 Acosta on the stage with them.



Photo by Ensign Nolan Lucas

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Winging Ceremony • March 7



Photo by Hugh Lieck, Event Photography

Official Party (L to R): Lt. Col. Robert Blagg, VT-35 XO; Cmdr. Mark Springer, VT-35 CO; Lt. Col. Nate Cook, TRAWING 4 Senior Marine; Cmdr. Joe Shipley, VT-31 CO; Capt. David Maynard, Commodore TRAWING 4; Capt. Gabriel Salazar, Commanding Officer, Naval ROTC Unit, University of Texas at Austin and guest speaker; Lt. Tim Gault, NASCC Chaplain

Wingees listed alphabetically: 2nd Lt. Kevin Bailey; 2nd Lt. James Bradley; 2nd Lt. Joshua Daleiden; Ensign Ely Fletcher; 1st Lt. Jeff Hartman; Lt. j.g. Christopher Hill; Ensign Christopher Lawson; Ensign Joshua Lissner; 2nd Lt. Jennifer Lucas; Ensign John Martin; 2nd Lt. Nicholis McClendon; 1st Lt. Peter Namyslowski; 2nd Lt. Brian Obach; 1st Lt. Mark Robertson; 2nd Lt. Nicholas Spear; 2nd Lt. Gail Watling; Ensign Eric Watt

Junior Sailor of the Year receives Navy Achievement Medal



Photo by Anne Booher, Editor

ADAN Michael Laeder, Jr., recently selected as NAS Corpus Christi's Junior Sailor of the Year, received a Navy Achievement Medal on March 4 for his performance as a patrolman for NAS Security. Although he arrived to HM-15 as an Aviation Machinist Mate, he was sent to security to supplement their forces. His positive experience there has led him to attend school to become a Master at Arms. After completion, he will be sent on deployment to Guam.

Commandant of the Coast Guard visits Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi



Photo by Charles Dekle

Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard visited NAS Corpus Christi on Feb. 27. Allen conducted an all-hands presentation at the Wings Auditorium for personnel assigned to Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi located at Hangar 41. He also spoke on the modernization of Coast Guard inventory and the expansion of Coast Guard missions regarding integration with the Department of Homeland Security.

Boy Scouts visit NAS Corpus Christi



Photo by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

Marine 2nd Lt. Michael T. Thesing explains the T-34 Turbo mentor aircraft to Boy Scout Troop 124 visiting from Dallas on Feb. 23. Approximately 40 boy scouts and their troop leaders toured the base, participated in a reenactment of the Iwo Jima flag-raising, and slept aboard the USS Lexington during their visit to Corpus Christi.

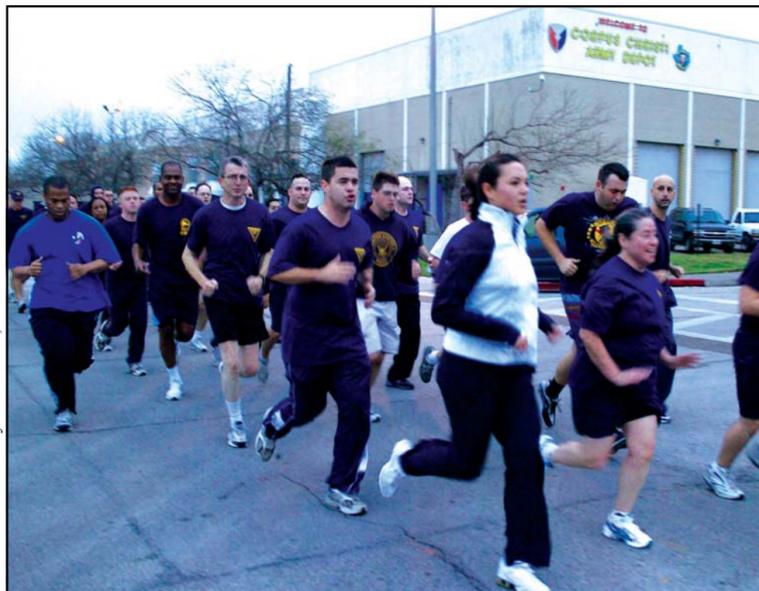


Photo by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

Members of the NASCC command, led by AC1 Kristen Walker, participate in the Warrior Run, Feb. 29. More than 100 participants showed up for the early morning run that began at the Fitness Center, ran to Ocean Drive and returned.