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WINGSPAN



Vol. 14, No. 8

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

April 10, 2008



TRAWING-4 visits Roy Miller High School
Page 3



Ingleside Sailors return home after deployment
Page 5

SALE!
Spring Cleanout 2008
South Texas Military Housing is proud to announce the first annual Spring Cleanout 2008! This base-wide residential rummage sale has more than 20 families participating. Anyone with access to the base is welcomed to come on April 12 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and shop around for some great bargains! Maps and flyers will be handed out at the South Texas Military Housing Office, the Exchange and the MWR Office. Don't miss this once-a-year event!

Month of the Military Child kicks off at the CDC

by Anne Booher, Editor



Noah Ramirez, Calie Hicks, Danielle Gonzales, and Isabella Perez sing "Anchors Away" for guests during the Month of the Military Child kickoff.

Military children are not ordinary children. Sure, they will learn their alphabets, some will play sports, and on occasion, they'll disobey their parents. But they deal with a host of situations and emotions that other kids don't really worry about. When their parents go to work, it can be for months, or even more than a year. And that separation doesn't just happen once. Sometimes, it is permanent. From the outside, one could easily conclude that this situation can destroy a child's spirit. We know better.

The children of military families are some of the strongest willed around. That's partly due to their support groups back home, including parents, teachers, and others in the community. "[Military] children sacrifice a lot more," says Margaret Covington of the NAS Corpus Christi Child Development Center (CDC). "When their parents are gone, they have to find different ways of



Cynthia Kaesther helps Jayden Pabon attach a yellow ribbon to a tree outside the CDC. Events are planned throughout the month for children at the center.



BucDays Military Night to be a memorable tribute of thanks

by Anne Booher, Editor

The BucDays commission has decided to make April 24 a night to honor our local heroes. Along with discounted tickets, which gain access to the Pro-Rodeo and all other BucDays events throughout the week, the night guarantees a patriotic atmosphere. "We feel it is an honor for our rodeo to have the opportunity to take a few moments to recognize our military personnel whether they are stationed here or around the world," said Bill Lathrop, Rodeo Chairman. "Words cannot express the appreciation we feel towards the military and their families and on April 24 at 7 p.m., we tip our cowboy hats to them in gratitude." The rodeo committee, contestants, *BucDays continued on page 13*

Skipper's Column

by Capt. Timothy Coolidge

We're into some of what I think is the prettiest time in South Texas, with wildflowers blooming and the weather fluctuating between beautiful and windy days. I recommend that everyone take advantage of the last comfortable days we'll see for a while and spend some time outdoors.



Coolidge

I've read that, as a country, our children are so fixated with iPods and handheld games, they're becoming more and more sedentary. When you're in South Texas at this time of year, none of our children should fit this profile! I can assure you that Teresa, my wife, gets our two boys outside as much as

Keeping IAs in our thoughts

they can stand!

I say that because I'm thinking about our Sailors who are serving overseas as Individual Augmentees (IAs). We have the privilege of staying inside or going out, whereas they have no choice. They get assignments and, whether it's searching for Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), going on patrols or riding in Humvee's to search out enemies, they just do it! It doesn't matter if it's 120 degrees with wind blowing the desert sand until it feels like needles hitting their skin; they do it. There may be times they don't get to sleep or even take catnaps for several days at a time. While deployed, our IA's don't get to enjoy the simple creature comforts we often take for granted, such as running water, air conditioning, showers and warm meals!

Yes, there are some IAs who do have air conditioned shelters and do their work from a desk, but that's not everyone. I know of one IA who has lost more than 40 pounds and I know he's not riding a desk! He's out doing

the mission with his Army compatriots!

I believe strongly that we need to keep our folks on IA's ever in our thoughts. When they get back, we need to tell them how much we appreciate what they've done for us. And folks, on this base alone, we have a large contingent of service members who have served or are currently serving in harm's way. They may be your neighbor down the street, or across town, but we need to keep them in our thoughts.

This coming weekend is going to be the base-wide Yard Sale, otherwise known as "Spring Cleanout 2008." Military housing tells me more than 20 families are participating in the event and you're invited to come see what they have.

As you well know, there are plenty of reasons for a garage sale. As service members, we travel throughout the world and collect items that remind us of the good times. We

Captain continued on page 15

Chaplain's Message

by Cmdr. Chin Van Dang, NASCC Chaplain

After a few of the usual Sunday evening hymns, the pastor slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit and before he gave his sermon, introduced a guest minister. The pastor told the congregation that the guest minister was one of his dearest childhood friends and that he wanted him to have a few moments to greet the congregation and share whatever he felt would be appropriate for the service. With that, the elderly guest minister stepped up to the pulpit and began to speak.

"A father, his son, and his son's friend were sailing off the Pacific coast when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to the shore. The waves were so high that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright. The three were swept into the

God's love for us

ocean as the boat capsized.

Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life: To which boy would he throw the other end of the life line? He only had seconds to make the decision. The father knew his son was a Christian and he also knew his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision would not be matched by the torrent of waves. As the father yelled out, "I love you, son!" he threw out the life line to his son's friend. By the time the father had pulled his son's friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beneath the raging swells into the black of night. His body was never recovered.

"How great is the love of God that he should do the same for us," the guest minister said. "I urge you to accept His offer to

rescue you and take hold of the life line He is throwing out to you." With that, the guest minister turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the church.

After the service, two young men approached the guest minister. "That was a nice story," said one of them politely, "but I don't think it was very



Dang

Chaplain continued on page 8

Ombudsman's Corner Great phone calls and BucDays!

by Barbie Baker, Base Ombudsman

As we pass the five-year mark of the start of the Global War on Terror, I find myself perplexed over what I see and read in mainstream media versus what I encounter personally on a regular basis from our community. I feel such pride in being a part of this giving, supportive, and appreciative community.



Baker

I receive many phone calls as the Command Ombudsman for NASCC. Some calls are relatively easy to assist and others challenge me to make new contacts in search of answers. I am honored to assist our Sailors and their families so they are fully pre-

pared to serve their country.

That leads me to the next kind of phone call: the good Samaritans taking the initiative to seek out how to participate in troop morale-building. I was recently contacted by one such group, which was Tuloso Midway Intermediate School here in Corpus Christi.

This incredible bunch of 3rd graders and their teachers started a social studies unit on giving back to their community and decided to collect goods for troop care packages. The response was phenomenal!

The school collected so many donations that they were able to mail twelve big boxes. Due to limited funds for postage, not all of their collected goods were going to reach their intended recipients. So, they contacted me.

I was pleased to inform them that we could certainly get the goods delivered. I have now packed up the eight boxes of goodies and they are on their way to our much deserving troops serving their country with pride and integrity.

Additionally, I would like to thank the Navy League of Corpus Christi for their generous donation of postage. Again, the outpouring of love from our community far exceeds my expectations and reinforces that support for our troops has not wavered.

The local community is also reaching out in a fun way with the upcoming Military Night during the BucDays celebrations. April 24 at 7 p.m. at the American Bank Center, our military will be recognized and honored during the opening ceremony of the rodeo. You can get discounted tickets through the ITT office on base here and also at Naval Station Ingleside.

I would like to especially thank Bob Torres, NAS Corpus Christi Public Affairs Officer, for his continued support and referrals. Also, a big thank you to the helpful folks at ITT for assisting in ticket sales. This is truly going to be a wonderful event! Hope to see everyone there!

Wingspan

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Capt. T.E. Coolidge

Public Affairs Officer
Robert D. Torres

Assistant Public Affairs Officer
Ensign Nolan Lucas

Editor
Anne Booher

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Wingspan is published every other week by D.J. Young Publishing, 3601 Tripoli, Corpus Christi, Texas 78415, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas.

The editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas. Stories and photos not otherwise attributed are written by the Wingspan staff. The address is: Commanding Officer, NAS Corpus Christi, Attn: Wingspan, 11001 D St. Suite 143, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78419-5021. All news releases should be sent to the above address. Please call (361) 961-2674 for deadline information.

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Captain continued from page 2

several of the older houses and buildings and erect cottages along the sea wall near the pool and Bay Club. We believe this will attract more people to visit and stay on base.

There are a lot of moving parts to the plan and it requires cooperation from a number of commands. We hope to have the first steps of the plan approved before the summer is over. The positive impacts of the changes will reach far beyond our fence line. If everyone in Flour Bluff has access to a golf course and our Marina, it could attract more people to live there, which

will bring more money to the area and improve the schools and neighborhoods! Everyone wins!

Vitale had a great visit, learned what we do here from the folks who do the work, saw our facilities and learned of our plans to improve the QOL for everyone on and off base. NASCC is successful because of the hard work everyone does, the cooperative spirit shared by all, and pure Navy and Texas pride! Keep up the great work! You're all making a difference!

Be safe and I'll see ya on the beach!

Army ROTC continued from page 6

clude a successful completion of a combat first aid course, Army physical fitness test, passing several individual sporting events, 9mm shooting course and 20, 25 or 30 kilometer road march. Only the road march and shooting event determine the level of badge awarded.

Thirty-seven cadets, enlisted and officer staff from four regional universities, along with members from Texas National Guard, arrived at NASCC for the road march. This was a unique opportunity for cadets and staff, since there is virtually no occasion to compete for the badge unless stationed with a German Army unit.

At the end of the event, Hiegl and

Wolfs awarded 14 gold and four silver badges. One particular cadet, Glenn Melin, went above and beyond his requirements. After being one of the first to complete the road march, 30 kilometers, he got back on the course and motivated his fellow cadets towards the finish line, marching the final kilometers with them. This was highly encouraging to the rest of the group and will be remembered since he completed 40 kilometers by the end of the morning. The four universities participating in the event were Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Texas A&M Kingsville, Saint Mary's University and University of Houston.

TRAWING-4 officers serve as tutors, role models for Roy Miller High School students

by Ensign Nolan Lucas, Wingspan Contributor

Training Wing Four and a number of its officers are making a difference in the local community. Six officers have been volunteering their time and knowledge at Roy Miller High School in downtown Corpus Christi. The officers are daily tutors and in many cases, volunteer teachers to the staff and students at the school.

1st Lt. Chris Weaver and Ensigns Dan Jensen, Chris Pulko, Joel Larson, Dan Arevalo spend countless hours assisting students at the high school in all subjects and facets of life. For many students, they are not just tutors but life counselors, passing on their experiences and wisdom. Many students recognize the uniform worn by the officers and respect that they have earned doing their "other" job in the military defending freedom.

The program began last year with assistance from United States Navy Ret. Cmdr. Ray Saenz, a math teacher at Roy Miller High School. The initial use of officers was limited due to background checks required by the school district and the limited amount of time the officers were in the pool awaiting further duty. Seeing the potential of the program, Training Wing Four Student Control Of-

ficer, Cmdr. Doug Bruce, spearheaded an effort to get officers to the school. Bruce convinced the school district that Department of Defense backgrounds checks were sufficient, allowing officers to begin immediately.

To date, 20 officers have volunteered at Roy Miller High School, compared to five last year. Most of the officers have been placed in mathematics classrooms and tutoring sessions to assist in the preparation of the 10th and 11th grade TAKS testing.

Raquel Perez, a faculty member who places the officers in classrooms, said, "This is an opportunity for the officers to see and fill the gaps in our area's education system. Teachers and students have a role model on a daily basis and uniformed presence in our classrooms."

"This was an excellent opportunity to work with the students in our community and see the everyday challenges facing today's teachers," said Ensign Dan Averalo. Keith Perez, of the English department, only had high words for Jensen and his efforts. Mr. Perez said Jensen was able to capture moments from the student's lives in and out of the classroom and put them into words. Jensen also brought many classroom topics to a

level the students could understand.

The officers are tutoring students not just in general academic studies, but also specifically for the TAKS tests. Officers also have been active with NJROTC units in the area, working with

Cmdr. Hail, Regional Director of NJROTC units, to provide assistance when needed. As Mr. Perez said, these officers are great and valuable compliments to the classrooms in which they serve.



Photo by Ensign Nolan Lucas

Ensign Dan Jensen helps a Roy Miller High School 10th grade student on TAKS Prep exam questions. Pooled students are offered the chance to volunteer at RMHS and further improve community-military relations.

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Flour Bluff Pre-K group tours base

by Ensign Nolan Lucas, Wingspan Contributor



(above) Firefighter Joe Cavazos teaches a few students about "Stop, Drop, and Roll" during their visit to the fire station. (right) Fire Inspector Rick Herrera puts full gear on Cody, a student from Flour Bluff Elementary.



Photos by Ensign Nolan Lucas

Pre-kindergarten students from Flour Bluff Elementary were treated to a special tour of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi on March 26. The young students, and maybe future Naval Officers and Aviators, walked on the flight line and saw a T-44a, visited with the department and saw a demonstration by the military working dogs and their owners.

The students, escorted by their dedicated teachers, "oohed" and "ahhed" as aircraft took off in the background. At the fire station, the young students learned safety tips from the inspectors and firefighters while seeing what a fully donned firefighter looks like.

Following the demonstration, the students climbed inside a NASCC fire truck and

checked out the freshly cleaned and shiny chrome on the outside of the truck.

The security department was happy to bring over two of their security canines and their handlers. The handlers demonstrated the power and aggressiveness of the canines when provoked or ordered to attack. The handlers also showed the loyal and unweaving obedience of the canines as they had them respond to a series of commands.

The students were thrilled to see aircraft and trucks up close. When asked what they wanted to do when they grew up, every student's response was possible in the Navy. Maybe we'll see one of them again back on the flight line or around the base in a few more years.

'Songs from the Soul of Service' to hold songwriting contest

by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Terry W. Matlock

Music submissions are being accepted now and until April 30 for a military-only music contest in celebration of military songwriters. "America Supports You" and the Dallas Songwriters Association are seeking amateur active duty military songwriters to take part in the Songs from the Soul of Service Music Contest to showcase music of this era with a special emphasis on uniformed personnel.

Active duty military members as well as those currently inactive, due to injury or disability suffered after the start of the war in Afghanistan, can enter up to four songs each. The songs can be written by themselves or on behalf of an immediate family member. Cassette tapes or other recordings are acceptable, since song production quality will not be a factor in the judging.

Entries are accepted by mail or can be submitted online at www.songssoulservice.org.

The categories for entry include country, hip hop, instrumental, world music, novelty, inspirational and pop with a special category for participants currently serving in Iraq

or Afghanistan. Prizes will be awarded for the top three songs in each category and the top three overall songs. Each song is eligible for only one category award and one song will be recognized as a category winner and a winner from Afghanistan or Iraq.

Music industry professionals will judge the finalists in each category and the overall winners will be determined by a combination of music professional judging and public polling. Each category entry will be judged primarily on lyrics, structure, emotional impact, originality and creativity.

Winning submissions will be professionally produced by Grammy award winning producers and made available on CD in preparation for a series of major concert events. The concerts will showcase the winning songs with the support of an internationally recognized musical act.

For more information and contest rules visit www.songssoulservice.org.

PPV Housing continued from page 5

Lease education and signing were among the final preparatory steps. Housing is a military benefit, so most residents had never signed leases. To minimize stress during the transition, GMH held town hall meetings to answer questions and conducted lease signing sessions.

When takeover day arrived, 100 percent of leases were already signed. Overall, 4,126 homes were occupied, and residents were well aware of who to contact for all their needs. Thanks to advance preparation by GMH and the Navy housing staff, the transition went smoothly, and was a success for residents and managers alike.

"This dramatic improvement in housing conditions for service members and their families is already increasing their quality of life, readiness, morale, and retention," Wolff added.

GMH Military Housing and the Navy earned each others' trust and commitment by making teamwork and communication a top priority. It also laid the groundwork for the overall project, and kept everyone focused on upcoming objectives.

For their distinguished commitment to the PPV agreement and their professionalism in all aspects of military housing and lodging management, the Navy Region Southeast Housing program was awarded the Professional Housing Management Association (PHMA) 2008 Group Award.

"As a former Regional Commander in Hawaii," said Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, "I have been involved in public-private venture (PPV) housing projects first-hand and know the significant quality of life benefits it affords our service members and their families.

"GMH has a proven track record in managing and maintaining quality housing and is dedicated to outstanding customer service. As partners, the Navy and GMH are committed to making the Southeast Region's PPV successful for every resident in GMH Military Housing."

Vet Clinic continued from page 3

The American Veterinary Medical Association recommends a blood test for existing heartworm infection before beginning a prevention program to confirm that your pet is not already infected with the disease. In addition, annual re-testing is recommended to check your pet's status and ensure that the appropriate medication is being prescribed.

NASCC's VTF policy is to test dogs at six months of age or older and annually thereafter.

The VTF is located by the hospital and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. We are authorized to provide services to those persons enrolled in the Defense Enrollment/Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Heartworm testing and preventatives are available at the VTF and your local area veterinary clinics. Pets are seen by appointment only; to schedule, or if you have any questions, please call (361) 961-3952.

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'1223' will hold concert at NEX on April 12

1223 (pronounced twelve-twenty-three), a band out of San Antonio, will hold a small concert at the NEX from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 1223 has traveled the world, bringing positive hip-hop and what they call "Soldier Music" to service members.

They have performed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Bethesda Naval Hospital in Washington D.C., and the Oklahoma City State Capitol.

Locally, they have performed for our wounded warriors at Brooke Army Medi-

cal Center's "Center for the Intrepid," Randolph Air Force Base, and Fort Sam Houston.

Army Staff Sgt. Adrian Taylor started the band a few years ago following the death of his close friend who was killed by a roadside bomb in Tal Afar, Iraq.

The group hopes to appeal to the hip-hop audience without bringing in drugs, sex, or violence.

To find out more about 1223, visit www.myspace.com/1223music

3rd Annual Coastal Bend Law Enforcement Chili Cook-Off Comes to Port Aransas

The Coastal Bend Peace Officers Association is proud to present the 3rd Annual Coastal Bend

Law Enforcement Chili Cook-Off on April 12th at 11 a.m. This year's Chili Cook-Off will be at Robert's Point Park in Port Aransas.

Live bluegrass music will be provided by "Johnson Grass" and wristbands for the Public Tasting, which begins at 11 a.m., will

be available for \$5.00. As always, proceeds from the event will directly and immediately benefit local charities.

Contact Nueces County Pct. 4 Constable Bobby Sherwood at: (361) 749-5241, (con401@hotmail.com) or Alejandro Ramirez (361) 939-7415 (alejandro.ramirez@uscg.mil) for further information.

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Sight to the blind: Soldiers hope to help Iraqi girl see a brighter future

by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Noor Taha Najee gives 1st Lt. Michael Kendrick a goodbye kiss near the end of a March 26 visit to her house in al Buaytha, Iraq. Noor, whose corneas are underdeveloped, has been blind since birth. The Soldiers of 1-30th Inf. Regt. are working with a nongovernmental organization, the Eye Defects Research Foundation, to get Noor surgery that may provide her with sight.

Her hands run across his hand, her fingers explore his features. She asks her father: Is he fat or skinny? Tall or short? She is trying to learn about the man she cannot see, the one who strives to end the mystery surrounding him and the world around her.

1st Lt. Michael Kendrick, platoon leader of 2nd Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, said it is his goal to replace the mental picture young Noor Taha Najee has of her father with the actual image.

Noor, a 5-year-old girl who lives in al Buaytha, has been blind since birth, a condition caused by poorly-developed corneas, said her father Taha.

It is a problem that runs in the family. Taha's brother, Mustafa, also suffers from the birth defect, one that prevents the eyes from registering anything other than light sensitivity.

Although the condition is genetic, it is one that can be fixed through surgery. Kendrick, a native of Phoenix, Ariz., and his unit have been working closely with doctors to try to get something done for the family.

"To have her see her family, her brothers, to put a face to the voice, it would be a blessing," Taha said of the opportunity to help give sight to his daughter and brother.

The Eye Defects Research Foundation, a nongovernmental organization based in Los Angeles, is already trying to schedule a surgery for the girl.

On March 14, the Soldiers took Noor and her uncle to the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad to get an evaluation

done on the two, which showed a higher potential for success with Noor.

"We're on standby now, waiting for a doctor in L.A.," Kendrick said.

He said they are now trying to find a local Iraqi doctor who would be willing to travel with Noor and her family to California. An Iraqi doctor is needed who could be shown the necessary follow-up care.

Such a gift would seem appropriate for a girl who is described as very generous and giving by her father.

"She's different from many other kids," Taha said. "She's always sharing. She'll give you anything."

It is a personality trait which has endeared her to the 2nd Platoon Soldiers.

"We've taken a real vested interest in the people here," Kendrick said, adding his Soldiers spend a lot of time on the ground, interacting with residents. "We empathize with the people. It pays dividends winning the hearts and minds. It keeps things quiet."

Noor has developed quite an attachment to Kendrick, Taha said.

"She likes to sit by him, and is always asking me about him and loves it when I tell her stories about him," he said. "She's only like that with Kendrick."

As a father of two young girls himself - Presley, 3, and Parker, 1, - Kendrick said he knows the importance of family and providing for them.

While she may not be able to see what the Soldiers are doing for her, Taha said Noor can definitely sense the good will of Kendrick's platoon.

"Love begins in the mind, not the eyes," Taha said.

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At a Glance...in this Issue of Wingspan

**How to Advertise YOUR
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Wingspan on-line Page 16

Classified Ads Page 19

Ask Dr. Garcia

Q: *How do I tell my husband we have a problem?*



Garcia

A: A marital complaint usually falls into one of two broad categories: (1) "You are not meeting my emotional needs," or (2) "Your behavior is upsetting me." When you meet your spouse's needs, you deposit "love units" into your spouse's "Love Bank." As you avoid behavior that makes your spouse unhappy, you avoid withdrawing love units. That combination leads to romantic love and a feeling of incredible attraction that is essential in a happy and fulfilling marriage.

In a study written for the *Journal of Family Psychology*, the authors provide evidence that couples should not let things ride and have a chance to build up. Instead, couples should address any conflict as soon as it arises, and resolve it quickly.

The authors indicate that the biblical principle from Ephesians (4:26), may be helpful in marriage, "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." The results of the study concluded that the divorced couples tended not to respond to each other's complaints as quickly as those who remained married. Simply stated, these divorced couples ignored each other's complaints until they became intensely negative. Those who remained married, on the other hand, went to work addressing each other's complaints soon after they were mentioned, not giving the complaint a chance to build up.

In successful marriages, spouses expect to change to accommodate each other's needs. So, when a spouse registers a complaint, it's a signal for action. In failed marriages, spouses expect to be accepted as they are, without change. A complaint is interpreted as an unwillingness to love unconditionally; a failure of the complaining spouse. So instead of adjusting to the complaint, the defense is offered, "If you really loved me, you would not try to change me. You would let me continue to do whatever it is I'm doing."

So, how soon should you begin in your effort to address each other's complaints? My answer: As soon as the complaint is first made. Why wait for a complaint to turn into a demand, or a disrespectful judgment or an angry outburst? Why not deal with the issue immediately, as soon as it is spoken.

The next question then is, how do you tell your husband, "We have a problem." One of the reasons that spouses postpone their complaints is that the way in which they complain often starts a fight. While the complaint does get the problem out on the table, it often wrecks what could have been a peaceful evening at home. After the fight is over, however, the problem usually remains unsolved. So, how should you introduce a problem to your husband in a way that doesn't lead to a fight and makes it more workable to solve?

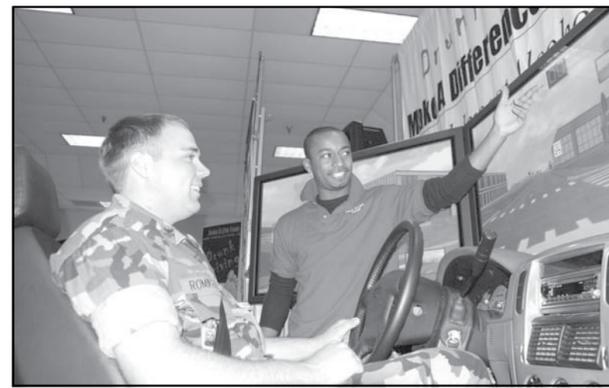
First, this is what you should **not** do: First, do not make demands. A demand is an effort to force your husband to do what you want without consideration for how he will feel doing it. Secondly, do not make a disrespectful judgment. When you present the problem, avoid expressing it as being your husband's fault. Finally, do not have an angry outburst. It's an ineffective way to produce long-lasting change in your husband's behavior, and also destroys your husband's love for you. Instead, state your complaint clearly, ask your husband's perspective on your problem, do some brainstorming on how to solve the problem, and make sure that both of you agree on a solution together.

You will not only deposit "love units" by solving the problems themselves, but in how you solve the problem, if you do it the right way.

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

If you have a question for Dr. Garcia, please email: trobuadour55@hotmail.com or call (361) 814-4556.

Save a Life Tour raises drunk driving awareness



Jeremiah Newson, right, instructs a patron on the drunk driving simulator, which starts out at Level 0 and simulates drunkenness up to Level 11. The "Save A Life" Tour shows a sober person what a drunk person is feeling and seeing and does so in a safe environment.

Photo by Ensign Nolan Lucas

Military Child continued from page 1

gone, they have to find different ways of dealing with the feelings that can come up. They can experience aggression or changes in behavior and they have to deal with that."

The CDC prides itself on having well-trained care providers who are able to deal with these specialized situations. Children with deployed parents are monitored carefully for changes. Caregivers keep in touch with the military parent(s), write letters and send pictures of the children at the CDC. Children keep pictures of their families in their cubbies and track their parent's location on a map. Their mom or dad records voice messages or videos and the child can watch it with their caregivers.

Parents who are not deployed are just as important. They are invited to visit the CDC whenever they can and sometimes, read books to the class. "It's always a great time for the child. They get to tell their friends, 'That's my mom,' or 'That's my dad.' We love when parents come here to visit," said Covington.

When the time comes for deployment, however, the CDC is there to support both the remaining parent and the child. If a parent is not handling a deployment well and it is affecting the child or their relationship, the CDC can get them into counseling and provide assistance.

The Month of the Military Child is a time for you to let these children know how special they are and how proud you are of them. They carry a lot on their shoulders and should be thanked for their service, as well.

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Captain continued from page 2

are fully intent on keeping these things forever but, for one reason or another, we discover they're not so special anymore. For anyone who has children, there are always well-taken care of toys that don't get much use and could make other children happy.

I believe you'll be able to find a lot of items you could use, or your wife or your children! Who knows, you may find that one item you've been looking for; or better yet, that one item you regret not buying when you were overseas!

The Spring Cleanout is scheduled for this Saturday, from 8 a.m. to noon. Anyone who normally has access to the base (Active Duty, Government Civilians, Contractors) and their families are invited to come out and shop! This goes for our friends at NS Ingleside and NAS Kingsville, too! Drive around through base housing, stop and browse, and enjoy the fun! I know you'll find some great deals!

Look for maps and 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. Go see what our residents have to sell and, maybe next year, we'll have a bigger event and expand on who can participate.

See ya on the beach...after the Spring Cleanout!

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Veterinary Treatment Facility's mission extends to your pets

by Sgt. Timothy Hair, U.S. Army, Animal Care Specialist



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Veterinary Corps is Force Protection through maintaining food safety, preventing zoonotic disease and the Military Working Dog Program.

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Care for privately owned animals is very

important, but is subject to availability. The Corpus Christi VTF performs preventive care and minor sick care for pets. This includes vaccines for puppies and kittens and annual vaccines for dogs and cats. Laboratory services and overseas health certificates are available as well.

The VTF is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The office is closed on federal holidays as well as the last business day of every month for inventory. Pets are seen by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please call (361) 961-3952.



NAVFAC Southeast awards first Electrical Utility System Privatization contract

50-year contract expected to save \$14.7 million

by Sue Brink, NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs Officer

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast awarded an estimated \$92.6 million, 50-year, utilities privatization contract to Nueces Electric Cooperative (NEC), out of Robstown, Texas, on March 17.

The contract allows for conveyance of the electric distribution systems at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, its outlying Naval Auxiliary Landing Fields (NALF) Cabaniss and Waldron, and at NAS Kingsville, along with its outlying NALF Orange Grove.

"This group of systems represents the first electric systems that the Navy has privatized," said Tom Fressilli, NAVFAC Southeast Utilities Privatization Program Manager. The utility systems will be privatized to NEC through a Bill of Sale, which is authorized by 10 U.S. C. 2688.

The NEC proposal offered a total cost for the 50-year term that was 31.2 percent lower than the "should cost" of continued Government ownership over the 50-year term.

"When these respective total costs are expressed as equivalent uniform annual costs, the NEC proposal represents an annual cost avoidance of approximately \$868,896 per year," said Fressilli.

The work to be performed provides for initial system modifications required to bring the systems up to industry standards, maintenance and repair, as well as renewal and replacement of system components over the full term of the contract.

The March contract signing between the Navy and NEC marked the end of a privatization process that began in 2000 with the issuance of an area-wide request for proposals, which solicited proposals for a large number of Navy utility systems at installations throughout Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida panhandle.

"Nothing will change for residents and employees. If you have problems with electric utilities on base, you will dial the same numbers," said Lt. Cmdr. Mike Ser, public works officer at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. "Residents and employees at the two installations will see no difference in the services provided."

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MCM Crew Persistent returns from 6-month deployment in Arabian Gulf

by Ed Mickley, NMAWC Public Affairs



Photo by Ed Mickley

Sailors of Crew Persistent wind their way through the excited crowd to meet and hug their waiting spouses and children. The crew spent six-and-a-half months aboard USS *Scout* demonstrating Mine Countermeasure Operations during exercises involving U.S. and coalition forces.

More than 80 Ingleside-based Sailors from MCM Crew Persistent will returned to South Texas on March 31 following a six-month deployment in the Arabian Gulf aboard USS *Scout* (MCM 8).

MCM Crews aboard forward deployed ships assist coalition forces in conducting maritime security operations (MSO) under international maritime conventions to ensure security and safety in international waters so commercial shipping can operate freely while transiting the region.

MSO sets the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. MSO deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons, or other material.

While in theater, Crew Persistent led in demonstrating Mine Countermeasure Operations during several exercises involving U.S. and coalition forces to improve readiness and capability including the first ever "Kuwaitix 08," a multinational operation to enhance military interrelations.

During their tour, Crew Persistent won the Battle Efficiency Award for 2007, determined by the overall readiness of the command to carry

out its assigned wartime tasks, and is based on a year-long evaluation. The competition for the award is, and has always been, extremely keen. To win, a ship or unit must demonstrate the highest state of battle readiness.

These MCM Crews are part of Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command's crew swap initiative, which was put into play August 2004. Crews manning ships in Ingleside are "swapping" with those manning ships forward deployed in Bahrain.

This initiative increases the Navy's forward presence by keeping a single ship hull continuously present in a given area of operations, while swapping crews at six-month intervals. It increases the on-station time for the ship without extending deployments for crewmembers; and it saves wear and tear on the ship, weeks of transit time, and uses available resources more efficiently.

Members of the Patriot Guard Riders, a motorcycle group dedicated to honoring our service members, were also on hand to welcome the Crew Persistent back to Corpus Christi.

(front page) *Engineman First Class Michael Mathers of Ingleside, carries his 7 month old daughter through the Patriot Guard Rider Salute just after he arrived home from the Arabian Gulf.*

Chaplain continued from page 2

realistic for a father to give up his only son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."

"Well, you've got a point there," the old minister replied glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face. He looked up at two young men and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I was that

father and your pastor is my son's friend." God's love for us is immeasurable! He invites us in Isaiah 45:22, "Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; There is no other!" He is good to all and has compassion on all He has made. He offers help to the hopeless and assurance to those who respond to His call.

BucDays continued from page 1

stock contractor, and announcer are all strong supporters of the military. Tributes such as this one are becoming more common in rodeos around the United States.

"When presented with the idea of a military appreciation night at the rodeo, Bill Lathrop was quick to take the lead in organizing this program along with Barbie Baker who is working with the Buccaneer staff to help BucDays 2008 come together," said Barry Box, director of the Buccaneer Commission.

Baker, who also serves as the NAS Corpus Christi base Ombudsman, is thrilled with the event military night has become. "It has been a pleasure to work with this commission and I have been touched by their eagerness to make military appreciation night at the Rodeo a true tribute to our service members," she said. "I hope to see you all there!"

The Flour Bluff Veterans of Foreign Wars will hold a special presentation of colors along with the NASCC Honor Guard, representing both veterans and active duty service members. NAS Corpus Christi's own Lt. Cmdr. Jay Woelkers will sing the National Anthem, and all our wounded warriors will be honored at the beginning of the ceremony. Rodeo-goers on this night can also look forward to a visit from the Corpus Christi Patriot Guard.

Rodeo announcer, Boyd Polhamus, who also announces the Nationals Final Rodeo in Las Vegas, is widely recognized as the premier rodeo announcer in the United States and will add a special touch to the evening program, along with an extensive lighting and a dynamic sound system.

Discounted Rodeo tickets for April 24 at 7 p.m. are available to all military through ITT Offices aboard NAS Corpus Christi and Naval Station Ingleside. A military discount will also be available throughout BucDays, from April 23 through May 4, for all events and celebrations, not including the rodeo.

For more information, please visit www.bucdays.com or call (361) 882-3242.

"Buccaneer Days" is a Corpus Christi tradition that celebrates the discovery and naming of this city. The first BucDays, in 1938, featured a mock landing by Alonzo Alvarez de Piñeda, a Spanish explorer who discovered Corpus Christi in 1519 and was followed by a festive parade. Even then, the main purpose of BucDays was to support education, enhance culture and provide entertainment to residents.

Today, BucDays includes a Pro-Rodeo, BBQ Challenge, and dozens of other events. At the heart of the celebration, however, is an ongoing dedication to education. Each year, money raised goes towards scholarships for Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Texas A&M Kingsville, Del Mar, and other scholarships.

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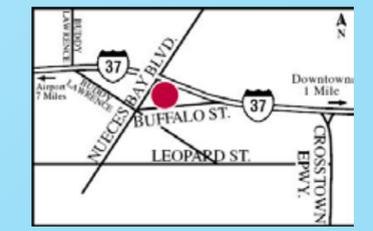
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Celebrate the Month of the Military Child



Travis Johnson, MWR Director; Patti Barclay, CDC Director, and Lt. Cmdr. Jason Greene, Public Safety Officer are thrilled to kick off the Month of the Military Child and ceremoniously cut a ribbon at the CDC.



(from back to front) Kaleb Cain, Orion Smith, Jacob Peterson and Brendan Martin are proud of themselves after singing a few songs for the guests.



Jasmine Husereau plants purple and pink petunias during Garden Day at the CDC. Many fun events are planned throughout the month of April.



What better way to welcome Spring and the Month of the Military Child than planting a garden! Sierra Watson, Orion Smith, Anastazia Gross, Niko Parham, Brendan Martin, Kaleb Cain, and Isabella Perez head out to the CDC garden to plant their flowers.



Photos by Anne Booher, Editor

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Winging Ceremony • April 4



Photo by Hugh Lueck Event Photography

Official party listed left to right: Cmdr. Mark Springer, VT-35 CO; Col. Thomas Clark, MATSG-22 CO; Cmdr. Joe Shipley, VT-31 CO; Lt. Col. Jon Ullmann; Capt. Richard Paulison, Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi CO; Adm. Donald P. Quinn, Commander, Strike Force Training Atlantic, guest speaker.

Wingees listed alphabetically: Ensign Cyrus Anderson, Ensign Mark Bender, Ensign Montie Benefiel, Ensign Kristin Bentz, 2nd Lt. Andrew Dustan, 2nd Lt. George Goldwaite, Lt. Joshua Harrington, Ensign Michael Hartenstine, Ensign Isaac Keever, Ensign David Kendall, 1st Lt. David Mathes, 2nd Lt. Matthew Musser, Ensign Michael Rutherford, 1st Lt. Jeffrey Rzasa, 1st Lt. Brian Simmons, Ensign Lauren Skrel, Ensign Brett Vining

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Photo by Richard Stewart, Base Photographer

Lt. Col. David Bagnato, Commanding Officer MATSG-22, congratulates Maj. David E. Villarreal, March 14 aboard the USS *Lexington* following 20 years of service.



Photo by Richard Stewart, Base Photographer

Lt. Col. David Bagnato presents Gunnery Sgt. Eric Vance with a shadowbox upon his retirement. Vance's retirement ceremony was held on March 28 at the Bay 20 Club.