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# Wingspan

Vol. 12, No. 09

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • April 27, 2006

## Hendrickson takes over helm of VT-27

Story by Lt. Jerome Gussow

Commander Eric J. Hendrickson relieved Commander Matthew P. Ahern as Commander, Training Squadron Twenty-Seven (VT-27), on April 13, at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

The VT-27 "Boomers" welcomed their new commanding officer in a traditional change of command ceremony held in Hangar 58. Guest Speaker was Rear Admiral Prindle, Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Group in Norfolk, Virginia.

Hendrickson an Arcata, Calif. native, graduated from the Maine Maritime Academy, was commissioned an Ensign in April 1988 and designated a Naval Aviator in November 1989. His first operational tour was with the "Mad Foxes" of Patrol Squadron Five (VP-5) in June 1990, where he flew in support of "Operation Desert Shield," and "Operation Desert Storm."

During April 1993, Hendrickson reported to the Defense Language School, where he qualified as a Dutch and Spanish linguist; and then to the Naval Postgraduate School,

where he was awarded a Masters of Science in Operational Oceanography.

His next assignment was to the *USS Dwight D Eisenhower* (CVN-69), where he served as a Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer, and "Mini" Boss. In June 1998, he reported to Patrol Squadron Thirty (VP-30), where he served as an Instructor Pilot. In December 1999, he reported to Special Projects Patrol Squadron One (VPU-1), where he served as Mission Commander and Officer-in-Charge on numerous classified detachments.

Hendrickson's next assignment was to Naval Air Systems Command. He reported onboard VT-27 in February 2005 as the executive officer.

He lives in Corpus Christi with his wife, the former Michelle "Mimi" Caron, and their sons, Austen and Seth.

Commander Ahern was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, graduated from Purdue University, and was commissioned via the

*Hendrickson continued on page 8*



Commander Matthew Ahern stands relieved as Commanding Officer, Training Squadron Twenty-Seven (VT-27) just prior to Cmdr. Eric Hendrickson being sworn in on April 13 by the Training Wing Four Commodore, Capt. Dale Little. (Photo by Richard Stewart)

## NAS Flour Bluff NJROTC Students learn true meaning of hard work, discipline

Story and photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland

The "Hustlin' Hornets" of Flour Bluff High School's NJROTC Program achieved a major milestone recently. They returned home after snatching the Navy National Drill Team competition win - their tenth consecutive overall. The Navy Nationals were held April 7 and 8 at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla. They also won first place during a regional drill competition meet, held at Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15's hangar on board NAS. That meet was in late January.

Maintaining the number one ranking year after year has its definite challenges, according to Senior Chief Petty Officer Lee Holloway, Flour Bluff Naval Science Instructor.

"There's a tremendous amount of pressure on the students and staff," acknowledged Holloway. "There have been several minor changes to the different drill routines over the years. We took a few hits at the Navy National this year. It's difficult for the kids to change their routines. We had five judges, four from each service and a head judge reviewing and critiquing us. Where we have a potential conflict is when you have, say, a Marine drill instructor who has an opinion different from a Navy drill instructor. It can create a lot of potential confusion."

Holloway has been teaching NJROTC students for 18 years. He spent eight years at Ray High School before transferring to the Flour Bluff Independent School District.

"Each year we participate, it becomes tougher to maintain your reputation," said Holloway. "Unlike other regional competi-



These six Flour Bluff High School "Hustlin' Hornets" cadets from the NJROTC Program recently returned from participating in the Navy National Drill competitions at NAS Pensacola, Fla. The NJROTC team captured first place. All six have military or civilian parents working or stationed on board NAS. From left to right they are as follows: (front row) Cadet/CPO Jaelyn Stewart and Cadet/Lt. j.g. Danielle Pletcher. (Back row, left to right), Cadet/PO2 Brian Quinn; Cadet/CPO Matthew Horn; Cadet/PO1 Adrian Altimirano and Cadet/Ensign Josef Horn. Their next stop is the Grand Nationals in Daytona Beach, Fla.

tions, it's much more difficult to hide your mistakes at the national level. They (the judges) watch us like hawks."

The Flour Bluff NJROTC team certainly has an impressive reputation to maintain. They also have swept the Grand National competitions eight times, and currently holds and maintains that prestigious title.

Senior Naval Science Instructor Cmdr. Armando Solis, who's been teaching at Flour Bluff High for the past 12 years, indicated the NJROTC program is a positive influence on all students who participate in the program.

"It demonstrates the Navy Corps values to them at an impressionable age," explained Solis. "It's a day-to-day manifestation of honor, courage and commitment for these kids. They learn how to work as a team, and develop discipline and self-esteem. We're getting ready for the Grand Nationals next month, so the cadets have to concentrate and focus now, more than ever. I'm really proud of my cadets. They've learned how to basically work from the same template, so to speak."

During the competitions, the cadets are evaluated on originality and complexity of the drills, in addition to precision. The drill teams compete in several different categories, including basic regulation drills displaying formation and footwork typically accomplished by the female drill squads). The exhibition drills (done by the males) involve the use of weapons, and include such tricky NJROTC continued on page 12

# From the Skipper

## Take a moment to — be cool

by Capt. T.E. Coolidge



Coolidge

Well, I've never claimed to be a prognosticator but I can say that I think we're in for a long dry Spring and Summer. I've never seen so many brown patches of grass — in April.

Some of you recently were affected by the City-imposed "brown out" where sections of the city lost electricity for from a half hour, to almost two hours. It happened in the afternoon, so by the time you got home, you probably had to re-set your clocks. And if your home alarm system doesn't have a battery backup, then you may have had to re-set your personal code as well.

And we've never gotten to Summer yet, and with electric costs and most evidently gasoline costs rising, this can be an expensive summer.

I try not to give a lot of orders about conservation, but I would like to see our military families consider being better guardians of our resources. Yes, gas prices have gone to

more than \$70 per barrel, and I don't have to tell you that, because you're probably seeing the price rising almost each time you fill your tank.

You might be surprised at how much you can save by simply ensuring the tire pressure on your vehicle is what it's supposed to be — for each tire, and — slowing down. Believe it or not, your gas consumption will go down, if you stay at the posted speed limit.

When a person drives a Dodge ram full-sized pickup (and I'm not picking on Dodge, it's just that one zoomed by me recently) with a V-8 engine, four wheel drive, and going at 80 miles-an-hour, I'll tell you that he's not getting 10 miles-per-gallon at that speed.

If you're into big trucks and SUVs, you can probably get a good buy right now because with the price of gas likely to hit \$3 this summer, dealerships are willing to drop the prices on these behemoths, just to get them off the showroom floor. But you, the consumer is going to take it in the wallet paying these gas prices.

If there's no one at home most of the day, then simply raising the thermostat in your home during the day to say, 80 degrees, and

then lower it to your comfort level when you get home, at the end of the month you'll see a difference. Rather than if you simply left it at the same lower temperature all day long.

Some of you might be thinking that "I'm getting into your business," but the point is, if you apply little things to your daily lives, then you'll save money. Even something like ensuring that the windows and doors in your home (or office) are encased by insulation tape to keep the cool in and warmth out — will help make your home more comfortable. Putting "shade" film on your windows also helps keep the heat (and UV rays) out, and cooler air in.

Some of you new to South Texas are already finding it too warm to be outside right now. Wait until the "heat" comes during July and August and then you'll know why adapting some of these money-saving techniques can affect your living pleasure and help you enjoy being here.

The swimming pools open real soon, and for those who can take advantage and appreciate the sun, it IS a good time to be outside. Make the most of what we have here, sun and wind. See you at the beach!

# Chaplain's Corner

## Pulling Chocks

by Chaplain Robert Christian

Time flies when you are having fun. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as a chaplain aboard this base. It has been three years and the Navy is sending me to Norfolk. I will keep my Texas connection though as I serve aboard CG-56, the USS San Jacinto. NAS Corpus Christi has been a great experience for my family and me. Great Skippers, great ward rooms, great Chiefs, and on and on I could go.

Well, let me just say that I love being a Chaplain and I always looked forward to driving on this base each day. Each day was different and exciting. O.K., enough about

me. Do you enjoy what you do? I would like to challenge you to be excited about what you do. I believe that your vocation is a gift from God and He wants you to enjoy it. Whether you are a Butcher, Baker, or Candlestick maker, God has given you special abilities and talents and He wants to use you in whatever occupation you hold. If you despise your job, maybe you should start looking for something else. If you've despised it for a long time your co-workers will probably lend a hand.

All kidding aside, sometimes the dissatisfaction means it's time for a physical change. Sometimes, though, the change needs to begin in our perspective. Could your sole purpose be to encourage those around you, and

to care for those in your work place? Could it be that you are exactly where God wants you and not have realized your unique role? God might want you to be the office chaplain that speaks words of encouragement, and that goes out of the way to care for specific needs, to provide guidance with words of wisdom. There is a passage from the New Testament that speaks to this issue—that whatever job you undertake, do it like you are doing it for the Lord.

Thank you for letting me be your Chaplain.



Christian

# Healthwatch

## Don't Separate from your Retina

by Lt. Cmdr. Nate Ruttig



Ruttig

Retinal detachment is a relatively common condition affecting an estimated five to 10 percent of the population. Retinal detachment is a condition where the retina—a layer in the back of the eye that detects light—separates from the layer of blood vessels beneath it. There are many ways in which the retina can become detached, and when this happens it is considered a medical emergency.

Individuals that are middle-aged or older, those that are very nearsighted, people who have had cataract surgery, persons that have had a serious eye injury or eye disease, or those who have a family history of retinal

detachment are all at increased risk. Diabetic patients also have an increased risk of developing a retinal detachment. How someone knows they are suffering a retinal detachment depends on which area of the eye the detachment is occurring and how large the detachment is. Usually what happens is a tear develops in the retina, either from trauma or disease and the fluid inside the eye leaks into this tear and lifts the retina off of the blood vessel layer beneath it. Sometimes, as one ages, the fluid in the back of the eye can degenerate and actually suck the retina off its foundation. Whichever the case, suddenly seeing many flashes of light, seeing floaters (black spots or cobweb-like shapes), loss of peripheral (side) vision—described as a curtain being drawn across one's visual field, or blurred or distorted vision are all common symptoms of retinal detachment. Once the retina becomes detached, time is of the es-

sence. In many cases, vision can be restored if retinal detachment is treated promptly.

You can help prevent retinal detachment by taking good care of your eyes. While playing sports or swimming, use protective eyewear. If you are extremely nearsighted, have a family history of retinal detachment, have had eye surgery or have an eye disease, see your eye doctor regularly. Depending on which part of the eye that is affected, you may not have symptoms of retinal tears or detachment, which can become worse over time and lead to permanent blindness. If you have any questions or concerns about retinal detachment, are at risk for retinal detachment, or want to know if you are at risk, don't wait. Do not hesitate to consult your healthcare provider, and seek emergency medical care for any of the symptoms of retinal detachment above.

# Wingspan

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## MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The NAS Fleet and Family Support Center is hosting an Active Parent now in Three Workshop in the VTC Classroom at Naval Hospital Corpus Christi on May 2, 9, and 16. It will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. for parents with children between the ages of one to four. For parents with kids ages five to 12, sessions will be held on May 3, 10 and 17 at the times listed above. To register, contact the Fleet and Family Support Center, located on the fourth deck of the Naval Hospital. Their phone number is 961-1785/3722.

Motorcycle certification classes for basic riders will be held today and May 30-31. The Advanced Classes are May 5, 13 and 22. For additional information, contact the NAS Safety Department at 961-3673.

The American Automotive Association Driver Improvement Classes will be held tomorrow, April 28, and May 2, 3, 4 and 23. The course is mandatory for all personnel operating a government vehicle. You can save up to 20 percent on your automobile insurance, depending on the company. The course is one day in length, and will be held in Building Seven, Room 210. For more information or to register, contact the NAS Safety Department at 961-3673.

Classified Control located at Headquarters Building 2, will complete Fd-258 fingerprint cards for security investigations on NAS military and DOD civilian personnel. This service is provided only from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information, contact Assistant Security Manager Estella Jiminez at 961-3370.

Warning: Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, is designated off-limits to all military personnel in UICs 00216, 31457 and 42094 by the Commanding Officer, NASCC, and Commander, Navy Region South. The ban, in effect since March 4, 2005, is in response to increased violence due to drug trafficking, kidnapping and murders along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Operation Paintbrush Program is searching for volunteers. This program paints homes for elderly residents or people too seriously ill or injured to maintain their homes. For more information, contact AC2 Ashley Drange at 961-2503.



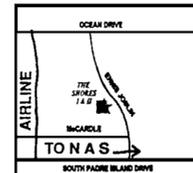
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..... STATION SPOTLIGHT .....



**Army Private Amber Rupe**  
 Veterinary Food Inspection Specialist, NASCC Veterinary Clinic

A native of Peoria, Ill., NASCC is Rupe's first duty station. She has been on board the base for one month. She has been in the Army for 10 months. Rupe says there are a number of different facets to her occupation.

"One of our main functions is to inspect commissary products, and remove expired items off the shelves," explained Rupe. "We

also have something different to do, and there's a lot of variety in my work."

Rupe hopes to eventually attend college or a two-year trade school. She is undecided about a fulltime career in the Army.

In her spare time, Rupe enjoys driving in the country, reading, drawing and painting.



**George Wesson**  
 Communications Manager, NASCC Telecom Office

Originally from Stephenville, Texas, Wesson has been on board NASCC for 25 years working in the civil service. He is a retired Navy Chief Radioman whose last two duty stations were NTCC Corpus Christi, and VQ-Four, located at Naval Air Station Patuxant River, Md.

"I get great satisfaction with making sure the communications systems work as they should," said Wesson. "I manage the telephone

communications for all three Navy bases in South Texas. We review and establish routes for new phone lines. We coordinate contractors and vendors through the command. In addition, we change service codes, do all translations for service programs, and manage the main telephone switch."

Wesson is married with a son, 35 and a daughter, 32.

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**Common Access Card required for  
 NASCC government computers by May 2**

Story and photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland

According to a Department of Defense directive, all military, civilian, and contract personnel will be required to use Common Access Cards (CACs) in order to log onto their government computers. The change is designed to provide greater security to potentially sensitive and personal information.

"We were supposed to begin using our CAC for digitally signing e-mail several months ago," said Donna Tedrow, Navy Region South Activity Customer Technical Representative. "While some have already been using their CAC to digitally sign email and access government websites, many people have not. Now that a CAC is required for login, it is imperative that everyone make sure their CAC is working."

The CAC Log On (CLO) will be enabled on NMCI computers in Navy Region South on May 2.

Preparing for this initiative, there are steps that everyone should take to get ready. There is a required CAC training module available on the NMCI Homeport page, accessed through the "Support and Training" link. It explains features of the CAC and how to use it with your NMCI computer.

Ensure that your NMCI computer has a CAC reader. With a desktop model, the CAC reader is on the keyboard. On a laptop computer, the CAC reader is on the left side of the computer.

"The next step is to make sure that you have a valid CAC," explained Tedrow. "If you don't have a CAC, it is expired, does not contain your NMCI email address, or you don't remember your PIN, you'll need to go to the Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) to update your CAC or get a new one."

PSD prefers that you utilize the CAC/ID Card Automated Appointment Scheduler to make an appointment, this will save both you and your command valuable time. You can access the scheduler by going to <https://es.cac.navy.mil>. Once at the site select PSD Corpus Christi, select make an appointment, choose your desired date, select an open time slot, complete the personal information, then press sign up. Your appointment is now made. PSD prefers you show 5-10 minutes prior to the scheduled appointment. Additionally, if you show later than 10 minutes past your scheduled appointment you will either have to reschedule or be seen on a walk-in basis. Whether you are renewing or validating your present CAC, or applying for a new one, be sure the PSD staff places Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certificates on the CAC, that your email address is correct, and that you remember your PIN," said Tedrow.

If your CAC is expired or you have never been issued one, you need to see your designated command representative to complete a DD Form 1172 (CAC Application Form). Tedrow cautioned that PSD requires that only command-designated Authorizing Officials sign the CAC application. If you don't know whom your command representative is check with your Admin Office, Command Pass Liaison Representative (PLR) or PSD for a listing.

Once your CAC is updated, you need to



The Department of Defense Common Access Card (CAC) is mounted into a reader unit on the desktop keyboard for quicker access and greater security.

run the CAC setup utility on your NMCI computer. To activate the CAC ActiveCard Gold software, click the Start icon in the lower left corner of the computer screen. Next, select Programs, and then press the Active Card and Active Card Gold icons. Select the Common Access Card Setup Utility, and follow the prompts. Microsoft Outlook should remain closed while running the setup utility. The CAC setup utility should then operate satisfactorily without interference. If a program error occurs, run the setup utility again.

The CAC setup utility should be run on each computer commonly used by someone, according to Tedrow. For example, if 20 people in a work center operate from four different computers, they should run the CAC setup on each of the computers they will use.

Tedrow stressed that security is very important when using and maintaining CACs. Since someone could break into another's computer with their CAC and Personal Identification Number (PIN), it is vitally important to protect your CAC and your PIN.

It is always best to remove your CAC card if leaving your workspace for even a few minutes. Memorize your PIN. If you must write it down, store it in a secured location. If your PIN is entered incorrectly three times, CAC access will lock you out and you'll have to be reset at PSD.

"The main advantage of the CAC is security – you cannot log in without the CAC, so people cannot share accounts," explained Tedrow.

If the CAC is forgotten at home, it must be picked up and brought in because the card is required to access the NMCI account.

"We don't know the official CAC schedule for the actual mandatory use, but the guidelines indicate we'll begin using it in two weeks after the CLO is enabled on our NMCI computers. The target date is for enabling CLO is May 2," said Tedrow. "We expect mandatory CLO by May 16. It's best if you accomplish the CAC Course, and make your PSD appointment, if needed, as soon as possible."

For more information, check out the training site on the NMCI Homepage, or contact Tedrow at NAS Headquarters Building Two, 961-3861.

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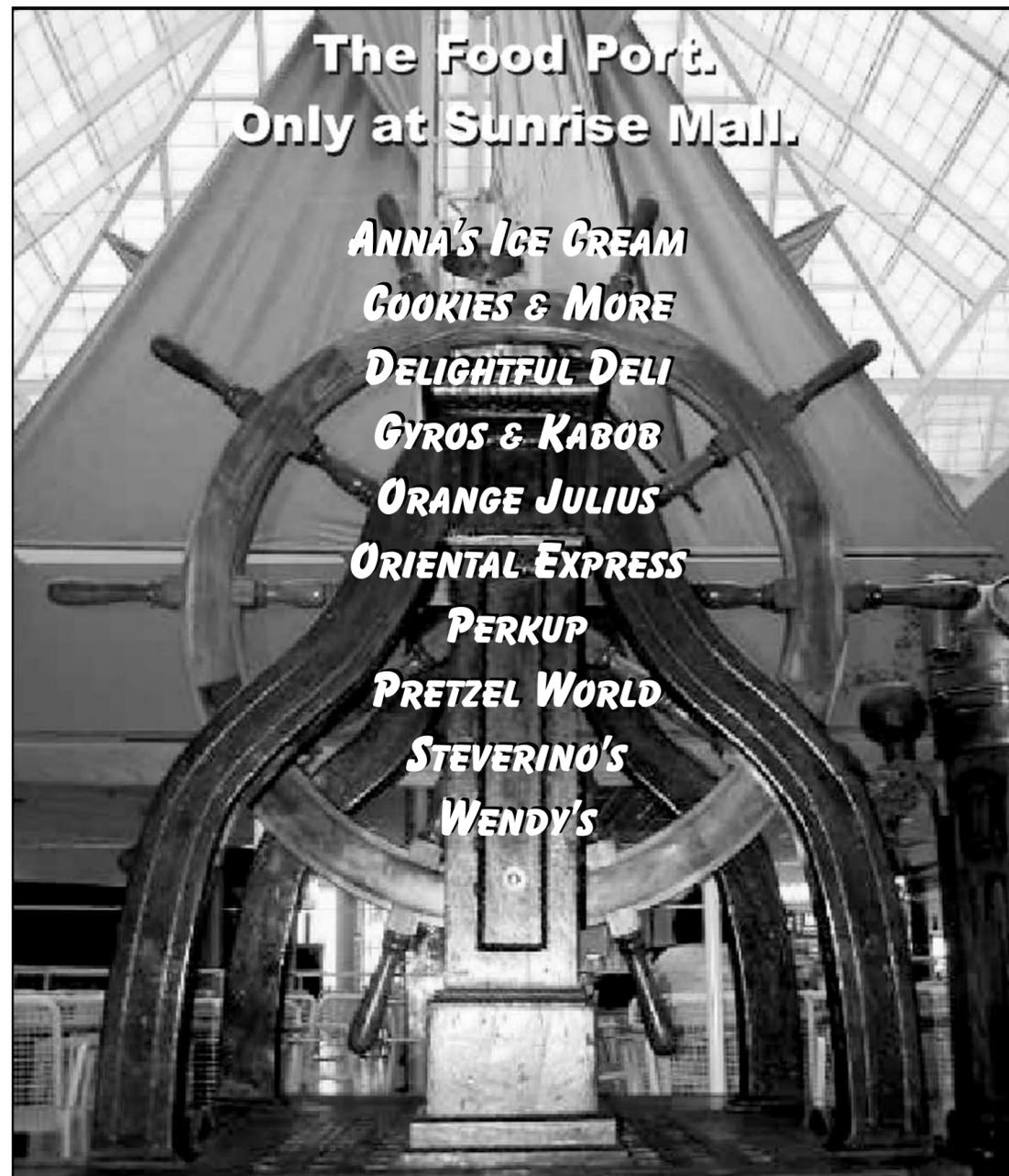
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by NCCS (SW) Terri Green

NAVADMIN 158/02 contains current information regarding the Seaman To Admiral-21 (STA-21 commissioning program) and solicits applications from enlisted personnel who aspire to become commissioned officers.

Options included in the STA-21 program are the Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP), Aviation Enlisted Commissioning Program (AECP), Nuclear Enlisted Commissioning Program (NECP), Civil Engineer Corps Enlisted Commissioning Program (CECECP), and Seaman To Admiral Program (STA). Other programs available include the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC which includes the Nurse Corps Option) and the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST).

STA-21 is a full-time undergraduate education and commissioning program open to enlisted personnel with U.S. citizenship. Selectees are provided a maximum of 36 months of full-time, year-round study to complete a Baccalaureate degree. Further information and application procedures are contained in the OPNAVNOTE 1530 (STA-21 Program) and OPNAVINST 1420.1 (Enlisted to Officer Commissioning Programs Application Manual) and make sure to visit the STA-21 website at <https://www.sta-21.navy.mil>. You may also contact the NAS Career Counselor's office at 961-3611/3612, or visit your command career counselor.

**Home Construction  
Seminar May 3**

by Cristoval Perales

Planning to build a home? Need to remodel an older house? Does your roof need repairing due to hurricane damage? Lt. Cmdr. Dave Richmond, JAG Corps, Navy Reserves, will provide intensive training on what you need to know about hiring a contractor and choosing a builder. Other topics including the negotiation of permits and insurance, how to negotiate and write contracts and fee structures, inspections, liens and warranties will be covered. The training is open to everyone. The presentation will take roughly one hour, with time afterwards for individual questions. Please join us for this informative training on May 3 at 9 a.m. at the Naval Hospital Corpus Christi Auditorium. For more information, please contact the Navy Legal Service Office at 961-3765.

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## Annual Buccaneer Days celebration offers volunteer opportunities

Story by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland

Corpus Christi's largest festival kicks into high gear as Buccaneer Days runs from April 19 to May 7. This year's events include the Ballet Folklorico Competition, the Las Donas de la Corte Queen Coronation, the Miller Lite Rodeo, the Bay Front Carnival, the Sail Corpus Christi Parade of Tall Ships and other activities. With such a lengthy, varied schedule, the need for volunteers to assist has never been greater, according to Buccaneer Days Promotions and Volunteer Manager Barbara Limberg.

"We're looking for people from NAS and the Corpus Christi community to donate their time," explained Limberg. "There are several different areas we need assistance with, particularly security. We're also in dire need of shuttle drivers, and people to help run the Hole-in-One, a floating golf green."

To assuage safety concerns, the Buc Days committee created the Troubleshooters program, designed to assist law enforcement and private security personnel.

"We try to match prospective industry and supply people with local residents and military," said Limberg. "We have the schedule arranged where 10 people work together on a shift, in groups of two. They will carry radios with them, and can notify security personnel if they suspect something will happen. For instance, if there is a lost child, the Troubleshooters can bring them to the nearest security post. There, the child can be reunited with his or her parents."

Limberg added the Troubleshooters also act as roving ambassadors. The goal is to have an extra set of eyes and ears just in case something minor or unusual could turn into a major catastrophe.

"There's a big need for volunteers here, especially during the night parade May 7," said Limberg.

AO1 (AW/SW) Richard Zule, NAS Detention Facility Leading Petty Officer, and president of the NAS First Class Petty Officer's

Association, works as a Troubleshooters volunteer. He wants to give back to the Corpus Christi community, and show appreciation for the support the city has given to Naval Air Station.

"It's a great way to help keep the Buccaneer Day events running smoothly and hassle free," explained Zule. "There are four of us from the First Class Association that offered to help out. We'll be working primarily in the carnival and along Shoreline Blvd. We want to be certain there are no major problems."

MA1 (SW) John Burch is helping with shuttle driving, in addition to working as a Troubleshooters.

"It's my responsibility, because I have been given so much from the local community," said Burch. "If I can put a smile on someone's face, it's worth it. It's my duty to volunteer. We want to show Corpus Christi that the military cares about them, too."

Individuals interested in volunteering for the Buccaneer Days events can contact Limberg at 882-3242, ext. 100. They may also log on to [www.bucdays.com](http://www.bucdays.com) website for a listing of the volunteer opportunities, in addition to participating organizations. Upcoming events are also featured.

First organized in 1938, Buccaneer Days has evolved into a three-week extravaganza. The celebration commemorates the discovery of Corpus Christi Bay in 1519 by the Spanish explorer Alonzo Alvarez de Pineda. Pirate Jean Lafitte (who aided General (and later president) Andrew Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans in the Battle of 1812) is said to have established his headquarters at the site of present day Corpus Christi in 1821. Some years later, Col. Henry Lawrence Kinney established a trading post at the head of Corpus Christi Bay in 1838. In 1852, the trading post was incorporated as a city. It was named Corpus Christi, which translated from Latin means "Body of Christ."

## Annual Beach to Bay run slated for May 20 across NASCC

Story by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland

Mark your calendars, and don't forget to pull out and dust the dirt off your favorite running shoes! The 31st annual Beach to Bay Run is scheduled for Sat., May 20. More than 6,000 runners are expected to participate in the 26-mile long course.

The race begins at Bob Hall Pier on North Padre Island beginning at 7 a.m. sharp. The first batch of competitors is expected to enter through the South Gate of NAS at approximately 8 a.m.

For race participants and interested spectators, the four-mile jaunt heads down Lexington Blvd. from the South Gate. The designated route turns from Lexington onto Dimmit Road adjacent to the Armed Forces Reserve Center. Runners will then turn east, and pass through the Laguna Shores Housing Area. The course then winds past the NAS Marina adjacent to the Laguna Madre, and passes behind the Corpus Christi Bay Club.

The runners will continue west down Ocean Dr. past the Corpus Christi Army Depot and Helicopter Mine Countermeasure Squadron 15 hangars. It continues past the Coast Guard Air Station, and exits the base from the North Gate. Water stations will be available and in operation at several points along the course.

The race finishes at Cole Park in Corpus Christi. For more information, contact the NAS Public Affairs Office at 961-2674/3420.



A runner douses himself with water at the intersection of Lexington Blvd. and Dimmit Road during last year's Beach to Bay run. (Wingspan file photo)

## NAS Security Blotter Report

NAS Fire/Police responded to the following calls from April 1 to April 15:

Three intrusion alarms and eight fire alarms were answered.

Eight medical assists calls were responded to.

Three unsecured buildings were discovered and appropriate measures taken.

Twelve Armed Forces ID cards were reported lost, as were 13 dependent ID cards and three contractor ID cards.

One hazardous materials call was answered.

Four traffic accidents were investigated.

On April 1, a Petty Officer Third Class reported a case of larceny of personal property at his residence.

Also on April 1, outside the North Gate, a male with no base affiliation was detained for possession of marijuana.

On April 3, a male and female with no base affiliation were detained and processed for possession of a controlled substance, possession of

marijuana, and operating a stolen vehicle.

On April 4, outside the North Gate, a male with no affiliation was detained and processed for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

On April 6, a male with no base affiliation was detained and processed for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

On April 7, outside the North Gate, a male and female with no base affiliation were detained and processed for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

On April 8, a male with no base affiliation was detained and processed for driving while intoxicated, and having an open container inside a motor vehicle.

On April 15, while conducting random anti-terrorism measures, a male with no base affiliation was detained and processed for driving while intoxicated.

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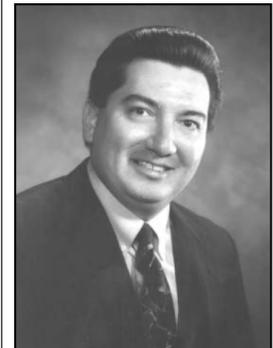


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## NAS Veterinary Clinic to offer kennel cough vaccinations

by Capt. Erin Graves

NAS Army Veterinary Services is holding a walk-in bordatella (kennel cough) vaccination clinic for dogs on Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Corpus Christi VTF. This clinic is being held to better prepare pets for a potential evacuation during hurricane season. The only service available that day will be bordatella vaccination. The bordatella vaccine will be available for \$10. The price includes the mandatory user fee. Clients will need to show up at the VTF and sign-in by 11:30 a.m. to be seen that day. The U.S. Army Veterinary Services is located at 10651 E Street, Building H-110, across from Naval Hospital Corpus Christi. For more information, please contact Ms. Morales or Spc. Ryan at 961-3952.

As a reminder, stray/nuisance animals loose aboard NAS Corpus Christi should be reported to the Security Office at 961-2480. Security will contact Public Works, who bears responsibility for capturing these animals. Dogs and cats not wearing a current rabies tag will be relinquished to the City of Corpus Christi, Animal Control Section. Their address and phone number are as follows: 2626 Holly Road, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78416, Phone (361) 882-6082.

Once taken to Animal Control, owners have three working days to claim their animal before it becomes property of the City. To claim an animal, owners must provide proof of current vaccinations. If a cat or dog remains unclaimed after three working days, Animal Control has the authority to place the animal up for adoption. They can also euthanize it.

Animals with a current rabies tag found roaming aboard NAS Corpus Christi will be captured, and the City will contact the owner. First time offenders will receive a Pet Regulation Violation Notice from NAS Security as a courtesy. On the second offense, the pet owner will report to Bldg. 198 to receive a Pet Regulation Violation Notice and a counseling statement on the proper control of pets. Further violations will result in a Letter of Removal from the NAS Executive Officer, and the pet will be surrendered to Animal Control.

MWR continued from page 13

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Navy Youth Sports and Major League Baseball presents PITCH, HIT & RUN. A national skills program for boys and girls, ages 7-14, to showcase their pitching, hitting, & running abilities. This event is to encourage youth to experience the "FUN" element of baseball competition. There is not a registration fee and is open to all dependents of Active Duty, DoD, Contractors and Retired Military personnel. It will be held April 29 on the youth baseball fields. The competition will begin at 9 a.m., participants must register before hand. Registration table will open at 8:30 a.m.  
For more information contact the Youth Activities at 961-2355.

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## HM-15 sweeps 2005 Wing Sea Sailor of the Year Competition

by Lt. j.g. Mitchell P. Grant, HM-15 Public Affairs

For the first time in history, five sailors from NAS Corpus Christi's Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron-15 (HM-15)



Sailor of the Year  
AW1 (AW/NAC) Thomas L. Andrews

All packages were reviewed and slated by a local panel of senior and master chief petty officers attached to the Commander, Naval Air Force, US Atlantic Fleet staff.

The top five Sea and Shore Sailors are invited to compete at the next level, which for the COMNAVAIRLANT

selected to be the overall Fleet Forces Command Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year will attend a meritorious promotion ceremony hosted by the Chief of Naval Operations.

Having been in the Navy since July 19, 2002, SKSN Sanchez Prospero's superior performance, leadership and keen attention to detail have been nothing less than exemplary. Filling the billet of a second class petty officer, she consistently exercises her knowledge and skill by running the Supply Customer Service Counter with exceptional resourcefulness. As one of the squadron sup-



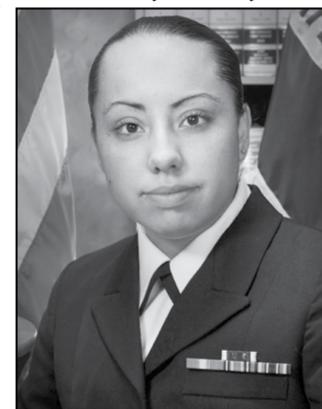
Junior Sea Sailor of the Year  
AM2 (AW/SW) Paul E. Chapman

nominees included an oral board with seven master chiefs and senior chiefs.

After each commander names its Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year, they will compete at the Fleet Forces Command level, which will occur during the third week in April. The Sailors

ply personnel deployed to the Fifth Fleet AOR, she displayed admirable leadership skills by ensuring the prompt replenishment of 300 repairable items valued at over \$3.5 million. Furthermore, she exceeds all Navy physical fitness standards. Dedicated to improving herself and others, SKSN Sanchez Prospero is currently pursuing an Associates Degree in computer science and actively volunteers in the community.

With more than seven years of service, AM2 Chapman is a proven sailor, leader, and mentor. He consistently performs at a level commensurate with a first class petty officer. Exercising his acumen as a supervisor and trainer within the Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) department, he played a pivotal role in the continuing success and operational readiness of HM-15. In the forward-deployed environment of Bahrain, he was a vital contributor to the accomplishment of 486.3 flight hours and the transport of 494,172 pounds of cargo, 160,560



Blue Jacket Sea Sailor of the Year  
SKSN Maribel Sanchez Prospero

officer. Exercising his acumen as a supervisor and trainer within the Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) department, he played a pivotal role in the continuing success and operational readiness of HM-15. In the forward-deployed environment of Bahrain, he was a vital contributor to the accomplishment of 486.3 flight hours and the transport of 494,172 pounds of cargo, 160,560

HM-15 continued on page 8

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**DANIEL TORRES, D.D.S.**  
ORTHODONTIST

*Hendrickson continued from page 1*

Aviation Officer Candidate School in October 1986. Completing primary flight training in March 1988, Ahern was assigned as Selective Retained Graduate (SerGrad) flight instructor in Training Squadron Three (VT-3), and accumulated more than 1,000 instructional hours in the T-34C. Ahern's first operational assignment was to VP-5, where he flew in support of "Operation Desert Shield" and "Operation Desert Storm."

During October 1993, he reported to VP-30 where he served as an Instructor Pilot. Ahern's next orders were to the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71), where he qualified as Officer-of-The-Deck-Underway, and served as an operations administrative

assistant. In March 1999, Ahern reported to Patrol Squadron Forty (VP-40). He was then assigned to the Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Ten, in December 2000, and back to VP-30 in January 2002, where he served as P-3C NATOPS Program Manager, Senior Fleet NATOPS Evaluator, and Instructor Pilot. Ahern reported to the "Boomers" as Executive Officer in November 2003, and assumed command of VT-27 in March, 2005.

His wife, the former Terri Jones, and their daughters, Katelyn, Meghan, and Sarah will accompany Ahern to his next duty station, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, in Norfolk, Virginia.

*HM-15 continued from page 7*

pounds of mail, and 690 passengers in direct support of CTF 53 and units throughout the Fifth Fleet AOR supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also provided thorough in-rate training and actively participated on 15 Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist (EAWS) boards leading to 27 EAWS qualifications in 2005. With Petty Officer Chapman as a fitness program coordinator, HM-15 achieved an unprecedented 97.2% overall Physical Fitness Assessment passing rate. Furthering his education, Petty Officer Chapman has also earned an Associates degree in social science and a Bachelors degree in psychology while remaining active in the community and in intramural sports.

AW1 Andrews, a 15-year Navy veteran, was the driving force behind HM-15's execution of more than 3,700+ flight hours, delivery of more than 500,000 pounds of emergency relief supplies in the aftermath of Indonesia's tsunami, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and Pakistan's earthquake, transporting more than 2M pounds of supplies and more than 5,000 priority passengers to ships operating in the Arabian Gulf in CY05. As Maintenance Control LPO, he expertly managed the maintenance effort of 300 personnel in 15 production work centers performing scheduled and unscheduled maintenance on 10 MH-53E helicopters during two major deployments, five shipboard embarkation periods, and two minesweeping exercises. Petty Officer Andrews recently earned a Navy Achievement Medal with Valor in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was an AIRLANT finalist in the Sailor of the Year competition.

PR2 Fischer enlisted in the Navy December 2, 1985. He is the top Selected Reservist (SELRES) Second Class Petty Officer in HM-15's aircraft maintenance department. In 2005, his superb leadership and management skills significantly enhanced the command's ability to operate a forward-deployed detachment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and JTF Griffin (Pakistan Relief). Petty Officer Fischer attained the 13A work center CDI qualification as an Advanced Pay Grade Accession (APG) within 18 months – quite an accomplishment. Working out of his rate, in the 300 and 230 maintenance divisions, he qualified as MH-53E Brake Rider, Wing Walker, and Ordinance handler. In addition, he qualified as an HM-15 Egress Explosive Instructor, assuring that all main-

tenance personnel are instructed every six months on the explosive hazards and proper egress of the MH-53E. His effective management of the certification and documentation of 150 sets of Aircrew Life Support Systems was absolutely essential for command mission completion. His dedication to job performance helped his paraloft earn "Best in the Wing" for 2005. Moreover, PR2 Fischer's community involvement with Red Cross, Meals-on-Wheels, and Corpus Christi Earth Day further illustrates his dedication to service.

AT1 (AW) Whitley has more than 23 years in the Navy and is the number one Reserve First Class Petty Officer in the command. With the absence of a senior active duty counterpart, Petty Officer Whitley provided oversight and direction to 29 Active and Reserve AE and AT technicians to support mission requirements. His management skills and technical expertise assured continued scheduled and unscheduled maintenance of 7 MH-53E aircraft supporting contingency operations worldwide. His actions resulted in a 100 percent sortie completion rate of Homeguard missions. Additionally, he adapted the command's mentor program to effectively guide the Selected Reservists' career progression and managed the Navy's drug detection program for 82 SELRES personnel. For community involvement, AT1 (AW) Whitley was handpicked by HM-15 to attend "Battle Stations" for Recruit Company 254 in Great Lakes, Ill. He also served as a chaperone, mentor, and event judge for Texas Hightower High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and was chosen as an FBLA judge for the state competition in Dallas. Petty Officer Whitley holds a Master of Science in Business Administration.

These HM-15 Sailors of the Year can always be relied upon to complete any task with exceptional results and continually volunteer to shoulder additional responsibilities—often holding billets that exceed their rank. They put service above themselves. Coupled with an unwavering commitment to excellence, they promote a positive working environment through personal example. Due to their outstanding efforts in 2005, HM-15 was able to meet numerous deployment contingencies from Indonesia to Pakistan to the Gulf of Mexico. HM-15 maintained a permanent detachment in the Fifth Fleet area of

## MWR News and Events

by Laurie Garcia, NAS MWR

### Cinco de Mayo Block Party at GLC

It's Pachanga Time! We are blocking off the road and taking off of work to celebrate Cinco de Mayo with the Gonzalez Liberty center on May 5 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Enjoy an adult oriented afternoon of relaxation, listening to authentic mariachi music and the talents of Folklorico dancers, while sipping on frozen salt rimmed margaritas and chillin' with friends. Enjoy free BBQ, cash bar, margarita machine, music, games and prizes.  
**For more information, please contact the GLC at 961-6405.**

### Auto Skills Center Don't Get Stuck In The Heat! Get Your Car AC Serviced

The intense South Texas summer heat is just around the corner. Is your vehicle cooling as good as it should be? If not, stop by the Auto Skills Center to have one of our Certified Air Conditioning Technicians have a look. Just come in and ask for an AC Service and we will check all of the following:

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**For more information on this and other services provided by the Auto Skills Center, call 961-3470.**

**Bayside Pool**  
**Bayside Pool to Open on May 27th**

Bayside Pool is scheduled to open on May 27! The family recreation pool has a water slide and a baby pool. The hours of operation are Wednesday through Saturday from noon – 6 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. and are closed Monday and Tuesday. Registration for swimming lessons, pool parties and pool passes will be on May 15 through May 19 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. at Bayside Pool.  
**Pool Party Times and Fees:** Wednesday-Sunday 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.; \$50 per hour (3 hours max.). Baby Pool: \$10 per hour.  
**Pool Fees:** Active Duty are free, military dependents are \$1.00, DoD \$1.50 and guests \$2.00. Monthly passes are available at Bayside Pool. Swimming lessons are available.  
**For more information, call Earl Olsen at 961-3260.**

### Corpus Christi Bay Club Celebrate Mother's Day at the Corpus Christi Bay Club

The Corpus Christi Bay Club invites you to celebrate Mother's Day with them. They have planned a very special menu just for all those special Moms. Not only do they have great special for Mother's Day, but the CCBC has planned an entire month of some awesome specials with great tasting menu items.  
**Specials for May:**  
May 5 & 12: Shrimp A Peel (All you can eat) - \$15.95  
May 6: Prime Rib - \$17.95  
May 19: Chateaubriand Flambe for Two - \$31.95  
May 20: Flaming Kabobs - \$14.95  
May 27: Surf 'N Turf - \$14.95

The above specials are served along with the A La Carte from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Prices are for Club Members; an additional \$1 per person is added for non-members. Salad, Ice Tea or Coffee are included with all meals. Reservations are required for the specials in order to serve you better.

**Special Events in May**  
May 5: Member's Appreciation Night with the all you can eat Shrimp-A-Peel. Cost is \$15.95 for members and \$16.95 for non-members.  
May 12 & 26: Winging designation ceremonies

will be held in the main Ballroom at 3 p.m.  
May 14: Mother's Day Champagne Brunch from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Reservations are advisable in order to serve you better. Price for members is \$13.95; \$14.95 for non-members; \$6.95 for children ages 6 – 10; \$3.95 for children ages 3 – 5; and children under 3 eat free.  
May 26 Mongolian BBQ will be served  
Reminder: The Club will be CLOSED on May 29 in observance of Memorial Day  
**For more information, please call the Club at 961-2541.**

### E Street Gym E Street Gym News

5K Summer Fun Run: Register at the Fitness Center before May 31. The race will take place on Saturday, June 3. Check in time will be at 7:30 a.m., race time is at 8 a.m. For additional information about the run course or the 5K run volunteer program call Gail Marsh at Fitness Express at 961-3164.

**Sports Program:** Captain's Cup sports are unit competition; all players must be attached to the same unit. Register on time, late entries will not be accepted. Registration for each sport will begin one month before registration deadline. Please register on time. Coach's meetings are mandatory and are held on the Wednesday evenings at 4:30 p.m. Send an alternate to the meeting if the coach cannot attend. No show, no vote. Awards are given for first and second place.

**Beach to Bay Relay is Coming:** Treadmills are available to maximize your effort for the Beach to Bay Relay Race. Fitness Express has elliptical orbiters and cycles to cross train for the event. Not ready for this event? Check with us for our 5K fun runs. No charge for a great time.

**Operating Hours:** The operating hours for Fitness Express are: 5:30 a.m. – 10 p.m. Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturdays; and noon – 6 p.m. on Sundays; and 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on holidays.

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

### Lighthouse Lanes Have Fun at Lighthouse Lanes

The Lighthouse Lanes Bowling Center has a month full of "fun" specials! Bowling Specials for May:  
Monday's \$0.75 cents per game all day.  
Sunday's \$1 per game all day.  
Rock N Bowl on Friday and Saturday nights 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. \$1 per game.  
Cinco de Mayo Special, May 5: \$1 per game all day.

Mother's Day Special, May 14: Come celebrate Mother's Day at the Lighthouse Lanes. Ladies bowl free with paying partner.  
Memorial Day Weekend Special:  
Saturday, Sunday and Monday \$0.75 cents per game all weekend.  
There will be no open bowling on Tuesday – Thursday between 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. due to league bowling.  
**For more information, please call the Lighthouse Lanes Bowling Center at 961-3805.**

### Oasis Pool

The Oasis Pool is open for lap swim only; it opened April 4. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. – noon; and closed on Sunday and Monday.  
Pool Party Times and Fees: Tuesday-Saturday 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.; Sunday 1 p.m. – 10 p.m.  
Pool Fees: Active Duty are free, military dependents are \$1.00, DoD \$1.50 and guests \$2.00. Swimming lessons are available.  
**For more information, call Earl Olsen at 961-3260.**

**Pizza Sub Pub**  
Join the Pizza Sub Pub for Lunch  
Great News! The Pizza Sub Pub will remain OPEN!!!  
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Monday – Friday: 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

MWR continued on page 14

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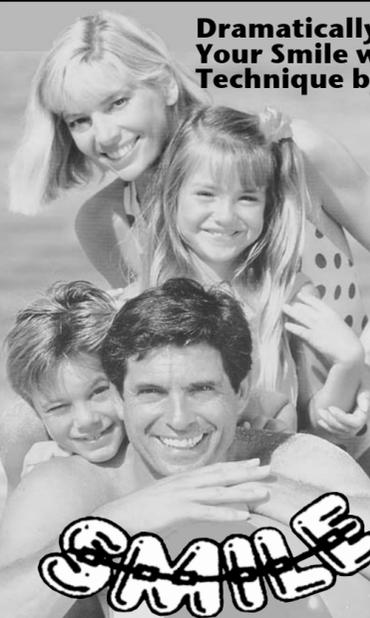
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NJROTC continued from page 1

maneuvers as double one-hands, triples, and regular doubles. The importance of synchronization among each of the cadets when tossing and catching their weapons is critical.

"Once we get the routines down, everyone's on the same sheet of music," said Cadet Lt. Cmdr. Pancho Gonzales, 17. "We have to continually practice to get everything right. It's a lot of hard work."

That ethic of hard work and perseverance is not lost on six Flour Bluff High School NJROTC students, all of whom have military or civilian parents working at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. Cadet/Petty Officer Second Class Brian Quinn, a sophomore, (who traveled along as a "roadie" or alternate member) admitted the Marine drill instructors at the Navy Nationals were especially tough and a little intimidating.

"They were always hovering in your face," said Quinn. "They had tattoos all over their bodies. Just watching them from the sidelines made you a little nervous. They were out to intimidate us any way they could."

Cadet/Lt. Cmdr. Danielle Pletcher, a junior, readily agreed.

"They were big and buff," said Fletcher. "The Marine DI's were especially tough during the drill with rifles competition."

Cadet/Chief Petty Officer Jaelyn Stewart said one of the biggest difficulties the teams faced was the cold shoulder they received from some of the other high school NJROTC teams.

"Everyone knows you," said Stewart. "It's like they stay away from you. They know who you are. We try to be nice, and stay professional, but I think they get a little bit intimidated. We just stay, like, you know, really low key."

"They don't always like you," allowed Quinn.

Cadet/Chief Petty Officer Matthew Horn is always amazed by how quiet the atmosphere becomes when the individual teams perform.

"They expect a really good show from you," explained Horn. "It's tough when you have a reputation to uphold."

Pletcher added that during the girl's drill competition, the judges actually measured for accurate distance during the basic regulation drills.

"They actually made us put our arms up for the dress-right-dress part," said Pletcher. "You actually had to perform the whole drill. That's the first time we've had to do that in a long time."

The cadets admit the intense training leaves them with little time for an active social life. They train an average of four hours a day, six days a week.

"NJROTC becomes your life," acknowledged Stewart. "Between that, schoolwork and some kids working at a part time job, you don't have time to do a lot of other things."

"We're basically here at school from six in the morning until six at night," said Cadet/Ensign Josef Horn. "The practices are intense, but fun. We do have a few days where we can goof off and have fun, like when we have Physical Education on Wednesdays."

The cadets' routines are not always serious and somber. One of the fun breaks is ex-

ercising with a Richard Simmons video.

"It really helps break up the stress and tension," said Pletcher.

The cadets acutely feel the loss of student leadership and mentors whenever the Senior cadets graduate.

"We average six or seven cadets graduating every year," explained Cadet Matthew Horn. "The juniors have to be trained so they can adequately step and fill the senior leadership positions. I look forward to stepping up and filling one of those in the near future."

Sophomore Cadet/Petty Officer First Class Adrian Altirano attributes much of what he has learned to his fellow upperclassmen.

"They mold us into the champions we are," said Altirano.

The students admit they love strutting their stuff during the drill competitions.

"The focus and intensity are great!" said Quinn. "People constantly watch us. Most of the other teams move slowly, but when we perform, we go at 300 miles per hour!"

"The adrenaline rush is awesome," said Cadet Josef Horn. "That overall feeling of performing and looking sharp is awesome. Wow!"

Fletcher likes performing before the crowds.

"Everyone's eyes and attention are focused on you," said Fletcher. "It makes you feel special, knowing you're trying to do your best."

The students readily admit they would not be where they are without the support of their parents.

"Mom and Dad-all our parents-have been very supportive," said Fletcher. "Our Booster Club is really awesome."

Quinn admits he is readily overwhelmed at times by all the attention.

"Mom's always there, and Dad is, too, when he's not traveling," said Quinn. "They really are great to help you with some of the hard decision-making and choices with NJROTC."

Despite some of the occasional disappointments, the cadets admit they have grown to love NJROTC, and the friendships they have achieved. That sense of camaraderie is what has made them so successful, according to Cadet Matthew Horn.

"Everybody's working toward a common goal," explained Horn. "They all have to stay focused and concentrate, move and execute at the same time. It's critical to our success. When one person fails, we all look bad. Overall, we're really happy with how well we did, though."

The Flour Bluff NJROTC program currently has more than 150 students from grades 9-12 enrolled. More than 80 students are in the Junior Varsity program, with 75 actually on the various drill teams. The naval science courses emphasize naval history, courtesies, customs and the different responsibilities associated with being a Sailor. In addition, different types of ships and aircraft are studied.

The next major competition for the NJROTC drill teams will be the Grand Nationals Competition. It is being held May 6-7 in Daytona Beach, Fla.



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# AROUND THE STATION

## Street Scoop

Wingspan readers want to know: "How do you celebrate Cinco De Mayo?"



"Party, Relax, and celebrate the Mexican victory."  
2nd Lt. Ahron Oddman USMC  
Training Squadron 35 Stingrays  
Brooklyn, N.Y.



"Going downtown to Heritage Park and celebrating."  
BMI Melissa Sharer  
Coast Guard Recruiter  
Premont, Texas



"Work, and celebrate my friends and birthday."  
Rosa Alvarado  
Navy Exchange Custodian  
Corpus Christi, Texas



"Riding my bike, barbecuing, and having a few drinks."  
ABHI (AW) Miguel Rivera  
NASCC Career Counselor  
New York City, N.Y.

### CDC kids, staff tour helicopter mine squadron



A sea of yellow shirts greeted the officer and enlisted personnel from Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15, as staff and the three-to-five year olds from the Child Development Center happily "invaded" their facilities April 12. The kids had the unique opportunity to sit inside a CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter, and imagine what it's like being a pilot. They also briefly toured the facilities. (Photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland)

### Going above and beyond the call of duty



In the April 13th *Wingspan* issue, the caption read that Chaplain Kelly received an end-of-tour award. That was incorrect. Navy Region South Command Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Kelly (right) received a Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal signed by Rear Admiral R.O. Passmore, Commander, Task Force Navy Family, presented by NASCC Commanding Officer Capt. Timothy Coolidge (left), for his outstanding service while providing pastoral care assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Wilma Kelly also received a Meritorious Service Medal, signed by Rear Adm. Donald Quinn for his services as the Navy Region/NASCC Command Chaplain from 2004 through 2006. He recently transferred to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar at San Diego, Calif. The *Wingspan* deeply regrets the error. (Photo by CS 2(AW) Trina Johnson)

### New Admiral Pays Visit to NASCC



Air Operations Branch Chief, ACC Chris Cordova, shows the Commander, Navy Region Southeast, Rear Adm. Mark Boensel a view from the under-construction Air Traffic Control Tower, of the flight line on April 13. Boensel was on a tour of South Texas as part of an introductory phase of the current assignment he took on during December. (Photo by Bob Torres)

### Puente Pilot for a Day



Ricky Puente, 8, of Corpus Christi realizes a dream come true as he speaks via phone to a pilot during a visit to the NAS Air Operations control tower. Ricky participated in the Pilot for a Day program April 11. While on board NAS, Puentes visited several tenant commands, including Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 and Training Wing Four. Ricky says he loved looking at all the different planes on base. The Pilot for a Day program is designed for seriously ill or injured children the chance to discover what life is like on a military installation. (Photo by L12 Paul Hewitt)

# AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Student Pilots advance to aviator status



The following student pilots received their wings, designating them as aviators, during a "winging" and graduation ceremony held April 14 at the Corpus Christi Bay Club on board NAS. In alphabetical order they are as follows: 2nd Lt. Christopher Beatty; Lt. Jason Bender; Ensign Randall Black; 2nd Lt. Brock Burkhardt; 2nd Lt. Christopher Cersovski; 2nd Lt. Jefferson Davis; 2nd Lt. Jonathon Feucht; Lt. j.g. Joseph Karaffa; Lt. Daniel Kimberly; Ensign Thomas Moore; 2nd Lt. Phillip Newman; Capt. Kevin Van Stone; 2nd Lt. Christopher Whitaker; Ensign James Yach and Lt. j.g. Jassen Yates. (Photo by Hugh Lieck)

## The following Sailors were presented awards from NASCC Commanding Officer Capt. Timothy Coolidge during ceremonies held April 7 at the NAS Emergency Operations Center.



Capt. Coolidge (left) presents EO1 (SW) Richard Duniwan (right) with a Letter of Appreciation from Commanding Officer, VT-28. He was also cited and recognized for his contributions in the aftermath of the VT-28 plane crash in late January. Two pilots lost their lives in the accident. (Photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland)



Capt. Coolidge presents a Letter of Appreciation from Commanding Officer, VT-28 to CE1 (SCW) Juan Perez (right) for outstanding service in the aftermath of the VT-28 plane crash. (Photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland)

### HM-15 bids Fair Winds and Following Seas to Grasz



ATCS (AW) Eugene Grasz, (left) receives his retirement shadow box from Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 Command Master Chief (AW/SW) Jon Port during Grasz's retirement ceremony. Grasz retired after 23 years of service. Ceremonies were held April 7 at the Wings Auditorium. (Photo by JO2 Jeffrey Fretland)

### Honoring the Navy CPO's Birthday

The NASCC Chief Petty Officers Association recently celebrated the 113th birthday of the creation and establishment of the Chief Petty Officer's rank. The ceremonies were held recently at the Holiday Inn Emerald Beach. The oldest NAS Chief Petty Officer, HTC (SW) Fred Thomas (left) of Naval Hospital Corpus Christi, cuts the first ceremonial slice of cake. He then presented it to the youngest NAS Chief Petty Officer, BUC (SW/AW) Manuel Segura, (right), as per naval tradition. The Chief Petty Officer's rank was first established on April 1, 1893. Two new CPO ranks have been established since that time. A number of ratings have also merged within the CPO community.

