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Wingspan

Vol. 13, No. 08

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • April 12, 2007

Blue Angels will soar here this weekend!

by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

This week, our Corpus Christi skies will be even bluer as the Navy Flight Demonstration team, the Blue Angels return to our skies.

"We're looking forward to having the Blue Angels back again," said Naval Air Station Commanding Officer, Capt. Tim Coolidge. "It's exciting to watch them. They're the supreme demonstration team in the world and this year, we have a lot of other acts that will enhance the show!"

The gates will open on Saturday April 14 and Sunday April 15 at 9 a.m. and the first aerial act will go up at 11 a.m. But don't worry about getting here too early, as there will be plenty of military aircraft to look at and some are available to climb into. There will be concession stands selling food, drinks and souvenir items. And if you forget to bring money, there will be portable ATM machines available to get fast cash.

Air Show Coordinator Lieutenant Asa Taylor has worked diligently to get exciting and entertaining acts to this show to make it the largest, ensuring there's plenty to do for the entire family.

"We're expecting this to be our best show ever," said Lt. Asa Taylor, Air Operations department and 2007 Event Coordinator. "Our last show in 2005 was very success-



In addition to the incredible show the Blue Angels will put on this Saturday and Sunday, the crowd will also enjoy the WWII Act "Tora! Tora! Tora!", which reenacts the bombing at Pearl Harbor, an aerobatic helicopter, and many fun activities for the entire family. (Photo courtesy of Blue Angels Public Affairs)

ful and we all learned a lot. This year, we're building on that experience and putting together a blockbuster event that will really excite the crowd."

For children of all ages, there will be wall-climbing apparatuses, the bouncing-bodies display and even some remote-controlled aircraft for children to fly. Don't worry, there's an over-ride that won't allow the aircraft to crash, so they can have fun with a "safety net" on hand.

Blue Angel Number 5, Solo Pilot Lt. Cmdr. John Allison returns to Flour Bluff where he attended high school. As the lead solo pilot, Allison always draws a crowd of family and friends and he looks forward to making new friends at the show.

"It's always exciting coming home," said Allison, who couldn't keep a grin off his face. During the end of his show here in 2005, Allison rushed home for the birth of his daughter, Rylie. We don't know yet if she'll be here to see her daddy fly.

We'll have some historical aircraft from as far back as World War II that will be "on stage" and actually fly during the show. From Air Force bombers to Navy Corsairs, vintage *Blue Angels continued on page 10*

'Move in, fight the fire' - HM-15 receives Shipboard Aircraft Firefighting Training

Photos and story by Anne Booher, Editor



(Left) Students from HM-15 receive training alongside visiting instructors from Whidbey Island, Washington. Every four years, these students must re-qualify for fire safety in case of an emergency on the flight deck or ship deck.

(Right) The Mobile Aircraft Firefighting Training Device, or MAFTD, is filled with propane and certain sections are ignited remotely by the Safety Operator, depending upon the training exercise.



If you've ever driven down E Street past the Gonzalez Liberty Center, you've probably noticed a giant metal hulk distantly resembling a jet aircraft. It is actually a Mobile Aircraft Firefighting Training Device (MAFTD) and is a tool that prepares students for fires on a flight deck or hangar deck before they are shipped to sea.

Servicemembers take the Shipboard Aircraft Firefighting Training every four years to stay up-to-date on emergency procedures. On March 28, students from HM-15 were able to experience a realistic firefighting scenario

alongside visiting instructors from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. For the past five years, NASCC Fire and Emergency Services have shown their support by providing the MAFTD, as well as a fire truck and highly qualified personnel to monitor the training.

To chants of "Move in, fight the fire" called out by the Lead Instructor, groups maneuvered hoses as a cohesive unit to successfully put out a series of controlled blazes. "You can tell the students are facing a challenge," says Battalion Chief David Flores. "When they actually start attacking the fire, it

gets their senses going and helps them visualize what would happen in an actual emergency."

The trainers were invited by HM-15 and come from Chief of Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU) at Whidbey Island. "We have a great working relationship with Whidbey," adds Battalion Chief Flores. "Every time they're out here, they tell us we provide the best support and preparation for the physical side of their training." CNATTU Whidbey teaches approximately 50 classes with just under 2,000 students per year and

the instructors go on two road trips each year within the United States and internationally.

The training consists of five classroom lectures and successfully combating three live fires, made possible by the MAFTD. The structure is filled with propane on the wings and engines. The inside of the MAFTD can also become engulfed in flames to help the firefighter develop interior tactics and proficiency training.

As always, NASCC Fire and Emergency *Fire Training continued on page 10*

From The Skipper

Let's enjoy a great weekend!

by Capt. T.E. Coolidge
As you all know, the South Texas Shootout Air Show is this weekend. I'm very excited about it and hope you all get a chance to spend some time



Coolidge

with us on the flight line watching the Blue Angels and other performers do what they do best! Of course, with all the other displays at the Air Show, you and your children will find plenty to do.

In order to make this extravaganza happen, a lot of folks spent a lot of time on the phone arrang-

ing the acts, meeting with sponsors for donations, coordinating with all of the commands on behalf of volunteers and figuring out ways to accommodate mission requirements during the week of the Air

Show, and much, much more. I want to take a few lines of my column to express my appreciation to all those folks who have made this happen. The list of names is too long to publish here but it's taken incredible team work, long hard hours and a strong push through the frustration of the "little" things that always pop up that make or break a show like this. I'm proud to be associated with you all! Thanks for all you've done - we simply couldn't host an Air Show without you!

There are a couple of other things going on right now that I need to acknowledge besides the Air Show. One is the designation of April as the Month of the Military Child. I had the privilege last week to go to the Child Development Center and visit with a group of children. I always enjoy visiting, but this time was just a bit more special. For some of these children, their parent or parents have served, or are on deployment fighting the Global War on Terror.

When I think that the first Gulf War began in 1991, then it is pretty certain that most of our Sailors have either served or have supported someone serving in the Global War on Terrorism. According to statistics, more than 40 percent of our service members have left their family behind to serve overseas. More than one million of America's children have at least one parent currently serving in the military.

Recently, there was a video clip from a television station in Washington State where a Sailor came home. He wanted to surprise his six-year-old son at school. There were news cameras and other media there as the service member stepped through the door. With his wife leading, this Corpsman walked in and saw his son sitting at a round table toward the front of the classroom. The service member said, "Hey buddy." The little guy came

Captain continued on page 13

Chaplain's Column

On Hospitality

by Chaplain Chin Van Dang

An American tourist in London finds himself in a very nice neighborhood, but there are no pubs, no stores, no restaurants, and worst of all, no public restrooms. However, he really has to go, after all those Guinness's. He finds a narrow side street and decides to use the wall to solve his problem. As he is unzipping, he is tapped on the shoulder by a London bobby, who says, "Sir, you simply cannot do that here, you know." "I'm very sorry, officer," replies the American, "but I really have to go, and I just can't find a public restroom." "Ah, yes," said the bobby, "just follow me." He leads the American through a back delivery alley to a gate, which he opens. "In there," points the bobby, "Whiz away sir, anywhere you like."

The fellow enters and finds himself in the most beautiful garden he has ever seen. He relieves himself and feels much more comfortable. As he goes back through the gate, he says to the bobby, "That was really decent of

you. Is that what you call English hospitality?"

"No sir..." replied the bobby. "That is what we call the French Embassy."

Human welcome is one of the gifts everyone hopes for. It says that others open themselves to us in hospitality. No Christian virtue is more desired than hospitality. Some people seem to have a natural sense of welcome, but it costs something to forget oneself for the sake of another. We have to put ourselves out. Sometimes the cost seems minimal: a gesture of courtesy, a moment to pause and greet another, an arm to take as one enters a stairway into a building. However, the cost is deeper than meets the eye. Authentic hospitality means dropping the socially learned attitude of suspicion of others, especially those very different from our tastes or backgrounds. It also means allowing the other person room and space so we do not become curious, a busybody or someone who smothers the other with kindness galore. The cost is presence without intrusion and an attitude

that God is present in the guest.

While hospitality costs something of ourselves, there is a surprise in store for us.

When we are welcoming and hospitable, we receive the word of the other. That word may be God's and it may be effective. Our modern world evidences bearers of God's good word to us in a spirit of hospitality. We who give become the recipients of a much more wonderful hospitality from God.

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and gave the angels a space in the cold basement even though the

Chaplain continued on page 10



Dang

Wingspan

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Public Affairs Officer
Robert D. Torres

Assistant Public Affairs Officer
Lt. j.g. Caleb H. Booher

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Anne Booher

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CMC continued on page 8



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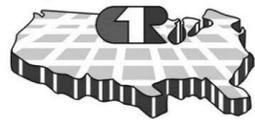
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Navy Youth Programs receive 'No Discrepancies' from CNIC inspection

by Anne Booher, Editor

Every year, Navy Youth Programs, also called the Youth Center, receives a thorough inspection from CNIC. Mimi Gutierrez, the director of the Center since 1999, made sure everything and everyone was in top condition. All of the children who attend the before school, after school, and summer programs must be well-documented, with their guardian's contact information, emergency numbers, and any special needs the child may have. Also, each employee of the Youth Center must go through a thorough background check, be certified in CPR and first aid, and receive extensive safety training. The Center did such an excellent job of ensuring these facets were tended to, they got a perfect score.

Navy Youth Programs is an Affiliated Members Organization of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Various national chains support the Boys and Girls Club, and therefore, the Youth Center is able to benefit from their generosity and ongoing assistance. This link has opened many windows of opportunity for the Youth Center, and they have developed close relationships with their sponsors.

For example, Circuit City has been a long-time contributor of the Youth Center, and recently donated a new XBOX 360 and game chairs for their Teen Room (which is also outfitted with a pool table, foosball table, and living area). In the past, they've also donated "game bikes," a big hit with the Center, which allow the kids to interact with the video game

by pedaling faster or slower, given the scenario. Also, Circuit City hosts a "lock-in" where the store is closed to the public and the children are allowed to try out all the new gaming systems with the newest games.

There is also something called the Teen Program, a summer work program for teens on-base. They will be paid to work 35 hours a week for various organizations across NASCC and won't have to worry about getting transportation to an in-town job or dealing with contracts that go beyond the summer.

The Youth Center is thoroughly grateful for the support from their sponsors and Navy Headquarters. Kids who are part of the Youth Center have many opportunities for community service and saving for their educational future. This includes reading to younger children, participating in base and beach clean-up and through the support of sponsors and Navy Headquarters, they are able to earn scholarships through their work at the Center.

At any time of day, there is something going on at the Youth Center. Their busiest times are in the morning before school, after school, and summer, but no matter when the children come by, they'll have something constructive to do.

There's no strict lesson-plan, but there's always structure. Children can participate in any activity, ranging from theater, art, music and dance to science, gym or sports. Also, there is a non-competitive basketball team, a girl's fast-pitch softball team, and plenty of other sports opportunities. "It's so important

for us to help out these kids," says Mimi. "It's all about them having their own identity."

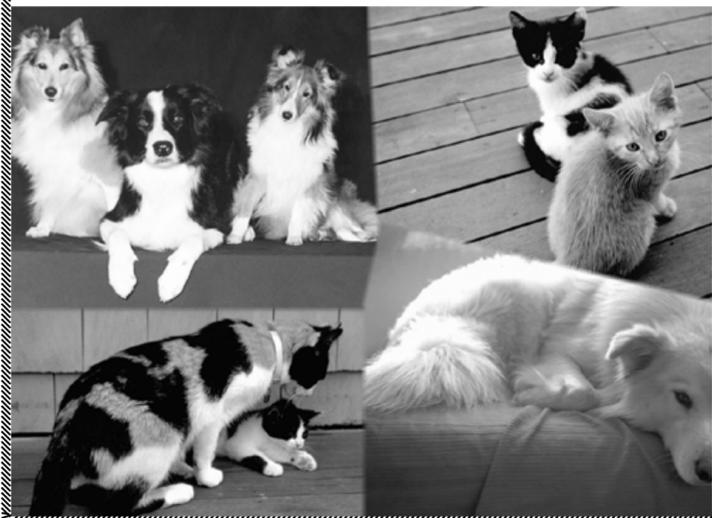
The Youth Center is one more of the incredible benefits to living a military life and with over 200 military children and teens participating in their summer programs, it's an organization worth looking into with your son or daughter. With a perfect inspection rating, you know your child will be in a safe, yet exciting, learning environment with a capable, encouraging staff.

To find out more about the dozens of youth programs offered in the summer and regular school year, please call the Youth Center at 961-2355.

(Right) Mimi Gutierrez stands in the recently renovated gym at the Youth Center. She has been the director of the facility since 1999. (Photo by Lt. j.g. Caleb Booher, Asst. PAO)



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Escape the ordinary summer with the Outdoor Recreation Adventure Center

Photo and story by Anne Booher, Editor



Monte Reitz, the director of ORAC, windsurfs in Laguna Madre just outside of the Marina. Monte has been windsurfing for more than 20 years and is the facility's resident instructor.

For many people, summer means spending most of your day outside, soaking up that Corpus Christi sun. When the beach gets too crowded and you're looking for something new and exciting, there's nothing better than learning how to windsurf in Laguna Madre, or camping with friends out on the beach. And conveniently enough, the best place to go for all your summer activities and supplies is NASCC's Outdoor Recreation Adventure Center.

Better known as "The Marina," this has always been a great place for people of all ages to learn something new, or keep up with an old hobby. With dozens of activities available, you can rent one- and two-person kayaks, sailboats, motorboats or learn how to windsurf. And you'd be learning from the pros.

Out at ORAC, you'll find some of the most hospitable staff this base has to offer. The fellow in charge over there is Monte Reitz, a former Search and Rescue Coxswain in the US Coast Guard, who is an expert windsurfer and has taught classes for more than 20 years.

"The best part of all this is providing something exciting for these men and women," says Monte Reitz. "They have a good time out here." Monte also says that pilots who have taken his windsurfing classes found that they were able to grasp the abstract concepts of aerodynamics better. The sail is, essentially, a vertical wing with all the properties and characteristics of an aircraft wing. "For a pilot to personally feel what the wind does when it passes over a wing enhances their understanding of the physics of flight."

If you'd like to try something other than windsurfing, sailing classes are offered on the weekends, along with a motorboat qualification class. And once you've gotten your qualification, you're welcome to rent the boats, hourly or daily. You can stop by the Marina to pick up a rate list. As far as motorboats go, they offer a Blue Wave, Lowe, Monark, Sea Ark and a Pontoon Boat. For sailing, a Sunfish, Windsurfer, JY 15/Laser, Catamaran, Fly-

ing Scott or a Cape Dory.

For the fisherman, or anyone who's interested in learning, the Marina also provides a pier, a bait shop called "Fish Tails", fishing equipment for rent, and if you'd like to find those perfect fishing spots, there's a guide service on location (and he gives a military discount). Laguna Madre offers some of the best fishing in the Coastal Bend, with redfish, black drum, speckled trout and flounder galore. Keep in mind, a Texas fishing license and salt water stamp are required, but the staff can help you out with getting one. They've also recently started a two-day Hunter Education Training Course so folks who are interested can get their hunting licenses.

The Marina's camping equipment will ensure that you're not left in the woods unprepared. Sleeping bags, tents, lanterns, stoves, fryers, and all sorts of other supplies are available for rent at a minor cost.

Since summer also means outdoor barbeques with family and friends, the Marina provides everything you would need for an afternoon get-together, including ice chests, BBQ pits with trailers, horseshoes, tables, and chairs. If you'd like to schedule your summer BBQ on base, the newly renovated Paradise Cove pavilion, overlooking Laguna Madre, is available at no charge. Just make a reservation prior to your event.

Bringing your own boat in? For a small fee, the Marina has slips for your personal boat (up to 25 feet). There's also outside storage for keeping your boat and/or boat trailer safe.

The Marina also has big plans for their first-rate RV Park, already a popular attraction for our base. This summer, they plan on opening 20 new sites as well as a brand new recreation facility, outfitted with a kitchen, living area, television, game room, and Internet.

Truly an asset to NAS Corpus Christi, the Marina will continue to provide military families with great service for many years to come. So, round up your family and friends, drop by the Marina and transform your summer.

Captain continued from page 2

running across the room, tears streaming down his face as all he could gasp was, "Daddy!" He was in his father's arms in an instant and the hug was like a vice and he held on for what seemed like minutes. The news anchor at the home station had to take a break as she began crying. She said she needed makeup before she could continue.

What we as adults do, and especially service members, affects our children. That's why I'm happy to participate in this month-long salute to military children and will continue to encourage and support "Kids Serve Too," as they sometimes do without a choice. Sometimes they're too young to understand why the family moves every couple of years, but sometimes they understand all too soon.

I have to share another story about a classroom. During September, 2005, Martha Cothren, a Social Studies teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something different. On the first day of school, with permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she took all of the desks out of the classroom. The children came into first period and found that there were no desks. They looked around and said, "Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?" She said, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn them." They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades." "No," she said. "Maybe it's our behavior." She told them, "No, it's not even your behav-

ior." The first period came and went. Still no desks in the classroom. Second period, third period, same thing. By early afternoon, television news crews had gathered in Ms. Cothren's classroom to find out about this teacher who had taken all the desks out.

For the last period of the day, Martha Cothren gathered her class. They were sitting on the floor. She said, "Throughout the day no one has really understood how you earn the desks that sit in this classroom. Now I'm going to tell you." Martha Cothren went to the door of her classroom, opened it, and 27 U.S. veterans, wearing their uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk and they placed them in rows and then they stood along the wall.

Martha said, "You don't have to earn those desks. These guys did it for you. They put them there for you, but it's up to you to sit here with a responsibly to learn, to be good students and good citizens, because they paid a price for you to have that desk. Don't ever forget it."

Sometimes we forget that the freedoms we have are because of ordinary people, our Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen, who did extraordinary things, who loved this country more than life itself, and who not only earned a school desk for a kid at the Robinson High School in Little Rock, but do things for us all so we may enjoy the freedoms we do - even an air show in South Texas. Thank you to everyone who is serving! See ya at the Air Show this weekend!

Local officers earn Master's Degree from University of San Diego Business School

by John Ruzicka, USD Asst. Director of Marketing Program Development

On April 6, 15 Corpus-area Naval Officers completed their final week of classes and graduated from the University of San Diego's Master of Science in Global Leadership (MSGSL) program. Over the past 15 months, the graduate students have studied business ethics, leadership, and project management with each course concentrating on leading global business organizations across cultural boundaries.

The April 6 graduation ceremony was held at

career and for my future plans."

The MSGSL program is comprised of a 16-month, 31-unit curriculum focusing on ethical leadership, best business practices in the global market, and the role that culture plays in the political, and economic arenas. Graduates of the MSGSL program are equipped with business skills, leadership education, and the fundamentals of applied ethics required for success in today's fast-paced and changing global marketplace.

"It was a busy 16 months, but I'm happy with my choice to follow through with this degree program," said MSGSL student Maj. Steve Cogar. "The MSGSL program's model, which combines traditional class meetings with online learning, has allowed me to work towards a quality graduate business degree from a nationally recognized, prestigious university while staying close to home."

"I've enjoyed my experience as an MSGSL student. No matter where I go from here, I'll be able to use this degree in many ways," said MSGSL student Lt. Josh Martin.

USD is currently offering a 50% scholarship for a limited number of Corpus-area students to participate as distance learners in May. Students would travel to San Diego twice during the 16-month program and complete the majority of their coursework online. For more information on this one-time offer, contact John Ruzicka at (619) 260-4833 or jruzicka@sandiego.edu.



Graduates from the program include: Capt. Alex Kirkland, Navy Region South; Cmdr. Keith Wagoner, Navy Region South; Maj. John Brooks, VT-28; Maj. Brandon Hansen, VT-28; Lt. Cmdr. James Norris, VT-28; Capt. Brian Hedin, VT-28; Lt. Jeremy Fischer, VT-28; Lt. John Stewart, VT-27; Maj. Steve Cogar, VT-35; Josh Martin, VT-4; Capt. Mike Wallace, VT-27; Capt. Carlos Scott, VT-28; Lt. Beth Regoli, VT-27; Lt. Jason Bartholomew, CNATRA.

the Omni Bayfront Hotel in downtown Corpus Christi.

"I have already learned so much from the MSGSL program that I am bringing back into the workplace on a daily basis," said Capt. Kirkland. "The professors challenge us with real-world current issues from the global business arena. I find much of the course content to be very interesting and immediately relevant and useful in my naval



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Naval Hospital Corps Christi receives Gold Star Award

Photo and story by Bill W. Love, Naval Hospital Corps Christi Public Affairs Office

Naval Hospital Corps Christi (NHCC) received the 2006 Command Excellence in Health Promotion Gold Star Award. Navy Environmental Health Center (NEHC) officials made the announcement March 19 at the 46th Navy Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine Conference in Hampton, Virginia.

The NEHC Command Excellence in Health Promotion Award annually recognizes commands for their excellence in Navy Health Promotion and U.S. Marine Corps Semper Fit Programs. The award is presented on three levels: Gold, Silver and Bronze. All commands with Navy Health Promotion or Marine Corps Semper Fit Programs are eligible and submit an award package in one of five categories: Fleet, Shore-based, Reserve, Medical Treatment Facility (MTF), Semper Fit Program. For the second consecutive year, NHCC received the Gold Star, with more than 76 out of a possible 90 points in the MTF category.

"You must have top leadership and inter-departmental buy-in," said Dr. Sam Rivera, health promotions coordinator at NHCC. "Then you can properly and effectively serve your military population in the challenges of promoting healthy lifestyle changes." Rivera says that it is vital for an MTF to have an award-winning, multidisciplinary comprehensive health promotion program.

Some of the health promotion items NHCC offers include stress management awareness, physical fitness, hypertension screenings, prevention and control, back injury prevention, substance abuse prevention and men and women's health. There are also programs in tobacco use prevention and nutrition. NHCC Health Promotion Dietitian, Robert Gonzalez, RD, LD, also facilitates the classes on weight management and cholesterol control.

"These classes help our patient population improve health habits and meet part of the criteria in achieving Gold Star recognition," said Dietician Erin Wilson, RD, LD, NHCC staff Certified Diabetes Educator. By learning what health prevention programs are available, people are more apt to take advantage of NHCC programs that encourage them to be responsible for their own health.

Rivera stresses that Command awards are the result of team efforts. "Other hospital departments helped in providing education and awareness to our beneficiaries by volunteering for health fairs, seminars and participating in community screening. It demonstrates that we proactively work and have a genuine concern in preventing diseases among our military family, active duty and retired."



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Dr. Sam Rivera, Health Promotions Coordinator at NHCC, displays NHCC's second consecutive Command Excellence in Health Promotion Gold Star Award.

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The Month of the Military Child kicks off with fun events every day of April

by CNIC Public Affairs; Photo by Lt. j.g. Caleb Booher, Asst. PAO

April was designated the Month of the Military Child by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in 1986. The monthly observance was set aside as a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and challenges they overcome. Military children face many obstacles, such as frequent moves, separation from their active-duty parent, school changes, and saying goodbye to friends, just to name a few.

Throughout the month, Navy installations

(286,795). Substantially fewer children are between the ages of 19 and 23 years old (46,266). There are 8,130 adult dependents ages 23 and older among the families of Active Duty members.

Month of the Military Child is meant to recognize the life changes experienced by sons and daughters of family members; to provide events and activities to appreciate; and to recognize the essential role that military child care services and youth activities play in the life of military families, especially military children.

During each Month of the Military Child, special activities are designed to highlight the unique contributions that military children make. Here at NASCC, military children have already enjoyed the treats and activities that the Child Development Center and Youth Center (Navy Youth Programs) have offered. For example, every day of April, children can stop by the Youth Center and get unlimited amounts of snow cones while they enjoy tournaments of their choice. The Child Development Center will offer all kinds of events, including a visit from the Texas State Aquarium, the Corpus Christi Hooks mascots, Military Day to show support for troops, and an afternoon tea party with parents invited. For school-age children who are enrolled in the Youth Center's programs, there will be a Talent Show on April 13; Splash Day on April 17; and Bowl-o-rama on April 27. For a full list of events and times, please call the CDC at 361-1165 or the Youth Center at 361-2355.



(L to R) Captain Timothy Coolidge joins CDC Lead Technician Margaret Covington, Hannah Phan, Jenna Busby and Mekenzie Bowman for a ribbon cutting ceremony to kick off Month of the Military Child. Behind the group is MWR Director Travis Johnson, a huge supporter of on-base youth programs.

around the world will plan special events to honor military children. These events stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle.

DoD considers child care a workforce issue. It impacts the effectiveness and readiness of the force. According to Military Home Front, a division of the DoD, these are some general statistics about the military child care environment: Over 1.2 million children under the age of 18; approximately 331,000 children under the age of 3; 400,000 children between the ages of 6 to 12 years old; 52 percent of the active duty workforce is married; Two-thirds of young enlisted military spouses are employed or seeking employment; Six percent of military members are single parents.

The 2005 Demographics Report from the Military Family Resource Center notes the following: There are fewer Active Duty members (1,373,534) than their associated family members (1,865,058). Over one-third of Active Duty members are married with children and 5.4 percent are single parents. The largest group of children is between birth and 5 years old (469,129). The next largest groups are between the ages of 6 and 11 years old (375,000) and between the ages of 12 and 18 years old

related reasons. First, to emphasize the importance of providing families with quality child and youth services in order to help balance the demands of today's pace of life, and second, because by ensuring our families are provided this top-shelf service, it allows our warfighters to focus on the critical tasks at hand. I want to take this opportunity to recognize the subtle, but remarkable contribution our children make. Growing up in a military family is something not all children can experience. It's tough and demands levels of family responsibility load-sharing that only military families can understand and appreciate. Our children's unsung courage, sacrifice and support, should be considered no less impactful towards serving this nation than that of our uniform members."

Larrie Rodriguez, the CNIC Child and Youth Training and Communications Manager, says, "Being the son or daughter of a service member who is frequently deployed can be very difficult for children. Events that celebrate the Month of the Military Child stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle."

For more information on the Month of the Military Child, please visit their website: www.monthofthemilitarychild.com.

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Blue Angels continued from page 1

aircraft should warm the hearts of some of our veterans.

Commander "Dusty" Rhodes, a former commanding officer for the Blue Angels when they were home-ported here in Corpus Christi (they are now home-ported in Pensacola, FL) in the 1950s is coming to the Air Show to visit and share some of his experiences with our guests.

Since 1946, the Blue Angels have flown eight types of aircraft; the Grumman F6F Hellcat, June-August 1946; Grumman F8F Bearcat, August 1946-1949; Grumman F9F-2 Panther (first jet), 1949-June 1950 and Grumman F9F-5 Panther 1951-Winter 1954/55; (4) Grumman F9F-8 Cougar, Winter 1954-55-mid-season 1957; (5) Grumman F11F-1 Tiger (first supersonic jet), mid-season 1957-1969; (6) McDonnell Douglas F-4J Phantom II, 1969-December 1974; (7) McDonnell Douglas A-4F Skyhawk II, December 1974-November 1986; (8) Boeing F/A-18 Hornet, November 1986-Present.

"We're going to have a great show and I expect to see some really talented pilots thrilling the crowd with performances that will be very memorable," said Coolidge. "And these guys (Blue Angels) never disappoint. I think it'll be the best show of the season, and I'm glad we're able to do this."

"Bring the family, plan on having a great time, and come see what our military has to offer," he continued. For more information about the Air Show, view the website: www.CorpusChristiAirshow.com or please contact the Public Affairs Office at (361) 961-2674.

Fire Training continued from page 1

Services ensure that safety is top priority. The MAFTD is controlled by the Safety Operator, who works closely with the Lead Instructor and group instructors via headphones. The Lead Instructor is also outfitted with a safety pendant that he can release if something goes wrong with the burn and the fire will stop immediately.

At the end of the day, 193 students from HM-15 completed the Shipboard Aircraft Firefighting Training and as they move from station to station, they will be informed and well-prepared for an emergency, should it arise.

Chaplain continued from page 2

mansion's guestroom is available. As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. The next night, the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had, the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest. The next morning, the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field. The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel, "How could you have let this happen? The first man had everything, yet you helped him," she accused. "The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let their cow die." The older angel replied, "When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night as we slept in the farmer bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave her the cow instead."

Ceramic shop offers unique, customizable molds for the arts-and-crafts lover

by Lt. j.g. Caleb Booher, Asst. PAO

You may not know it, but for the last three decades, NAS Corpus Christi has had a Ceramic Hobby Shop on base where folks can purchase, customize or even create artistic ceramic articles for themselves or as gifts. For the past few years, the shop has been located on western end of E Street, next to the Auto Hobby Shop.

Clarice Bookamer, the shop's owner, has been an avid ceramic artist for thirteen years. Her work has won her an astounding number of "Best in Show" awards at national competitions and even two prestigious "Freddy" awards and one "Peggy" (the two highest awards in ceramics competition).

Of her many winning pieces, one is a large platter featuring a hand carved eagle in war paint commemorating the beginning of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. "When something happens in this world," she said sincerely, "this is how I deal with it."

Bookamer is in the midst of planning a summer program to teach kids, eight years old and up, all about artistic ceramics and get their creative energies flowing. According to Bookamer, the program, tentatively planned to start up June 1, is her effort to introduce kids to her passion and hopefully pass on her artistic fervor.

Wayne "Wizard" Hettich, the ceramic shop's former owner, still makes his way by the shop on Tuesdays to do most of the mold pouring. The shop has more than ten thousand molds varying in design from the simplest flower pots and coffee mugs to the more complex dragons and chess pieces and even a bust of the quintessential cowboy, John Wayne.

Aside from the many ceramics classes they offer, Bookamer and Hettich have also created many custom items. They offer an array of "very customizable" military commemorative pieces including steins, statues and military insignia. "I am customizing a detailed stein for a gentleman who is retiring very soon," said Bookamer, proudly showing the piece. She pointed out a spot on the side of the stein where she planned to embed the gentleman's command coin.

According to Bookamer, the shop sees



Clarice Bookamer, the shop owner, stands with the "Crown Prince," her hand-painted creation, which has won numerous awards. (Photo by Lt. j.g. Caleb Booher, Asst. PAO)

about three hundred customers per month. "It picks up around the holiday season," she said, but there are "so many other occasions." For birthdays, retirements and promotions, ceramic art is "always a great, meaningful gift, and a joy to create."

The ceramic shop has become a 30-year staple on NASCC, providing a great facility to practice or learn a new craft. Stop by sometime even if ceramics "aren't your thing." Clarice Bookamer's Freddy-winning "Crown Prince" frog is worth seeing.



Wayne "Wizard" Hettich, who comes in every Tuesday to pour molds, finishes up a two-piece strawberry pot as a customized order for a patron. (Photo by Anne Booher, Editor)

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AROUND THE BASE IN 2007



The HM-15 Officer's Wives Club presented Tambi Parker, Director of the NASCC Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society, with a donation check on April 3. Pictured from left to right are Tara Albarado, Laura Padula, Gina Judernatz, Tambi Parker, Wendy Patterson, Cindra Dowd, Lori Bennett, and Kendi Taylor. (Photo by Lt. j.g. Caleb Booher, Asst. Public Affairs Officer)

CMC continued from page 2

servicemembers and their families directly impacted by combat in our Global War on Terrorism," said Schanche. "The assistance can range from food and lodging expenses for a family member to remain at the bedside of a wounded service member, beyond the seven days provided by the military, to expediting transportation while families wait for invitational travel orders. Furthermore, if a wounded service member has more than three family members who want to be at the bedside, then NMCRS can provide assistance for the additional family members to be with their loved one. NMCRS may also assist servicemember once they return home, such as with modifications for handicap access.

"Bottom line here is we in the armed forces have always taken care of our own; thankfully, we don't have to do it alone."

Force Master Chief's words could not be more truthful. I cannot stress just how important the NMCRS is to our Navy/Marine Corps family! The money donated to the Relief Society doesn't just fall into a black hole somewhere (or into some politician's pockets). This money goes to your Navy/Marine Corps brother or sister serving right next to you.

Take advantage of this extension, folks. Give if you can. Imagine how thankful you may be someday if you ever need the services of the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society.

Starbase Atlantis opens summer registration



The Flour Bluff Intermediate students participating in Eggbert's Crash Lander, in which the students apply their knowledge of Newton's Laws of Motion. (Photo by Crystal Trujillo)

Starbase Atlantis' summer program is open for registration! New students may sign up for the Level 1 class, which offers science, technology, engineering and math focuses. Students will build model rockets, learn computerized design, design a space station, learn how airplanes fly, visit hangars, and fly on-base flight simulators. The goal of Starbase Atlantis Level 1 is to demystify science, learn teamwork skills, and also helping children live a drug-free life.

Students who have completed Level 1 may enroll in Level 2, an advanced academy that will focus strictly on robots. Using the Lego NXT system, which uses Lego parts along with an Ultrasound sensor, touch and light sensor using endofactors, students will program the robot to do certain tasks based on its surroundings. Students will learn the history of robotics, different types of robots, what robots do, and get to build and program their own robots.

The deadline for Level 1 registration is April 25. The deadline for Level 2 registration is May 1. Classes will be from 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for one week. For more information on the programs, or to sign up, call Crystal Trujillo at 961-5318.



During a CCAD Blood Drive, Belinda Fuentes takes blood from donor Santiago Zapata, a CCAD employee.

On April 3, Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) received America's Blood Centers' (ABC) 10th Annual Most Productive Blood Drive Award. This national award is presented to organizations that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to supporting the volunteer blood community and raising awareness of the need for blood donations.

For nearly 20 years, CCAD employees have donated to the Coastal Bend Blood Center on a monthly basis. Their donations serve as a constant support to the area's blood supply throughout the year, including the summer and holiday months. Located on Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, CCAD employs approximately 3,640 employees and draws more than 1,000 units a year.

"CCAD employees are a wonderful group of individuals to work with and we are excited that their commitment to blood donation is being recognized on the national level," said Corey Survant, Vice President of Mobile Operations. "By scheduling blood drives on a monthly basis and producing consistent numbers, they have truly become a staple in our blood supply."

CCAD representatives received their award at the ABC Annual Awards Banquet at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Arlington, VA on March 26. (Photo and caption by CCAD Public Affairs)

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Commodore's List



Ensign Griffin Hetrick and Ensign Kenneth Relethford are the latest Boomers to make the Commodore's List with distinction. This award was presented to Ensign Hetrick and Ensign Relethford for sustained superior performance in ground academics, flight performance above that of their peers, and graduating in the top 5% of all Student Military Aviators. Pictured from left to right are Commodore David M. Maynard, Ensign Griffin Hetrick, Ensign Kenneth Relethford, and VT-27 CO Eric J. Hendrickson. (Photo by Kelly Flynn, VT-27 Public Affairs Officer)

Easter Celebrations



In honor of the Month of the Military Child, as well as the upcoming holiday, children at the Child Development Center run through the playground at the facility to find hidden Easter eggs on April 6. From left to right are Jayden Gonzalez, Ryin Young, Quan Little, Talia Ortiz, Corey Lacy and Ty Ware. The Month of the Military Child was opened officially on April 2 by Capt. Tim Coolidge who read an official proclamation and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held. The Child Care centers on base will hold special events specifically to honor the contributions children make to their parent or parents in the military. (Photo by Lt. Teresa Cassidy)



LN1 Ignacio Tercero, stationed aboard Naval Station Ingleside, drives his 1973 Fiat 500 decked out in its Easter finest. Waving to the camera is his son, Marc Anthony. The annual MWR Hippy Hoppity Egg Hunt was held at Windy Shores, in Aransas Pass, March 31. Mother Nature was not in a good mood, however. April showers came a day early, and rained out most of the day's planned activities, such as face painting, necklace making, bicycle races and egg hunts, which were rescheduled for a later date. The only thing that wasn't rained on was the parade, which started at 10 a.m. and wound its way along one of the main streets of Windy Shores. Prizes were awarded for best decorated ride, silliest costume and most creative costume. (Photo by Mike Antoine, NS Ingleside PAO)