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Wingspan

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • May 24, 2007

Fair winds and following seas to NHCC Capt. Rice

by Bill Love, NHCC Public Affairs

Captain James P. Rice, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy, relinquishes command of Naval Hospital Corpus Christi on May 24 to Captain Robert B. Sorenson, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy, in a mid-morning Change of Command Ceremony at the U.S. Coast Guard Hangar 41.

Rice became the hospital's 32nd Commanding Officer on June 24, 2005 and now will travel to San Diego, Calif. He is the Prospective Commanding Officer, Military Treatment Facility, onboard the Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship *USNS Mercy* (T-AH 19).

During his two-year tenure in South Texas, Rice is credited with achieving Navy Medicine's operational and high quality economic health care "Whole Goals" for Navy Medicine East, at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Naval Air Station Kingsville, Naval Station Ingleside and Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas.

Despite deployment of up to 25 percent of active duty staff for eight major deployments, totaling 983 days, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery recognized Rice's leadership for leading the command to efficiency advantages.

Under Rice's guidance, the command accomplished unprecedented critical war fighter readiness,



Rice

superior beneficiary service and family readiness for 134 Active Duty and Reserve Commands and 18,000 beneficiaries, within the Navy Region Southeast Area of Responsibility.

The command also expanded access to direct patient care, dental services and utilization of DoD pharmaceutical resources, while significantly reducing private sector care expenditures.

Cultivating cooperation and top quality service, Rice's team also focused on employing best

NHCC continued on page 6

VT-28 Rangers CO: "The best job I've ever had"

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

On June 1st, the VT-28 Rangers will say farewell to their skipper, Cmdr. Jim Fisher. Under the high roof of Hangar 58, Fisher will pass the torch to his XO, Cmdr. Michael Leupold.

"Time goes too fast," said Fisher. "It's the best job I've ever had - flying every day, training the future of Navy and Marine Corps Aviation. I went to work every day with a smile on my face; I came home every day with a smile on my face."

Fisher, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1987 and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1989 through HT-18 at Whiting Field, Fla.

"I had never been in Corpus prior to this," he said. "It's a great Navy community down here. Really solid. We're really going to miss that as a military family."

Fisher has garnered many awards and achievements throughout his career, including a CNATRA Instructor of the Year Award in 1994, a Rear Adm. Paulson Award for Inspirational Leadership in 1998 and a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Navy War College in Newport, R.I.

All these, he says, result from his love of



Fisher

the job. "Obviously, I don't want to leave this job. I get to fly almost every day. How many of my colleagues get to do this at this age?"

Fisher and his family are heading to San Diego next. But as excited as they are about Southern California is, they are still going to miss Corpus Christi. "My 8 year old told me the other day, 'Daddy, I'm really going to miss it here.' We've had a great time in South Texas. This is probably the best family time we've ever spent."

VT-28 continued on page 6

Hurricane preparedness: "Have a kit, have a plan, have insurance."

by Anne Booher, Editor

With Hurricane Season officially beginning on June 1, it's best to prepare yourself and your family now for what may lie in the months ahead. Getting a hurricane kit ready now will ensure you and your family are well-prepared for an evacuation. DCC Patrick Buckley suggests the following adage for your hurricane preparedness: "Have a kit" with important personal documents in a waterproof container, a three-day supply of food, water, and clothing, and cash on hand. "Have a plan" for evacuation and know the route you will take to get to your "safe haven," whether it is Lackland Air Force Base's Evacuee Center or elsewhere. And finally, "Have insurance." There is nothing worse than being displaced without the documentation you need to collect on damage to your car, home, or must provide proof of medical insurance. In extreme cases, if your home is in a disaster area, you will have to show proof that you live there (either with a utility bill, copy of paid property taxes, or a copy of your home insurance) to gain access to the area. For information regarding hurricane kits or questions prior to a storm or evacuation, please call Emergency Management at (361) 961-2385 /1743 or contact the Base Hurricane Season Info Line at (877) 989-6743.

YOUR HURRICANE KIT

- In a waterproof container, store documents including: car registration, deeds to your home, marriage and birth certificates, insurance information, passports and any other important documentation.
- Battery-powered flashlights and radios; extra batteries
- First aid kit; non-prescription drugs
- 3-day supply of food (ready-to-eat), water (1 gallon per person per day); can opener; utility knife
- Personal hygiene items, soap, toilet paper
- Change of clothing and sturdy shoes or boots; rain gear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Necessities for babies such as formula, diapers, bottles, medications
- Prescription medicines, insulin, contact lenses, glasses
- Cash, in case ATMs do not work



A satellite image shows Hurricane Katrina moving toward land during August 2005. Taking preventative measures now to inform yourself and your family of evacuation procedures and knowing your responsibilities after you evacuate can make all the difference in keeping everyone safe and accounted for.

(Photo available by public domain)

From The Skipper

During a visit to the hospital, I re-learned humility

by Capt. T.E. Coolidge

As we approach this Memorial Day weekend, I want to share a few thoughts with you. Some of you have heard me talk about a group of us from the base who traveled to the Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio a little while back. Let me tell you, we went there to offer our support and good wishes to service members who have been hurt in Afghanistan, Iraq, aboard ships, and other places where our Nation has ordered them. Well, we got more from them than they got from us.

Here are some folks whose lives have changed forever: some have lost limbs, or sight, or are burned and will forever carry scars on their bodies that we can all see...not to mention the scars they carry inside, in their hearts and psyche. These are the scars we can't see and sometimes bring nightmares.

I was amazed to meet them. They are heroes by every definition of the word. Instead of being despondent, they looked us all straight in the eye. Rather than needing to be cheered up, they were humble and spoke of others in their group whom they admired and respected for their strength and courage. They were positive, upbeat and supportive of each other. They talked to us, whose courage was untested, as if we were equals. When we walked away, we stood a little taller, and walked with more determination and humility. Our work days seemed less stressful and the

pride of service to our nation was overflowing. You don't meet people like this and not walk away changed for the better!

I learned a little more about leadership and courage; and this, from servicemembers whose lives are changed forever. It was the way they treated each other, the way they spoke about their injuries, the way they lived and looked forward to the future. These folks are clear examples of our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

The visit taught me that we all have so much to be grateful for...far too many blessings to list in this column. A healthy family, my own good health (although with my recent birthday, the doctors have taken pleasure in poking and prodding in ways I hadn't

Captain continued on page 10

Chaplain's Column

A Great Strength

by Chaplain Tim Gault

We just recently concluded the Navy's Spring 2007 Physical Readiness Test. How did you do? I hope you accomplished all your goals. Some may already be looking forward to the next one with anticipation, as I am. The Chaplain Department created a departmental award for our member with the highest PRT average. That person's name appears on a "Mighty Mouse" plaque in our hallway and will stay there until the next round of PRTs. Come by to take a look. It is a small matter, but a bit of fun and competition for us in the department. Next time, I want to have greater strength for the run portion. Here's a "newsflash:" I will not get any faster unless I build my leg muscles. And, I will not build my leg muscles if I do not use them. In other words, if I want to do better at running, I have to do more running. I know, call me a "genius."

as the "weeping prophet." His name is Jeremiah. One day he questioned God because of the trouble he faced. God's response was to ask him how he ever expected to face big challenges if the little ones wore him out. "If racing against mere men makes you tired, how will you race against horses?" (Jeremiah 12:5). Now, resist the temptation to get lost in the image of a man racing a horse. The big idea here is that the little challenges prepare us for the greater ones. You may be facing challenges that are tough for you right now. Know this: There is a loving God who may be using those things to prepare you for something greater. The "smaller" challenges are necessary to work out your abilities and to give you wisdom for future opportunities.

I met a Navy Captain in Bahrain who is well-known for developing a tap code that POWs used to maintain communication. He

was in Bahrain as a special liaison to the leaders of multiple foreign militaries. This man had once been kept as a prisoner in Vietnam and tortured for his countrymen. He taught at the Naval War College and has held numerous highly-esteemed positions in Navy leadership. One night, he told me that he felt the culmination of all his life experience coming to bear in the job he was holding. He was fully aware that he needed all those experiences to face the critical responsibilities he held. He had a deep sense of God's purpose in his life. I hope you, too, know a sense of purpose and meaning in your life.

Legal Corner

Texas Landlord-Tenant law and the servicemember: Early termination of a lease

by Lt. j.g. Candice Albright, JAGC

One of the most frequent problems the legal assistance office sees from sailors and marines concerns landlord-tenant law; specifically, the early termination of residential leases. As we all know, military members PCS frequently and receive last-minute deployment orders. It is for these reasons that specific laws have been passed in Texas and by the federal government in order to protect military members from fees, penalties, and bad credit as a result of early termination of a residential lease. However, these laws offer only narrow protection for two specific situations: PCS moves and deployment for 90 days or more. There are many situations that servicemembers face due to their military obligations which, if not contained in the lease agreement at the time it is signed,

are not protected against the consequences of early termination.

Under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and Texas Landlord-Tenant Law, a servicemember may terminate early the lease of a home, apartment or other property in which she or he lives if she or he receives PCS orders or orders to deploy for 90 days or more. In order to utilize these protective laws, a servicemember must: (1) Provide the landlord or the manager of the rental property with a written notice of termination at least 30 days prior to the requested termination date of the lease; and (2) a copy of his or her military orders. If you pay rent on a monthly basis, as most of us do, then you must provide notice at least 30 days from the date the next payment is due after receipt of your orders. So, if you receive orders of the 15th of May, and your rent is due on the 1st of June, then your obligation on the lease does not end until the end of June.

A landlord is under no obligation to let a member out of the lease early for such things as active duty retirement, moving to govern-

ment quarters within the same duty area, entering into a new lease agreement with a different landlord, deployment for less than 90 days or any other "military related" move which is not included in the lease at the time it is signed. However, you can be proactive and protect yourself should any of these foreseeable events occur by including early termination protection for these events as a term in your lease. In order for this to work, however, you must do this before signing the lease. The reason is because a residential lease is a contract - plain and simple.

Basic contract law allows for two or more parties to come together and agree to almost anything they want. Once both parties sign a contract, it becomes a legal and enforceable agreement. Thus, if you do not like the lease the landlord offers, you can ask to include early termination protection for any of the above-listed, legitimate "military related" moves before the final lease is signed by both you and the landlord. Approach the landlord

Legal continued on page 4

Wingspan

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Commanding Officer
Capt. T.E. Coolidge

Public Affairs Officer
Robert D. Torres

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

Editor
Anne Booher

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Traveling to Mexico this summer? Know the risks and be prepared

Courtesy of the U.S. Department of State with contributions from NASCC Security Officer Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Shields

U.S. citizens residing and traveling in Mexico should exercise caution when in unfamiliar areas and be aware of their surroundings at all times. Violence by criminal elements affects many parts of the country, urban and rural, including border areas. In recent months, there have been execution-style murders of Mexican officials in Tamaulipas (particularly Nuevo Laredo), Michoacan, Baja California, Guerrero (particularly Acapulco), Nuevo Leon (especially in and around Monterrey) and other states. Though there is no evidence that U.S. citizens are specifically targeted, Mexican and foreign bystanders have been injured or killed in some violent attacks demonstrating the heightened risk in public places.

In its effort to combat violence, the Government of Mexico has deployed military troops in various parts of the country. U.S. citizens are advised to cooperate with official checkpoints when traveling on Mexican highways.

In recent years, dozens of U.S. citizens have been kidnapped in Nuevo Laredo with more than two dozen cases still unresolved and new cases of kidnap for ransom continue to be reported. No one can be considered immune from kidnapping on the basis of occupation, nationality, or other factors. Drug cartel members have been known to follow and harass U.S. citizens traveling in their vehicles, particularly in border areas including Nuevo Laredo and Matamoros. U.S. citizens who believe they are being followed should notify officials as soon as possible. U.S. citizens should make every attempt to travel on main roads during daylight hours, particularly the toll roads, which are generally more secure. It is preferable for U.S. citizens to stay in well-known tourist destinations and tourist areas of the cities with more adequate security.

U.S. citizens should refrain from displaying expensive-looking jewelry, large amounts of money, or other valuable items.

U.S. citizens traveling to Oaxaca City should be aware that from May to November 2006, protests in the city became increasingly violent, resulting in at least nine deaths. On October 27, 2006, a U.S. citizen was shot and killed in Oaxaca City as a result of the violence and disorder caused by ongoing civil unrest in the city. Many of the issues that were the basis for the protests remain unresolved. U.S. citizens planning to travel to Oaxaca City should check on current conditions before beginning their travel.

Demonstrations occur frequently throughout Mexico and are usually peaceful. However, even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence unexpectedly. During violent demonstrations or law enforcement operations, U.S. citizens are reminded to remain in their homes or hotels, avoid large crowds, and avoid the downtown and surrounding areas. Since the timing and routes of scheduled marches and demonstrations are always subject to change, U.S. citizens should monitor local media sources for new developments and exercise extreme caution while within the vicinity of any protests.

The State Department reminds U.S. citizens to avoid participating in demonstrations and other activities that might be deemed po-

litical by Mexican authorities. The Mexican Constitution prohibits political activities by foreigners, and such actions may result in detention and/or deportation.

If you are planning a trip to Mexico, NASCC Security Officer Jeff Shields sug-

gests, "Always research the area you are about to visit. Find out areas that should be avoided and stay away from them. It also helps to learn a little something about the customs and traditions of the host country,

Mexico continued on page 10



In recent months, many security concerns have risen for U.S. citizens travelling in Mexico, including kidnapping, burglary and murder. The best way for you to stay safe during your visit is to educate yourself and those traveling with you.

Children's Clinic

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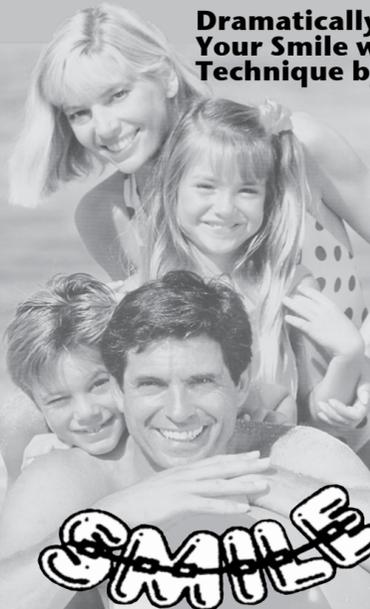
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CCAD/Boeing partnership yields benefits for both

by Michael Shepperd, Process Support Engineering Manager for The Boeing Company

In July 2004, the Department of the Army and The Boeing Company entered into a partnership to support Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD). This partnership brings technical, engineering and logistical services and supplies to enhance CCAD operations as well as Research, Development, and Engineering Command (RDECOM). The partnership allows for collaboration regarding the overhaul, repair and recapitalization of the Apache and Chinook weapons systems. The Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) and CCAD plan to reduce repair turnaround time (RTAT) while increasing reliability and quality of overhauled and repaired weapons systems and components.

The Boeing team brings expertise in Lean Manufacturing, systems design, manufacturing engineering, materials and process engineering, and logistics operations. In the 1980s, Boeing executives gained knowledge of Lean Six Sigma by traveling to Japan and studying Toyota and other companies that had implemented Lean principles and concepts. Brian Minter, Boeing Manufacturing Operations Analyst, says, "[Boeing] continues today to train in the principles and concepts of Lean Manufacturing. We view Lean as a journey and not a destination. It is a core business strategy throughout the company."

Using its successful implementation of Lean, Boeing worked with CCAD to develop projected goals for the first five years of the partnership. These goals included reducing RTAT on Boeing-contracted components, establishing a distribution center for Boeing-supplied hardware, providing leadership in the implementation of Lean Manufacturing strategies, industry-best practices, and increasing the technical level of responsiveness for overhaul/repair issues.

Two and a half years into the partner-

ship, Boeing and CCAD have reduced RTAT as projected; the distribution center supplies hardware 12 hours a day, five days a week; and Boeing Lean integrators teamed with CCAD Lean and continue to provide training and support to CCAD Leadership as they move into a Lean Six Sigma operation. Another significant achievement is CCAD's Apache production line changing from a "dock and stage" line to a "pulse line."

A "dock and stage" line means the aircraft remains at one workstation until all the work is done, which can create bottlenecks and congested areas. The move towards a "pulse line" means the work is based upon customer demand and the movement of the aircraft is similar to an assembly line, where the product moves and the workers stay in place.

Engineering is co-located in the factory and with RDECOM, providing a direct link to the Original Equipment Manager (OEM) and thus, shortening the response time for technical issues. OEMs can contribute insight into how a part is assembled, disassembled, or repaired and they also have access to specialized drawings and technical manuals.

While the contract between Boeing and CCAD is slated through 2009, it is expected that the success of the partnership will allow it to extend well past that date. The next two and a half years hold great promise as the partnership continues to mature. Boeing is focusing on helping CCAD further reduce costs and improve scheduled output through integration of the latest industry-best practices, working to lean out processes that may be redundant and providing OEM expertise. This partnership has and will continue to provide outstanding support to CCAD, AMCOM, RDECOM and ultimately, the war fighter.



(L to R) Arturo Garcia, CCAD Pattern Maker, Narsiso Martinez, CCAD Work Leader for Jigs and Fixtures, Mike Rameriz, Boeing Liason, and Dan Grzelecki, Maintenance Engineer with RDECOM work together in the Foundry to repair an escape panel for a Chinook cabin door. The partnership allows CCAD and Boeing to share knowledge and experience with one another and thus, provide a better product to warriors in the field.

Legal continued from page 2

with your own version of the "Military Clause" and see if she or he accepts or rejects it. And if the landlord does reject it, then you can always rent somewhere else.

In the end, it's all about knowing what you can and cannot do according to the law. The SCRA and Texas Landlord-Tenant law are not "end-all" protections for military members. Often, by the time you come to the legal

office, we are unable to do anything because basic contract law, meaning "you signed it, you agreed to it," unfortunately applies. Be proactive and help us help you! Call the NLSO at 961-3765 for more information on Landlord-Tenant law. Appointments can be scheduled at the NLSO to address specific landlord-tenant issues from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Memorial Day • May 28

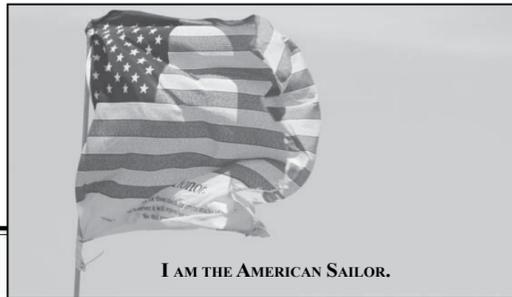


Photo by Anne Boehler, Editor

I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR.

HEAR MY VOICE, AMERICA! THOUGH I SPEAK THROUGH THE MIST OF YEARS, MY SHOUT FOR FREEDOM WILL ECHO THROUGH LIBERTY'S HALLS FOR MANY CENTURIES TO COME. HEAR ME SPEAK, FOR MY WORDS ARE OF TRUTHS AND JUSTICE, AND THE RIGHTS OF MAN. FOR THOSE IDEALS, I HAVE SPILLED MY BLOOD UPON THE WORLD'S TROUBLED WATERS. LISTEN WELL, FOR MY TIME IS ETERNAL - YOURS IS BUT A MOMENT. I AM THE SPIRIT OF HEROES PAST AND FUTURE.

I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR.

I WAS BORN UPON THE ICY SHORES AT PLYMOUTH, ROCKED UPON THE WAVES OF THE ATLANTIC, AND NURSED IN THE WILDERNESS OF VIRGINIA. I CUT MY TEETH ON NEW ENGLAND CODFISH, AND I WAS CLOTHED IN SOUTHERN COTTON. I BUILT MUSCLE AT THE HALYARDS OF NEW BEDFORD WHALERS, AND I GAINED MY SEA LEGS HIGH ATOP THE MIZZEN OF YANKEE CLIPPER SHIPS.

YES, I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR, ONE OF THE GREATEST SEAMEN THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN. THE SEA IS MY HOME AND MY WORDS ARE TEMPERED BY THE SOUND OF PADDLE WHEELS ON THE MISSISSIPPI AND THE SONG OF WHALES OFF GREENLAND'S BARREN SHORE. MY EYES HAVE GROWN DIM FROM THE GLARE OF SUNSHINE ON BLUE WATER, AND MY HEART IS FULL OF STAR-STREWN NIGHTS UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS. MY HANDS ARE RAW FROM WINTER STORMS WHILE SAILING DOWN ROUND THE HORN, AND THEY ARE BLISTERED FROM THE HEAT OF CANNON BROADSIDE WHILE DEFENDING OUR NATION.

I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR AND I HAVE SEEN THE SUNSET OF A THOUSAND DISTANT LONELY LANDS. I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR.

IT WAS I WHO STOOD TALL BESIDE JOHN PAUL JONES WHEN HE SAID "GIVE ME A FAST SHIP, FOR I INTEND TO GO IN HARM'S WAY." I FOUGHT UPON THE LAKE ERIE WITH PERRY, AND I RODE WITH STEPHEN DECATUR INTO TRIPOLI HARBOR TO BURN THE NEST OF THE BARBARY PIRATES. I MET GUERRIERE ABOARD CONSTITUTION AND I WAS LASHED TO THE MAST WITH ADMIRAL FARRAGUT AT MOBILE BAY. I HAVE HEARD THE CLANG OF CONFEDERATE SHOT AGAINST THE SIDES OF MONITOR. I HAVE SUFFERED THE COLD WITH PEARY AT THE NORTH POLE AND I RESPONDED WHEN DEWY SAID, "YOU MAY FIRE WHEN READY, GRIDLEY," AT MOBILE BAY.

IT WAS I WHO TRANSPORTED SUPPLIES THROUGH SUBMARINE INFESTED WATERS WHEN OUR SOLDIER'S WERE CALLED "OVER THERE." I WAS THERE AS ADMIRAL BYRD CROSSED THE SOUTH POLE. IT WAS I WHO WENT DOWN WITH THE ARIZONA AT PEARL HARBOR, WHO SUPPORTED OUR TROOPS IN INCHON, AND PATROLLED DARK DEADLY WATERS AT THE MEKONG DELTA.

I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR AND I WEAR MANY FACES. I AM A PILOT SOARING ACROSS GOD'S BLUE CANOPY AND I AM A SEABEE ATOP A DUSTY BULLDOZER IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. I AM A CORPSMAN RISKING HIS LIFE TO SAVE WOUNDED MARINES IN AN ENEMY INFESTED JUNGLE, AND I AM A TORPEDOMAN IN THE NAUTILUS DEEP BENEATH THE NORTH POLE. I AM THE HELMSMAN, GUIDING MY SHIP THROUGH A FIERCE NORTH ATLANTIC GALE. I AM THE GUNNER WHO STANDS READY TO SACRIFICE ALL FOR MY SHIPMATES. I AM HARD AND I AM STRONG. BUT IT WAS MY EYES THAT FILLED WITH TEARS WHEN MY BROTHERS WENT DOWN WITH THE THRESHER AND SCORPION. IT WAS MY HEART THAT REJOICED WHEN COMMANDER SHEPHERD ROCKETED INTO SPACE. IT WAS I WHO LANGUISHED IN A VIET CONG PRISON CAMP, AND IT WAS I WHO WAS THE FIRST TO WALK UPON THE MOON WITH CAPTAIN NEIL ARMSTRONG. WHEN CALLED AGAIN, I WAS THERE, ON THE TIP OF THE SPEAR FOR OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM. IT WAS I WHO SAVED THE STARK AND THE SAMUEL B. ROBERTS IN THE MINE INFESTED WATERS OF THE PERSIAN GULF. IT WAS I WHO FIRED THE FIRST SHOT TO LIBERATE THE OPPRESSED OF KUWAIT. IT WAS I WHO PULLED MY BROTHERS FROM THE SMOKE FILLED COMPARTMENTS FROM THE BONEFISH AND WEPT WHEN MY SHIPMATES DIED ON THE LIBERTY, FORRESTAL, IOWA AND WHITE PLAINS.

I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR. MY STANDARD IS THE OUTSTRETCHED HAND OF FREEDOM AND A MIGHTY, UNDEFEATABLE SWORD RAISED AGAINST THE DARKNESS OF OPPRESSION. TODAY, I SERVE AROUND THE WORLD, ON LAND, IN AIR, ON AND UNDER THE SEA.

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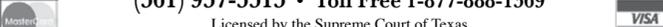
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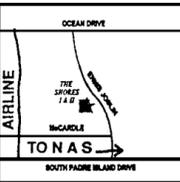
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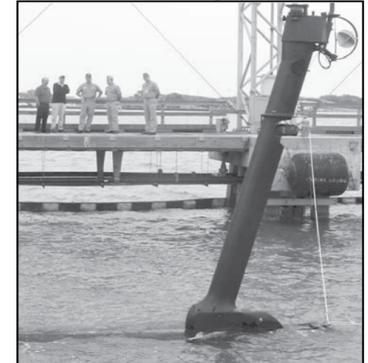
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New mine warfare technology tested at NS Ingleside

by Fifi Kieschnick, NS Ingleside PAO



Bystanders, including Rear Adm. John Christenson (center), watch from the Electro Magnetic Roll Facility as the RMV is secured in position for magneite signature measurement and calibration.

The Navy's first Remote Minehunting System (RMS) is undergoing calibration and testing aboard Naval Station Ingleside at the Electromagnetic Roll Facility (EMR). After the RMS was delivered to the Navy, representatives from Naval Sea Systems Command and Lockheed-Martin were in South Texas, making preparations for the system to be integrated into fleet assets.

"This system is impressive. I'm looking forward to seeing it operate at sea," said Rear Adm. John Christenson, Vice Commander, NMAWC Corpus Christi. The AN/WLD-1 Remote Minehunting System (RMS) uses a semi-submersible, 23-ft. long unmanned vehicle and weighs approximately 14,000 pounds. It tows a variable depth sensor (AQS-20A) to detect, localize, and classify bottom, close-tethered, and volume mines, and also to identify bottom mines. The vehicle provides Sailors with real-time sensing and stores data for later analysis. The ability to see mines night or day allows a Navy ship to choose a different course to avoid the mines or send out an organic capability to neutralize them.

"RMS allows the Navy to keep the man out of the minefield and send a remotely operated vehicle into the danger zone instead," stated Gary Humes, Program Manager for the Mine Warfare Program Office in Program Executive Office Littoral and Mine Warfare (PEOLMW).

Fueled for long endurance, the remote minehunting vehicle (RMV) is equipped with a 370hp Cummins diesel marine engine and a high-efficiency propulsor. A streamlined snorkel and mast (the vehicle's only visible feature above the waterline) draws air into the engine and provides a platform for RF antennas and an obstacle avoidance video camera.

"[Naval Station Ingleside's] EMR is used to calibrate degaussing equipment on board the mine warfare ships homeported here," said Dave Skurow, EMR manager. Degaussing is the process of reducing a ship's magnetic signature; critical for mine warfare because some mines seek and destroy distortions in the earth's magnetic field, which are caused by ships.

"With our capabilities, we are able to check and calibrate the degaussing of the RMS," Skurow added.

Richard Mack, Electrical Engineer with NAVSEA in Carderock, Md. said, "When we've completed this testing, the AN/WLD-1(v)1, will be delivered to USS Bainbridge (DDG 96)."



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NHCC continued from page 1

business practices and surpassing established goals for all preventive and wellness programs, resulting in the 2005 and 2006 Gold Award for Excellence in Health Promotion by the Navy Environmental Health Center.

Rice was the guiding force in establishing the Fleet Liaison Office at Brooke Army Medical Center, which significantly contributed to resolution of major U. S. Marine Corps care integration issues and was lauded by Headquarters Marine Corps.

A native of Mercer Island, Wash., Rice is a Diplomat of the American Board of Surgery and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He holds designations as a Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer and Commander Amphibious Task Force Surgeon. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (4), Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2) and the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal, as well as various unit and campaign awards.

CAPTAIN ROBERT B. SORENSON

Sorenson hails from Sidney, Montana and comes to Corpus Christi from Naval Hospital Beaufort, S.C., where he served as the Executive Officer.

He began his naval career in 1972 and served as a Hospital Corpsman at Naval Hospital Bremerton, an Infantry Battalion Hospital Corpsman at III and I Fleet Marine Forces, completing his Active Duty service in May 1976 at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton.

While in the U.S. Naval Reserve, Sorenson completed his undergraduate studies at the University of North Dakota, attended medical school at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, earned a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1985, and received a commission.

Sorenson completed Family Medicine Internship at Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla., served aboard the *USS Saratoga* (CV 60), and completed Family Medicine Residency in 1989. Other duty stations include Atsugi, Japan, Keflavik, Iceland,



Sorenson

and subsequent assignments in Jacksonville.

He was awarded a Faculty Development Fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1994 and expanded his scope of clinical maternity care skills with a fellowship in Operative Obstetrics in 1998.

Sorenson became the Officer in Charge, Medical Augmentation Program and completed a deployment with Bravo Surgical Company, 1st Force Service Support Group in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom" in 2003, and with Alpha Surgical Company, 2nd FSSG, in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom II" as chief professional services at Central Command in 2004.

Sorenson's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (2), the Navy Commendation Medal (3), and various unit and service awards.

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When asked about the shape of the squadron he is leaving behind, Fisher showed a bright confidence. "I feel good about it," he said. "When you take a job, you need to do the best you can and leave it a little better for the people behind you. I think I've done that."

Fisher is also extremely confident in his replacement. "[Cmdr. Leupold] is a great guy. He's got a lot of energy and I'm sure he's going to bring that energy into this office and make the squadron do many great things over the next year. I'll be watching from afar... but I'm sure the squadron will do many great things.

"My advice to [Cmdr. Leupold] is just enjoy it. It may be the best job you ever have. When you come in here, don't worry about the little things. It's the bigger picture issues. And he does already. That's why I'm sure he's going to do great."

Not surprisingly, Cmdr. Michael Leupold holds the same admiration for Fisher. "When you... screen for command, you know you'll be XO and fleet up to CO. You wonder what your CO's like. But I came here in the summer of '05 on house hunting leave and met Cmdr. Fisher... We clicked instantly. Sometimes you see COs and XOs who are opposites. But it scares us sometimes how alike we are."

As he prepares to take command of the Rangers, Leupold exudes a genuine reverence for the office of CO. "I sit here in awe," he said. "Always as a Junior Officer... you think it would be so awesome to be a CO, but I'm extremely humbled that I was picked and honored that in three weeks, I get to do this.

"The best CO I have had said, 'People don't work for you. You, as a CO, work for them.'



Leupold

I truly believe that. I am here for them. If I forget that, I'm probably not doing a very good job. I still pinch myself every day realizing how wonderful this job is."

As Fisher moves to San Diego to assume the duties of Air Boss on the *USS Bonhomme Richard*, one major chapter closes for him: His son asked him sincerely, "Daddy you're really going to miss flying, aren't you?" "Yes," he responded. "I really am."

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Captain continued from page 2

experienced before), a base filled with self-starters, and the beautiful days in South Texas, are a few that come to mind.

For more than 200 years, Americans such as you and me and our heroes at BAMC have risen to defend the ideals and concepts that have formed this Nation that we proudly serve. I'll tell you that there are grateful patriots out there that acknowledge and support what we, who are in uniform, do in defense of our Nation. It's during holidays like Memorial Day that we take time to honor those who came before us - those to whom we owe our freedom. They are our heroes, the legends from every branch of service that touched us and made us want to do what they did. They are our example.

As we go into this Memorial Day weekend, please be safe and take a moment to think of those who have worn the uniform and who went before us. Happy Memorial Day.

Mexico continued from page 3

but always keep a low profile and don't draw attention to yourself. Provide a friend or family member with your itinerary, letting them know where you plan to stay overnight and especially when you plan to return. And most importantly, be polite. A smile is the same in any language."

For more detailed information on staying safe in Mexico, please see the Mexico Consular Information Sheet at: travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html. For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at travel.state.gov where the current Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, Travel Warnings and Public Announcements can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling toll free (888) 407-4747 in the United States, or, for callers from Mexico, a regular toll line at 01-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). American citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the State Department's travel registration website at travelregistration.state.gov. For any emergencies involving U.S. citizens in Mexico, please contact the closest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. The U.S. Embassy is located in Mexico City at Paseo de la Reforma 305, Colonia Cuauhtemoc. Their website is www.usembassy-mexico.gov. Telephone from the United States: 011-52-55-5080-2000; telephone within Mexico City: 5080-2000; telephone long distance within Mexico 01-55-5080-2000. You may also contact the Embassy by e-mail at: ccs@usembassy.net.

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HM-15 sailors transfer from training status to ready-to-deploy with GOMEX

Photo and story by Ed Mickley, NMAWC Public Affairs



Pusher Boat 2 from Port Operations follows the Canadian ship *HMCS Goose Bay* as she leaves the pier at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City, Fla. and heads out to participate in Gulf of Mexico (GOMEX) exercise to hone the crew's skill on side scan sonar systems and route surveys.

More than 300 Sailors tested their mine warfare proficiency during Gulf of Mexico Exercise (GOMEX) on May 16. GOMEX marks the transition of a mine warfare crew from training to ready-to-deploy status and includes integrated surface, air and undersea mine countermeasures (MCM) operations.

It also served as a certification exercise for Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three, the Mine Countermeasures Commander. The exercise was conducted in the Gulf of Mexico, near Panama City operating areas. Two Canadian Ships, the *HMCS Goose Bay* and *HMCS Kingston*, participated, as well, to hone their skills by utilizing mine countermeasure techniques for their route survey ships. These Canadian forces worked on sharpening their side scan sonar proficiency as well as their Remote Operating Vehicle (ROV) identification system tactics.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Alan Offer, CO of the *Kingston*, the Canadians work with the U.S. Mine Countermeasures Ships to train and evaluate the crews' technique providing opportunities they normally don't see. "It is a chance to prove our equipment and methods," Offer added.

MCM forces that participated in GOMEX were under the tactical command of Capt. Kevin Tokarick, Commodore of Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three, based in Ingleside, Texas. The exercise included integrated mine countermeasures operations using surface ships, helicopters and explosive ordnance disposal detachments.

Ships from MCM CLASSRON include the *USS Blackhawk*, *USS Devestator*, and the *USS Shrike*. Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14 based in Norfolk, Va., sent three MH 53E Sea Dragon Helicopters to participate and EOD's Mobile Unit Eleven, Detachment Seven provided diver support.

This exercise was the first in which the Navy Mission Essential Task List was used as a fleet-wide standardized assessment procedure to evaluate mine countermeasure operations.

Subject matter experts from Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command who assess the Navy's integrated MCM capabilities performed this assessment as well as provided the MCMRON an opportunity to attain their certification.

NOTICE

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AROUND THE BASE IN 2007



Photo by Anne Booher, Editor

(left) On May 3, the A.R.C. Gloria docked at the Port of Corpus Christi and welcomed the public aboard for tours. The cadets of the Gloria take an annual summer cruise as a training opportunity and learn how to maneuver the ship. At the same time, they develop camaraderie with their fellow sailors and ambassadorship in visiting, what are to them, foreign ports. To the sound of the Columbian national anthem, among other patriotic songs, they were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd and invited to visit our Naval Air Station. During their time aboard NASCC, they were taken to the flightline, where our pilots guided them through the cockpit of a T-34 and cadets also experienced the training simulators of Training Wing 4.



Photo by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

On April 15, a sortie consisting of a T-28 Trainer, a T-45 Goshawk, and a B-25 Mitchell Bomber performed a fly-over at the USS Lexington during the 2007 South Texas Shoot-Out.



Photo by Lt. J. G. Calich Booher, Asst. Public Affairs Officer

(left) As part of Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Division's (AIMD) post-PRT cook-out, the Blue Shirts and Khakis went head-to-head in an afternoon softball game. AM1 Shaun Hura (pictured left) scored a home run for the Blue Shirts as they made a comeback to win the game in the bottom of the 6th inning, 9-8.



Photo by NASCC Public Affairs Office

(above) Chaplain Chin Van Dang cooks spaghetti for the monthly "Welcome Aboard Luncheon." A creation of Chaplain Dang's, the free luncheon welcomes all new servicemembers and their families (as well as everyone else) to enjoy fellowship and good food. The luncheon is held on the first Tuesday of each month in St. Joseph's Hall (Bldg 333) at 12:30 p.m.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

SECURITY AWARDS • MAY 15



Photo by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

On May 4, Captain Timothy Coolidge, NASCC Base CO, presented RP2 Paul Drachenberg with the Navy Achievement Medal for being selected as the Religious Program Specialist of the Year. "RP2 Drachenberg is one of the finest examples of what a USN Sailor ought to be," says Chaplain Tim Gault. "He is a dedicated, decent human being and is rightly awarded this recognition."



Photo by Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer

Awards were presented to Security personnel in recognition of their achievements in community service. Depending on their service, sailors received awards in Environmental Stewardship Flagship for Ocean Drive Clean-Up, Personal Excellence Partnership for helping paint the Child Development Center, as well as assisting in the HM-15/JROTC Drill Competition. From L to R: MA1 Rafael Navarro, MA2 Jason Williams, Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Shields, Security Officer, AO2 Victoria Brown, MASN Rebekah English, MASN Tyler Kalo, MA1 Charles Kittle, MASN Kevin Egan, MA2 Roderick Hopes, MA2 Leith Weeden, MA3 Christopher Barnett, ABE2 James Colley, MA2 Daniel Reynolds, MA3 Bobby Toal, MA2 Brian Gutierrez, Command Master Chief Mike Cisneros.

Naval Station Ingleside's Command Master Chief retires after 30 years of dedicated service

by Fifi Kieschnick, NS Ingleside Public Affairs Officer

Command Master Chief Delmar Gober retired from the U.S. Navy on April 27 aboard Naval Station Ingleside where he has been stationed since December 2001. Gober served first as the Command Master Chief (CMC) of the base and then as the CMC for Mine Countermeasures Squadron One (MCMRON One) beginning in March 2004.

Gober was born in San Diego, Calif. and raised in Austin, Texas. He enlisted under the Delayed Entry Program in November 1976, completed basic training in October 1977 and went on to attend Radioman "A" school. In 1984, Gober completed Instructor Training in San Diego, Calif. He graduated with academic honors from the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, R.I. in 1993 and also holds an Associate's degree from Hawaii Pacific University.

Gober served aboard USS Tarawa, USS Cayuga, USS Guam, USS Nimitz, and USS Austin, serving in various positions of leadership from work center supervisor to command master chief. During his career, Gober completed seven deployments to the Arabian

Gulf, Western Pacific, North Atlantic, and Mediterranean, and one "world cruise" deployment onboard USS Nimitz. Gober served as a Communications Procedures Instructor for LHA Class ships at the Fleet Combat Training Center, San Diego, where he earned his designation as a Master Training Specialist. He later served as a Fleet Training Group/Afloat Training Group underway trainer and classroom instructor for various communications courses located on Ford Island, Oahu, Hawaii. He also served as the Leading Chief Petty Officer in the Operations Department at the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station (NCTAMS) Norfolk, Va., and later as the Command Master Chief.

Gober's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, three Navy Commendation Medals, four Navy Achievement Medals, and various service and campaign awards.

Gober and his wife, Martha, plan to retire to Pleasanton, Texas. They have three children.



Photo by Naval Station Ingleside Public Affairs Office