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Vol. 13, No. 19

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • September 13, 2007



## Paradise Cove Marina reopens North and South fishing piers

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

The Paradise Cove Marina on NAS Corpus Christi just reopened the newly refurbished South Pier. Recently, the sand trout were nibbling and the porpoises were playing. I gazed over an arching fishing rod, across the choppy water of the cove at a stunning sunrise peeking through a distant grove of clouds. It was so stunning, in fact, that I missed a good bite and unwillingly donated a nice shrimp to a fish I will never lay eyes on.

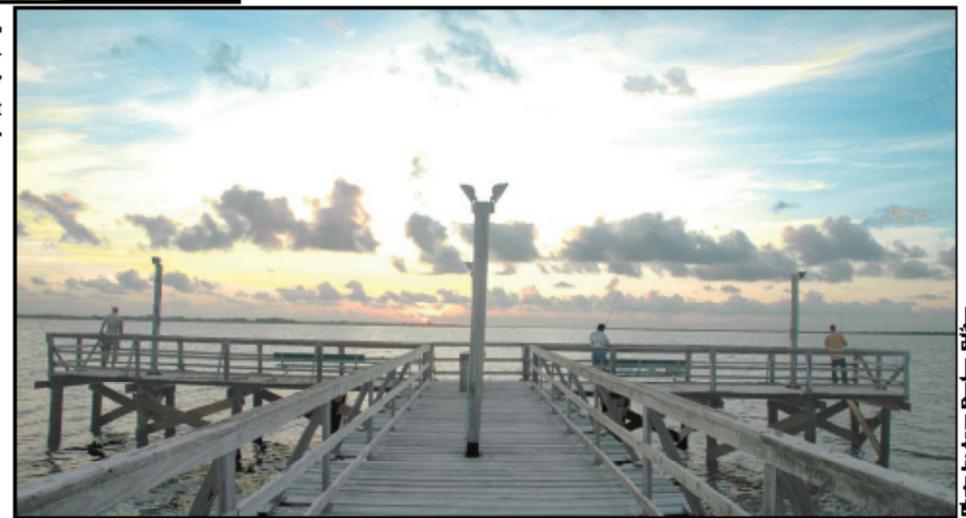
Even so, it's worth losing a bite over a sunrise like that and it was the perfect start to a Thursday morning before work.

The opening of the South Pier is one of a few projects the Marina has been working on lately. The North Pier, parts of which have been closed for some time, has also been refurbished and reopened. It, too, is an excellent fishing venue and fine place to

*Marina continued on page 8*

(above) With the sun peeking over the horizon, Lt. j.g. Caleb Booker fishes off of South Pier. Well-lit and open 24 hours, the pier is in close proximity to Fishtails Bait Shop, open depending on bait availability. Everything you need for a full day or just a few hours of fishing is right there.

(right) Facing due east, the newly refurbished South Pier, across from the Marina, draws in a few early-morning fishermen before the workday begins. The pier is one of many projects that Paradise Cove Marina is undertaking. More recently, the North Pier, by the RV Park finished its makeover and the entire length of the pier is open for fishing, crabbing, or just relaxing.



## Solid Curtain 2007 may cause delays to base access; plan accordingly



NAS Corpus Christi will be participating in Exercise Solid Curtain from Sept. 14-21. Naval security personnel annually conduct Solid Curtain to enhance their readiness and ability to prepare for and defend against threats. The exercise may cause backlogs and delays at the installation gates.

Solid Curtain is a routine exercise and is not in response to any specific threat. It is important to maintain a high level of security for our forces, an objective which is accomplished by this annual training. As a direct result of Solid Curtain training, security forces will be better prepared to address threats to installations and units. The Navy remains fully capable of responding to real-world threats throughout the duration of the exercise.

The base will restrict access and implement increased levels of security on September 20, for approximately 12 hours. NASCC will do everything possible to minimize the impact on traffic and access. However, anyone seeking to access the base on Sept. 20 is advised to plan for a potential delay.

Disruptions to normal operations will be limited. Personnel and other area residents may observe increased traffic or delays in base access, increased activity at gates (security forces, etc.), and increased patrols on and around base.

For more information regarding Solid Curtain 2007, please contact Bob Torres, Public Affairs Officer at 961-2674 or robert.torres1@navy.mil.

A screenshot from Solid Curtain '06 shows the increased security monitoring that will be going on across the base from Sept. 14-21. Increased traffic and delays may occur during this time.

Photo by NASCC Public Affairs

Photo by Anne Booker, Editor

# From The Skipper

It's that time of year!

by Capt. T.E. Coolidge  
We've had an interesting couple of weeks. There was a tropical storm and two hurricanes we watched very carefully. We've had our share of rain—certainly unusual for this time of year.



Coolidge

The kids all went back to school—Muthers everywhere still smiling! The thing that has me smiling is the beginning of my favorite season—football!

Coming up in the near future are a number of military celebrations. Our Chief Selects are deeply engaged in their transition season.

They'll have a grand time at the Khaki Ball (Sept. 29). Close behind are the Navy Birthday Ball (Oct. 19) and the Marine Corps Birthday Ball (Nov. 10). Please keep these celebrations in mind!

and get your tickets early. I'll make a quick plug for the Navy Ball. Last year NASCC hosted the Navy Ball and we made the decision to decrease the size of the event from 800 seats in 2005 to 650 seats in 2006 (there was too much last minute stress to fill open seats in 2005). Even though the crowd was smaller, the event was a hit! The program was on target, the food was outstanding and the music stirred your soul! It was, without a doubt, the best Navy Ball I've ever attended (which includes celebrations in San Diego and Washington, DC). And yes, the tickets sold out early!

This year Naval Station Ingleside is hosting the Navy Ball and they're going to maintain the smaller crowd. I encourage all of you to plan ahead and get your tickets early. I have no doubt that the tickets will sell out quickly again this year. Once they're gone, they're gone. The next couple of months, you'll notice a

reduced number of T-34 Turbo Mentor training aircraft in the skies over Corpus Christi. The T-34 is the single-engine airplane TW-4 employs to teach basic flight training to those courageous enough to become Naval Aviators! With the construction taking place on the long runway, Commanding Officer decided to send some of his aircraft, instructors and students to Las Cruces, NM to maintain their pace of training. Certainly, if they remained here, the loss of the runway would hamper the progress of the student aviators on their quest for their Wings of Gold.

The aircraft and crews will return before Thanksgiving, but plan to depart again after the first of the year for another couple of months. The runway construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of January, but the worst weather in Corpus Christi is typically be-

Captain continued on page 18

# Chaplain's Column

Why do you believe in God?

by Chaplain Chin Van Dang

A man is sitting on a park bench when a priest walks over and sits down. The man says to the priest, "How can you believe in God? You know nothing like that can exist!" The priest says, "How can you say something like that? Of course God exists! Look at his work all around you!" The man replies, "You know what I mean. The world is so incongruous, there is no way it was created by God. Take the hummingbird. It spends its life flitting from flower to flower. It doesn't need to go very far from where it was born to find food. It can live its entire life in a small area, yet it can fly around the world! And then look at the hippo. Big, ungainly, needs hundreds of pounds of food every day, but can't get very far to go find it. Yet that hippo, who needs to be able to move much more freely, can't fly! Why can't hippos fly?" Just then a bird flies by and drops an enormous load right between the man's eyes. The priest smiles and says, "I guess you just got your answer."

There are all kinds of reasons why people choose to reject God. They think that the reason we believe in God is because we are self-

deceived and afraid to think that with death, everything will simply be over for us. They think we spend all our energies trying to accumulate heavenly "meritoric points" in the hope of some unspecified reward in the afterlife. Quite a few are simply stamped by the problem of evil—they cannot believe in a God who allows innocent people to suffer unnecessarily. This is always a difficult one. How is it that a supposedly good God can allow evil in the world?

This is a very complicated question and one has to begin by distinguishing between two evils: first, the evil caused by human beings and second, bad things such as natural processes (hurricanes, earthquakes on one hand and illnesses such as cancer on the other).

God can hardly be considered responsible for the bad things done by Hitler, Stalin, Saddam Hussein, Bin Laden and their henchmen or even for the smaller crimes carried out by the likes of us. The only way he can be assigned any responsibility in this regard is because he gave us free will and many of us have abused it. Yet despite all the suffering it has caused, no one in

their right mind would want to live a life without free will.

As for as natural disasters and illnesses go, the world has its natural processes and these very things are what make it such a congenial place for humanity. Without the wind, snows and periodic droughts and earthquakes, the world simply would not be the place it is. Change these and we change the very nature of the world. We could well end up making it more hostile place than it is already.

And if we are to exclude illness from the bargain, then are we to live forever? Every organism eventually comes to an end one way or

Chaplain continued on page 18

# Wingspan

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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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## This Community Appreciation Basket

was presented to ACI Aares Ortiz when he returned to Corpus Christi from deployment. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Barbie for more information.



# Ombudsman's Message

A big thanks to local businesses for supporting the troops

by Barbie Baker, Base Ombudsman

During my short tenure as Command Ombudsman, one of my goals has been to assure that all deployed Sailors are supported both from the home front and upon their return from arduous duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our Sailors are never forgotten and always appreciated by our military families for their selfless support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Despite the national media portrayal of non-support for our troops and the cause, the local community has shown an abundance of support and appreciation for returning servicemembers through generous donations of goods and services for consolidated "Community Appreciation Baskets." The response has been overwhelming.

Each basket holds an assortment of items ranging from t-shirts, pens, water

bottles and magnets to free meal cards and gift certificates, all representing various community businesses that support our military. The baskets are delivered to Sailors as they return home from deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan, or other countries where they have served. A big "Thank You" to the following businesses, in no particular order:

GiGi's Pizza, Jason's Deli, The Honey Baked Ham Co., Gatti Town, George's Restaurant, Hollywood Video, Bella Isla Salon and Day Spa, Church's Chicken, Island Flowers and Galleria, Verizon Wireless, Whataburger, Fast Kat Automotive, Synergy Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine, Taco Bueno, God's Children by Sonya Buckwalter, and Quizon's (at Saratoga and Staples).

Also, special thanks to NASCC Fleet and Family Services Center for their returning Sailor contributions, as well as their full-time support to our servicemembers and their families.

I've had the distinct pleasure of personally delivering these baskets to returning Sailors, and their reactions were both



Baker



Dang

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**Iraqi Air Force conducts first solo mission without U.S. assistance**

by Spc. Nathan Heston 1st ACR, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Public Affairs

The Iraqi Air Force (IAF) [located at Camp Taji] recently flew its first mission without the assistance of its American partners. Iraqi pilots flew a mission to survey and monitor the power lines here during a mission appropriately called "Operation Power Line," Aug. 25, said Brig. Gen. Sati, commander of the IAF, Taji Wing, who asked to be identified by only his last name.

"We did our duties today for the very first time and it was a 100 percent Iraqi mission," he said. Sati announced the mission at a partnership event Aug. 25 between the IAF and 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, in which the American and Iraqi service members enjoyed dinner.

The mission came about because insurgents have been causing unrest throughout the country by cutting power lines, thus cutting off electrical power to the Iraqi people, said Washington Court House, Ohio native, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Bryan Bartlett, commander of the 770th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron and the Coalition Air Force Transition Team.

"There's (a proposed) Iraqi law about people keeping their distance from power lines since there are so many dropped," said Bartlett. The IAF is taking action on this problem by surveying for downed lines and also watching for anyone violating the stand-off distance, he said. "The mission is to go outside and patrol the power lines and to get the word out that the Iraqi Air Force is flying," said Bartlett. Sati feels that there are two reasons why the IAF have had this recent success.

"As I informed my close, dear friend (Col. Dan Sherman, commander of the 1st ACR,



Members of the Coalition Air Force Transition Team joined members of the Iraqi Air Force to get an up-close look at the Iraqi helicopters during a recent static display at Camp Taji.

1st Cav. Div.), there are two reasons behind that," said Sati. "Number one, is because (of) the ability of our Iraqi pilots to understand and digest the information and because of their (aviation background)," the Iraqi general said proudly. "The second reason is because the continuous day and night help from our American brothers who did everything we asked of them. They didn't deny us any efforts to accomplish what we wanted," he said.

Sati described the moment they completed their first Iraqi mission.

"The whole base is very happy today - extremely happy. We feel like a graduate who just graduated and got his diploma," he said. "The progress is obvious when one looks at the numbers," said Bartlett.

"To put it in context, last year this wing flew a total of 300 hours. Most of those hours were on a couple of these (Bell 206) Jet Rangers," he said. "Last month, they flew 200 hours just in the (Bell UH-1H) Huey II alone. So far they've got about 700 hours on the aircraft and they've only really been flying them since the end of February, first of March," said Bartlett.

Along with keeping a watchful eye over the power lines, the IAF has also moved Soldiers, dignitaries and visitors across the country.

"They are also moving passengers. They've moved about 500 passengers so far this year," said Bartlett.

Sati and other officers of his command commemorated their victory with their American partners with a static display of their aircraft and then a dinner later that night. The IAF pilots and crewmembers set up three helicopters in a hangar and answered any questions the Americans had about them.

U.S. pilots crowded in and out of the IAF helicopters with an Iraqi visitor close by to answer any questions as well as talk about their common bond of flying. Afterwards, the mix of Iraqi and U.S. aviators went to the U.S. side of the Forward Operating Base and had a time of fellowship while dining and then smoked a few cigars.

For more information on Multi-National Forces-Iraq, please visit [www.mnf-iraq.com](http://www.mnf-iraq.com).

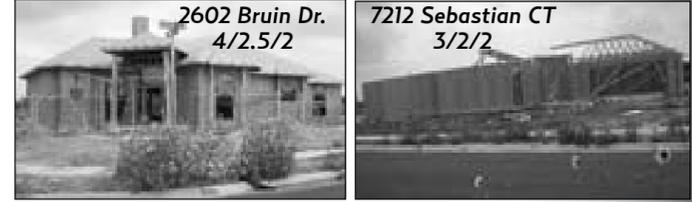
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## Boeing/CCAD partnership improves Chinook assembly

by Mike Sheppard, CCAD/Boeing Partnership/Probed Integration Engineering Manager

Two years ago, Leo Adams, an Aircraft Mechanic in the CH-47 Intermediate Maintenance Process Aircraft (IMPAC) shop, had difficulty producing pedal box assemblies, which help control the Chinook helicopter's direction of flight. The frequency of pedal box production problems was also affecting airframe deliveries. One problem was the drilling operation for the six bolt holes that necessitated transfer to the machine shop for a complex setup and precision tolerance drilling procedure. The tight tolerances associated with the process led to a problem in one out of every five units produced.

Adams knew there must be a better way of building the pedal boxes, so the IMPAC shop turned to the Boeing/CCAD partnership for help with this problem. Larry Heagren, a Boeing Manufacturing Engineer, was assigned to support the CCAD team.



Photo by Mike Sheppard

Boeing Representative Larry Heagren (left) and CCAD Mechanic, Leo Adams worked together to expedite the production of pedal box assemblies. The pedal box takes pilot inputs and converts them to mechanical outputs, controlling the aircraft's direction of flight.

The team first compared the CCAD pedal box assembly process with the corresponding Boeing process and uncovered one major difference: the Boeing process uses a drill fixture designed specifically to produce the tight tolerance holes. The team requested that a copy of the Boeing tool be built for use in their work area. A Tool Order was routed to Falko Hachmann, a tool maker in the Tooling Machine Shop. Falko worked with Lonnie Wund, Boeing tool engineer, and obtained a copy of the Tool Drawings for the pedal box tool. He then reviewed the drawings and ordered the materials needed for tool manufacture, machined the various tool components and fabricated a duplicate tool. Ultimately, Falko's tool was attached to a cart to make the tool mobile, which was an improvement over Boeing's stationary floor.

Backer this year, the tool was delivered to IMPAC shop. Now Leo uses the tool to drill the holes through the pedal box shaft. What once took a week of flow time now takes just a

few hours. As all the holes through the pedal box shaft are drilled simultaneously, it only requires one setup of the pedal box into the tool, eliminating five additional setups that were required in the machine shop. Additionally,

the tool has indexing features that ensure the bolt holes are always located correctly. Drill bushings on the tool also confirm that the holes are perpendicular to the shaft and are centered through the shaft crestline. This has significantly improved the turnaround-time (TAT) of the pedal box assembly. Now CH-47 Final Assembly mechanics always have "ready to install" pedal boxes available to support the aircraft build schedule. This allows them to start their rigging procedures at the earliest possible time, providing them ample opportunity to validate the aircraft rigging.

The pedal box build improvements demonstrate the positive results when government and private industry teams work together to find better ways of solving manufacturing challenges. As Boeing and CCAD continue their teamwork, more process improvements will likely be identified, enhancing CCAD's position as a Center of Excellence for Rotocraft Maintenance.

## Supply Our Students is 'huge success'



Photo courtesy of AOI Zule

"I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Supply Our Students drive this year. It was a huge success. We raised more than \$200 worth of supplies for local schools and for some children, made their first day back a lot easier," said AOI Richard Zule, who was in charge of collecting supplies for school children whose families may not be able to afford them.

AOI Zule stands with boxes of composition books, pencils, pens and many other supplies that were taken to United Way to be distributed amongst the schools.

Felix de las Flores, along with the committee's chairman, MA1(SW) Tracey Lipscomb.

Entertainers included Lt.j.g. Jared Lostracca, of South Central Regional Maintenance Center, who performed several numbers from his newest CD, "When Country Was Cool." The Fabulous Kuzos, a quartet featuring military and civilian personnel who work aboard the station, performed several standards from the sixties.

The International Folkloric Company

featured dancers displaying the culture of different Mexican states. Other performers included Mariachis and members of the Gulf Coast Indian Confederation drumming in the native traditions.

Children and adults also had a chance to taste a variety of ethnic foods, including Flower Tea, and also could see an original demonstration, get their faces painted, play on the moon bounce, and visit the fire safety table to get helpful literature and their very own shiny red, plastic fire helmet.

### Step Out to Fight Diabetes

Naval Hospital Corpus Christi's staff is organizing a team to participate in the "Step Out to Fight Diabetes" 3.5 mile walk sponsored by the American Diabetes Association. The team will comprise staff, patients, family and friends. This year's theme is "Dancing through Downtown" and the entire family can expect to have fun. Musicians, dancers, clowns, school bands, and much more will entertain the walkers. The event, scheduled for Oct. 6, will start and end at Whataburger Field. There will be a \$15 entry fee, but participants seventeen and under are free. If you are interested in participating, call Ensign Amanda Pence, Diabetic Nurse Educator at 961-6000 ext. 3-6440 for more details.

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## Naval Station Ingleside celebrates cultural diversity

by Mike Antoine, NSI Public Affairs



Folklorico members, along with the 48th Queen of Feria de las Flores, Tania Catalina Garcia, rode in a motor parade route through the housing complex.

Hot temperatures greeted the hundreds of attendees of a Cultural Diversity Awareness Fair held at the Windy Shores PVP in Aransas Pass on Aug. 11. The event, sponsored by the Naval Station Ingleside Cultural Awareness Committee had a little bit of everything to offer visitors.

The festivities began shortly after 9 a.m., as costumed participants, along with drum-beating members of the Gulf Coast In-

dian Confederation, paraded through the housing complex to showcase native clothing from around the world.

PSSA Alyssa Calloway sang the national anthem and Capt. Tim Watkins, Naval Station Ingleside Commanding Officer, greeted everyone attending the event.

Helping introduce the featured speakers and performers throughout the day was Tania Catalina Garcia, the 48th Queen of

## NMCRS aids in hurricane disaster relief efforts

by Brandi Byrum, NMCRS Volunteer

Four months into the 2007 hurricane season. You have a survival kit packed, your evacuation route planned, and your flood insurance set up.

We are prepared for the hurricane season, but are we prepared for evacuation and the aftermath?

NMCRS has established special accounts to track donations made to help military families on the Gulf Coast in case a hurricane strikes. It is the mission of the NMCRS to assist in pre-disaster evacuation (when an evacuation is ordered), provide urgent, basic assistance in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, and assist with essential long-term needs when losses are not adequately covered by insurance or government benefits.

This year, NMCRS has set up evacuation assistance cards for servicemembers and their family that are in need of financial

assistance during evacuation. The evacuation assistance cards will make the issuance of the money faster and easier than checks.

Debit cards (\$300 for single service-members, \$500 for families) will help pay for gas, hotel, food and other expenses you may encounter during the evacuation process. Although a repayment method will be set when the card is issued, you can set up an appointment to get the repayment re-evaluated when you return.

It is difficult to prepare for, as well as to recover from, the aftermath of a hurricane. Our funds can also help you when you return from an evacuation. The NMCRS can help provide funds for basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, household set-up, and other needs a family might require.

Other resources that might aid you in an emergency situation are 2-1-1 by United Way and FEMA. United Way's 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember telephone number that connects you with important community services that will help in time of need. The implementation of 2-1-1 is led by United Way with trained and specialized information and referral agencies in states and local communities. Simply dial 2-1-1 and United Way will help you find your local Corpus Christi resources. FEMA has a National Hurricane Program that helps you plan your evacuation, aids in response and recovery, and conducts post-storm assessment. You can learn more about this program at <http://www.fema.gov>.

Don't let this hurricane season find you unprepared. The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society assisted with \$2.2 million to 5,492 clients last year for hurricane relief. For more information on NMCRS disaster relief, call the NASCC NMCRS Office at (361)961-3482.



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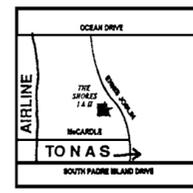
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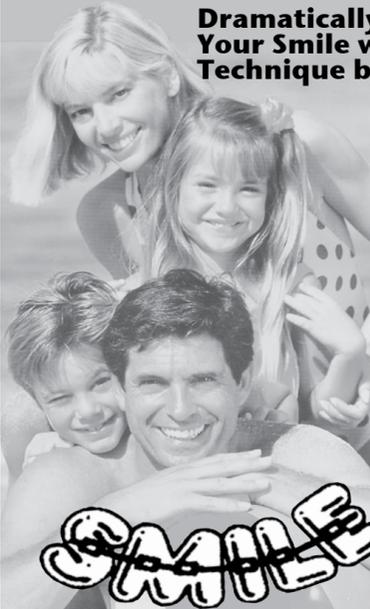



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## CCAD receives Shingo Public Sector Bronze Medallion

by Janey Gibbons, CCAD Publicist

Corpus Christi Army Depot's H-60 IDLM Pavement Program is the proud recipient of the Shingo Public Sector Bronze Medallion. The Shingo Prize for Excellence in Manufacturing is named for Japanese industrial engineer Shingo Shingo and presented by Utah State University. *Business Week* magazine has referred to Shingo as the "Nobel Prize of Manufacturing."

Public Sector Prizes are awarded by Shingo to organizations that "promote world-class manufacturing strategies and practices to achieve world-class results in the public sector/government owned facilities." CCAD received the honor based on the accomplishments made in its H-60 IDLM Pavement Program.

"This is truly an indication of dedication, commitment and a first class organization," said newly-minted CCAD Commander Col. Joe Donahay. "Our Lean Team and the entire CCAD workforce did a great job. I am humbled to have joined such a great group. Now that the sound barrier has been penetrated, the sky is the limit."

CCAD submitted the H-60 IDLM Pavement Program due to its success with shaving Cost and turn-around-time (TAT) on the H-60 IDLM Pavement line, while drastically improving quality. These improvements could not have been accomplished without a commitment to Lean Six Sigma, said Lean Chief Frances Rosarino.

Thanks in part to Lean Six Sigma, Process Based Leadership (PBL) and a commitment to certification into the ISO family

of standards (ISO 9001:2000, AS9100, AS9110) CCAD noted many significant improvements in production, such as: TAT on the H-60 IDLM Program decreasing by 45 percent; man hours per unit dropped 47 percent; space utilization for the assembly process decreased by approximately 10,500 square feet; overhead Cycle Time (OCT) on the T-700 engine line dropped from 272 days in 2001 to 78 days by 2006; DH-60 Recap reduced TAT from 436 days in 2003 to 126 days in 2006.

In Quality and Safety, CCAD saw improvements in Corrective Action Requests dropping from 5.7 in 2006 to 2.7 in 2007 per audit; OSHA Recordables being reduced by 41 percent from 2005-2006 on the H-60 IDLM line; and first time tell call yield increasing from 40 percent to 90 percent.

For H-60 IDLM, CCAD reduced cost overruns by 73 percent.

In Delivery, CCAD increased On-Time Delivery for the H-60 IDLM Pavement from eight percent to 90 percent and increased output levels for the DH-60 Blackhawk Recap by 123 percent from 2004-2005.

CCAD will celebrate the H-60 Pavement IDLM Program's Shingo Public Sector Bronze Medallion during the upcoming Luther G Jones Jr. Aviation Summit on Oct. 5. Representatives from CCAD will accept the program's Public Sector Bronze Medallion during an awards ceremony Oct. 11 at the Hyatt Regency-Crystal City in Arlington, Va.



CCAD employees participated in a Value Stream Mapping Exercise as part of the Depot's Lean Six Sigma efforts. CCAD recently received a Shingo Prize Public Sector Bronze Medallion for their accomplishments on the H-60 Pavement IDLM Program, due in large part to Lean Six Sigma implementation.

**Autumn Begins!**  
*Sunday, Sept. 23*

Photo by Janey Gibbons, CCAD Publicist



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**Captain continued from page 2**

tween January and March, so there may be delays. Between the runway construction and weather, Commodore Maynard made a wise decision.

TW-4's mission is training aviators to install the skills they need to fly demanding missions of the Fleet, and develop the attitude needed to excel as pilots and leaders in the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Foreign Services. Aviation skills are perishable in the early stages of training, so the education process needs to move at a steady pace. With his plan, Commodore Maynard and TW-4 will continue to produce the best pilots any of the services will see — on time, ready for combat.

One last note: I'll call it a day. It's been a year since Cabanas OLF (Out-Lying Field) was re-opened for use by the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) and the Porsche Club. The purpose for getting the first cars out there was two-fold. First, both clubs conduct events where anyone with the desire (and a car) can test their skill, engage in some friendly competition, and rub elbows with "gear heads" of all ages. Second, the monthly events provide a risk-managed environment where drivers can push their cars beyond posted speed limits without putting themselves and others in danger. The events are set up following new-fangled ORM (Operational Risk Management) principles and include vehicle inspections to strict standards and hold the drivers to high standards of conduct. Plus, they're huge fun!

I've asked our Editor to plan a few articles in future issues of the Wingspan to bring some of the SCCA and Porsche Club events to you, the readers. There are a number of young folks, civilian and military, choosing to forgo street racing for the fun, competition and friendship that's found at Cabanas OLF. I'm proud of these young people for exercising good judgment and fighting the temptation to race in the streets. They set a great example for all of us to follow!

To read about the local chapter of the SCCA and learn more about SCCA events at Cabanas OLF you can visit [www.scca.com](http://www.scca.com). The SCCA events are scheduled on the first weekend of each month. Porsche Club events can be found at [www.coastalhendpca.org](http://www.coastalhendpca.org). Cabanas OLF is available for Porsche Club events on the second weekend of each month.

That's it! It's warm and the water's inviting. I'll see ya on the beach!

**Chaplain continued from page 2**

the other — deterioration is the reverse of the growth that brings us into being and enables us to thrive in the first place. The bottom line in all this is, of course, suffering. We simply do not like to experience pain ourselves and, while we can at times consider that it might be justified as a punishment, we don't like to experience it when we are innocent of blame. We especially don't understand how the very young or elderly have to suffer when we regard them as guiltless.

The resurrection behind all this is that suffering has no meaning. That is the sticking point for many who find it hard to believe in God. However, the only thing that can make any sense of suffering is that it does actually have a meaning. This is one of the most important truths of the Christian faith — suffering is redemptive. It is through the suffering of the Son of God on the Cross that we are saved from our transgressions. He gave his life so that we might return to a right relationship with God, so that we might be enabled to live a new kind of life with him. He made this sacrifice for us out of love. The God we believe in is not a callous and aloof God, one who is indifferent to our sufferings. No, the God we believe in is a suffering God; a God who loves us deeply and who experiences the pain this brings.

**Pyramid, Ponzi schemes and incentives target military**

by the Better Business Bureau of the Coastal Bend

The BBB system operates a special program to help military personnel and their families avoid suffering from myriad schemes that target our armed forces called BBB Military Line. This warning is a service of that program.

The Myrtle Beach BBB reported a possible Ponzi scheme in the area of Port Bogue, NC, and the Orlando and West Palm Beach BBBs have information on a pyramid scheme impacting soldiers at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. This comes on the heels of the Iraqi dinner investment scam uncovered by the Chicago BBB in April.

In the Carolinas, the North Carolina and South Carolina Securities Divisions have issued "cease and desist" orders against Capital Connection Group, LLC; 3 Hebrew Boys, LLC; Tony Pough; Tim McQueens; Joseph Brunson; and Howard Lee Lattimore. Beginning in February or March 2006 and extending through April 2007, these individuals held seminars in the Fort Bragg area. Attendance at all the seminars was by invitation only, and everyone attending had to sign a nondisclosure agreement before being allowed to enter. The seminars offered the participants the opportunity to pay off, within a relatively short time, outstanding debts such as mortgages, auto loans, and credit card debts, and to accrue funds for college tuition. In each case, the participant was required to pay a "processing fee" up front, usually five percent of the amount of the debt he or she wanted to eliminate. All processing fees

were to be paid by cashier's check to Capital Connection Group. Capital Connection Group and 3 Hebrew Boys claimed they could make a profit for their investors of ten percent per month through foreign exchange transactions conducted by their traders. BBB/Myrtle Beach has been investigating, but is hampered by the participant's fear of repercussions if they breach the non-disclosure agreement.

At Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, a company named Wealth Pools International, Inc., has been encouraging servicemembers and their family members to sign up as sales associates for a multi-level marketing plan. According to their Web site, associates must purchase the company product, a \$200 TNT Language DVD. They receive a \$10 commission on each DVD they sell. Wealth Pools will not accept returns of any unsold inventory. Incentives are offered for recruiting other associates and forming "pools" with them that sell huge amounts of DVDs. BBB/Orlando's report on the company shows that the CEO, Mr. Robert Lane, has a previous government action against a similar company that he ran in the late 1990's.

If you have been approached regarding involvement in one of these businesses or have been affected, please contact the Better Business Bureau of Corpus Christi at (361) 852-4991. Any information a victim or near-victim can provide would be helpful even if they do not wish to identify themselves.



**Say 'thank you' to your Ombudsman on Sept. 14 (and every day)!**

Courtesy of CPIC Public Affairs

**NASCC's Ombudsmen**

BARBARA BOONE, BRN OMBUDSMAN  
SARACON COURT, VT-28  
JENNIFER FORNADUET, AIMD  
REBECCA GARRA, HM-15  
KEVIN JACKSON, NMAWC  
KIM JOHNSON, NMCE-22

ANGELA LUDMAN, TRAWING-4  
LYNN MULLER, NAVHOSP  
EMMA PEREW, HM-15  
WENDY REBERT, COMDMAG  
NICOLE STUBBS, NRD HOWSON  
MICHELLE SYDOROW, HM-15

Since 1970, ombudsmen have served as a vital link between Navy commands and families. These outstanding volunteers donate their time and energy to support our many challenging missions.

The Ombudsman Program was introduced to the U.S. Navy on Sept. 14, 1970, by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Rhno Zumwalt. Zumwalt adapted his program from a 19th century Scandinavian custom originally established by the king to give ordinary private citizens an avenue to express their concerns to high government officials. Zumwalt recognized issues and concerns that are unique to Navy families. To improve family readiness, the primary focus of the Navy Family Ombudsman Program is command communications, information, and referral, while still providing an avenue for hearing about the welfare of command families.

Ombudsmen are the spouses of active duty members of the command or selected reserves appointed by the command to the command ombudsman program. With extensive training and support programs, the Navy Family Ombudsman is a highly trained volunteer who is able to offer support and guidance to command families and to act as an official liaison between the command and its families.

Ombudsmen are a key link between the command and the Navy family. Without the services of command ombudsmen, significant commitment of command resources and man-hours would be necessary and negatively impact the command mission. The ombudsman serves as a vital two-way communication link between the command and the Navy family.

So on Sept. 14, be sure to let your command ombudsman know how much they are appreciated!

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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Cmdr. Scot A. Schulte takes command of VT-35 SAU

by Capt. Brad Shearin, USAF, VT-35 Public Affairs Officer

Commander Scot A. Schulte, USN, assumed the duties of Commanding Officer, Squadron Augment Unit (SAU), VT-35, during a Change of Command ceremony on Aug. 24 aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, TX.

VT-35's primary mission is to provide ad-

vanced multi-engine pilot training for USN, USAF, and USMC students who will fly the C-130 Hercules, the C-12 Huron, the P-3 Orion, and MV-22 Osprey.

Cmdr. Schulte has been a member of VT-35 Squadron Augment Unit (SAU) since its inception in October 2002.

Lt. Col Jan H. Ultrams, commanding officer of VT-35, congratulates incoming Augment Commander, Cmdr. Scot A. Schulte while outgoing Cmdr. Jeffrey S. Spivey looks on. Capt. Timothy B. Brewer served as the guest speaker at the Aug. 24 ceremony.



Photo by Richard Stewart, Base Photographer

## Welcome Home!



Photo by Debbie Baker, Base Chaplain

AC1 Aaron Ortiz returned from a seven-month deployment to Marine Air Control Squadron 2 in Al Taqaddum, Iraq on Aug. 28 at Corpus Christi International Airport. Ortiz (left) is joined by his wife, Rebecca, and daughters Rebecca, 12 (right) and Michaela, 8.



(left) A 29-foot Forest River "Surveyor" is hooked up in the RV Park. The trailers are available for rent at \$48 per night and feature a kitchen, dining area, bathroom, air conditioning, and room to sleep a small family.

(bottom) Pat Davis, Corpus Christi resident and retired Air Force wife, enjoys fishing and crabbing off the North Pier with her husband in the mornings.



Photo by Anne Booker, Editor

*Merina continued from page 1*

spy the porpoises that hang out off Sunfish Beach.

The other new project is the addition of eight Forest River "Surveyor" RV trailers now available for rent at the RV park. These 29-foot trailers will soon be permanently placed along Dismal, but for now they are hooked up at the RV park and rent for \$40 per night to anyone with base access.

Fishtails Bait Shop and Charters is located right beside the South Pier and is open depending on the availability of bait. Fishtails Charter is also available by appointment through Captain Jim Wonnack. If you're interested in a day of fishing, Captain Jim will be your guide, providing bait and tackle. You will head out to Corpus Christi Bay, Laguna Madre, or Baffin Bay, all known for being home to trout, redfish, flounder and drum. If you're interested in chartering a fishing trip for a full or half day, please contact Fishtails Charters and be sure to bring your fishing license, food, drinks, and plenty of sunscreen.

The Merina offers so many fun opportunities for individuals and families. Make it a point to stop by and see what they're offering. Whether you want to learn to sail, charter a fishing boat, windsurf, or catch the best sunrise in Corpus Christi, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

For more information on Paradise Cove Merina and its offerings, please call (361) 961-1293. For more information on Fishtails Charters, please call Jim Wonnack at (361) 548-5099 or visit [www.fishtailscharters.com](http://www.fishtailscharters.com).

# AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Vice Adm. Robinson becomes Navy's 36<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General

by Bill Love, NMECC Public Affairs Officer



Robinson

Vice Admiral Adam M. Robinson, Jr., Medical Corps, became the Navy's 36<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General and the Navy's Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery at a ceremony at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., on Aug. 27. The Chief of Naval Operations was the guest speaker.

Robinson succeeded Vice Admiral Donald C. Arthur, Medical Corps, who retired from the Navy after 33 years of service. Arthur assumed duties as Navy Surgeon General in August 2004.

Most recently, Robinson was the Commander of the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Md., and Commander Navy Medicine National Capital Area and Chief of the Medical Corps. He also has held a variety of Navy clinical research, operational, staff, and leadership positions.

Robinson is a native of Louisville, Ky., and holds a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine. He entered the Naval Service in 1977 through the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program, and was appointed to flag rank in 2004.

(right) Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (Fleet Marine Force) Olga V. Seran received the Navy Achievement Medal from Capt. R.B. Sorenson for managing process improvements while assigned to military sick call at Naval Hospital Corpus Christi from March 2007 to July 2007. Seran's actions directly contributed to the care of 750 active duty and reserve servicemembers, resulting in \$63,000 of relative value unit production for the command. She also increased patient satisfaction and reduced wait time by improving the patient check-in process.



PCI (SW/AW/NAC) James E. Cesna (right) and his wife, Kathleen, share a moment of merriment with Capt. Dora C. B. Albin, MSC, executive officer at NHCC. Albin was on hand to present a certificate signed by the governor that commissioned Kathleen a Yellow Rose of Texas. The occasion coincided with Cesna's retirement ceremony on Aug. 7 after 20 years of service. The Cesnas will return to their home in Ohio.

Photo by Bill Love, NMECC Public Affairs Officer



Photo by Bill Love, NMECC Public Affairs Officer