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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

December 6, 2007



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Our nation's character: Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941

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

Many Americans are now finishing the leftovers from Thanksgiving and looking ahead to the prospect of Christmas and the New Year. During this time, as we give thanks for our unprecedented American bounty, both temporal and spiritual, let us not forget the price we have paid for it.

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, you may recall, there is a day which, though not celebrated in the same way, recalls an even greater reason for Americans to be thankful.

On Dec. 7, 1941, imperial Japan carried out an unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack challenged our American resolve. It proved to us that sometimes, war is inevitable. And instead of shrinking further into our isolationist slumber, we showed the world our ability to rise from the ashes.

Japan's population and its wars with China were quickly consuming the island's resources. For years, imperial Japan had its eye on the richness of Southeast Asia. As Japan prepared their excursion into current day Indonesia, they surmised that an attack on the European island colonies was sure to bring the US into war. Aside from China, the other powers at war or on the verge of war with Japan were preoccupied with the Third Reich in Europe. The prospect of bringing the full attention of America's armed forces upon themselves was not one Japan was ready to accept.

Intent upon crippling our Pacific naval forces so badly that we would be unable to impede the Japanese invasions of Malaya and the Dutch East Indies, Japan planned the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. With the words "Tora! Tora! Tora!" the Japanese commenced their Dec. 7 destruction of our Pacific fleet and they gave no quarter.

The attack found the bulk of our fleet sitting defenseless in port. Our battleships, the centerpiece of Naval strategy, were all destroyed or severely damaged. Thousands of service members lost their lives and millions of dollars worth of warfighting machinery were reduced to steel wreckage.

But our aircraft carriers were at sea that day and



A Navy photographer snapped this photograph of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, just as the USS Shaw exploded.

in a show of American ingenuity, our military leaders quickly made the carrier our Navy's capital ship, forever changing the strategy of war on the high seas. In fact, all throughout our war against Japan, as well as that against Germany and Italy, the United States displayed a quick ability to adapt and overcome. We showed not only the world, but ourselves, that we had the resolve, the resourcefulness and

the character to gain victory against the greatest odds. During this time of thankfulness, let us not forget to be grateful for our national character; a character built by people from all the corners of the Earth who came here with their own brands of tenacity and determination, seeking nothing less than freedom and adventure.

Changes to policy on civilian access to MWR facilities; DOD civilian employees and others welcome to bring guests

by Ensign Katie Inde, Wingspan Contributor

A recent instruction change was put in place on Nov. 13 that affects NAS Corpus Christi's policy regarding civilian guests on base.

The definition of a "civilian guest" was expanded, greatly increasing the number of people who will now have access to MWR facilities. Previously, a civilian guest was strictly considered to be someone who is visiting a member of the armed forces or a family member residing on NASCC.

Now, the definition has widened to include those accompanying any of the following sponsors: a member of the armed forces or a family

member or widow, DOD civilian employees and contractors permanently assigned to NASCC, retired military and retired DOD civilians, all with valid ID cards.

In order to be admitted on base, these guests must either be escorted through the gate by their sponsor, or the sponsor may make arrangements for their entry by calling the Pass and Tag Office at 961-2276 during normal business hours. Guests will not be allowed to roam the installation unescorted.

Senior Chief Chris Reynolds, MWR Deputy Director, explained why the change was made:

"MWR has determined that we have sufficient capacity within our facilities to accommodate extra people and the commanding officer has agreed."

The main facilities included under MWR are the Gulf Winds Golf Course, the Marina, Light-house Lanes Bowling Center, Corpus Christi Bay Club, Pizza Sub Pub, and Shields Park Camp-ground. Reynolds personally extends an invitation to all the newly-defined sponsors to bring a friend on base and enjoy a round of golf, lunch at the Bay Club, or any other MWR activity or facility.

Photo courtesy of the National Archives

Skipper's Column

by Capt. Timothy Coolidge

It's almost natural to read about military history, if only to learn from our mistakes. Tomorrow is the anniversary of "The Day of Infamy," Dec. 7, 1941.



Coolidge

It's been 66 years since that Sunday morning in Hawaii when Japan's surprise attack caught our ships anchored side-by-side on Battleship Row at Pearl Harbor.

We lost the majority of our US fleet that tragic morning, as Japanese planes dropped bombs, strafed and attacked our ships and Sailors. It was early on a Sunday morning when everyone was relaxed and preparing for church and a restful day.

I'm not trying to evoke hate; rather, I want

Remembering our heritage

us to think about our service members who either lost their lives, their best friends, or shipmates who had become family. For many, there was no time to grieve their loss. If they weren't seriously wounded, they went to their battle stations and engaged the enemy. There are stories of valor and courage that have been lost because survival was priority.

There was a Sailor who grabbed a shipmate and had him load the anti-aircraft gun on the damaged USS *Wisconsin*. He swung its barrel and began shooting back at the Japanese aircraft in the air. How many planes he hit or damaged will never be known because some planes could not be seen after he fired, and went careening through dense smoke. No one knows if they crashed or got away.

Just to realize the devastation of US losses: 2,335 military and 68 civilians killed, 1,143 military and 35 civilians wounded, four battleships sunk, four battleships damaged, three cruisers

damaged, three destroyers sunk, two other ships sunk, 188 aircraft destroyed, 155 aircraft damaged.

That was in a matter of a couple of hours of deadly attack. Frankly, this was after the Japanese had attacked the other side of the island, at what is now Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay.

In the small town of Lanakai, just north of the Mokapu Peninsula, a husband and wife were sitting on their lanai drinking coffee when they saw Japanese aircraft fly over the sandy beach. Moments later, they watched in disbelief as they saw flames and fire, and then heard the sound of the bombs being dropped on American aircraft and personnel. This was moments before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In an area designated as the "Punch Bowl" near downtown Honolulu is the National Cem-

Captain continued on page 10

Chaplain's Message

by Chaplain Timothy Gault

A man went into his shed and pulled out his potter's wheel. Having mixed his clay, he placed it on the wheel and began to turn the wheel. Then, he placed his fingers into the formless clay and meticulously fashioned a beautiful pot. He placed the pot into the kiln to dry and the next day, placed it upon a shelf in his shop. A visitor noticed the pot half hidden by other items and insisted that the potter place it more prominently so that it could be admired by the public. But, the potter replied, "I put it there because that is where I want it. It serves its purpose there."

To the visitor, this seemed like such a waste. The next day, the potter took the beautiful pot, placed it out by the street side and then lifted a hammer and proceeded to smash it to pieces. He left the pot pieces on the curbside right where he smashed the pot in front of his business.

After a short period, he received a steady stream of concerned visitors. "Sir," each one called, "Someone has knocked over your pot and smashed it to pieces."

The fullness of life

Each one seemed irritated that someone else could have done this to such a beautiful vessel. But, when they heard the truth that it was the potter himself who had done it, they were not sure what to think. One man wondered aloud, "What kind of man are you?" He responded, "Sir, I am the owner of that pot. Would you like to see the other pots that I have kept?"

The potter was within his rights to make a pot for his shelf, to smash the pot or to sell it to another. It was his pot. When he made the pot, he had a purpose in mind and fashioned it accordingly. It is this same idea that King David had in mind when he prayed, "Thy hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Thy commandments" (Psalm 119:73).

David recognized that God's authority and wisdom is impeccable. He knew that there is "someone else" in life that matters: his Maker. As he came to know his Maker, he gained wisdom, he grew in communion with his God, and he learned more about life.

Interestingly, the term interpreted "fashioned" in Psalm 119:73 carries the idea of something that happens over the course of time. Some Bible translations render the Hebrew term "preserved" instead of "fashioned" to communicate this idea more clearly.

It is a significant idea that the divine creative act continues throughout our lives. In artistic language, the "someone else" in our lives is asking us to "dance" - a dance in the embrace of a merciful and gracious God whose ways are beyond our ways and whose infinite knowledge and creativity superabound the best of our science and technology. In that dance, we learn God's truths, we learn the richness of faith communion and we learn fullness of life.



Gault

Security Column

by MACS(SW) Brad Volkmer, Security Officer

Most of you have probably noticed the construction work currently underway adjacent to the installation's Main Gate. This construction started some months ago and continues to proceed according to schedule. To date, there has been very minimal disruption to base operations or traffic flow as a result of the upgrade. However, over the next several months some disruption will be unavoidable.

Careful consideration has been given to the timing of these disruptions to make them as painless as possible. The first of these will commence on the weekend of Dec. 8 and 9 and take approximately two weeks

to complete. During this period, there will be construction that will require the responsible contractor to close all four lanes of Lexington Avenue between the Gulf Stream Golf Course, and what is now our commercial vehicle inspection lane, also known as Avenue J. By conducting this phase of the construction plan at this time, we hope to take advantage of slightly lighter traffic as we close in on the Christmas holiday.

During the lane closures, traffic will be re-routed and reduced to one lane in each direction. In an attempt to alleviate congestion, the installation's Back Gate (Ocean Drive) will be re-configured to use all four lanes in the same manner as the Main Gate during normal operations. They will remain open throughout the workday and be extended by one hour in the evening. The new hours for the Back Gate during this phase of the construction will now be: Monday - Friday (excluding holidays) 5

a.m. to 6 p.m.

We are not reducing the total number of lanes available to enter and exit the installation, but are transferring the numbers from one gate to the other. The only way it will work however, without Norfolk- or San Diego-style delays, is if we can transfer the traffic flow accordingly.

I cannot stress enough the importance of everyone's cooperation in utilizing the Back Gate to the fullest extent possible. While the Main Gate will remain open 24/7 to accommodate Pass and Tag patrons and commercial traffic and deliveries requiring inspection, maximum utilization of the Back Gate will be critical in preventing major congestion.

We expect there to be lengthy delays for the first several workdays after the closures take affect, but also expect them to

Security continued on page 13

Volkmer

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War and peace: Surviving Liberian conflict and answering God's call

by Ensign Katie Inde, Wingspan Contributor

U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Vivian Yanquoi was commissioned on October 2 in the Protestant chapel aboard NAS Corpus Christi. With her friends and family proudly watching, she took the oath of office and donned her shiny, new 2nd Lt. bars. To a casual onlooker, the ceremony appeared to be like any other commissioning ceremony. However, when it came time for Yanquoi's friends and family to speak a few words on her behalf, the story her father told of their family's journey to the present made the ceremony special. The hardships she and her family endured helped guide her to the peaceful place she is today.

The early years of Yanquoi's life were spent with her family in Liberia. Her father left the country in 1989 and came to the U.S. in order to further his education. Little did they know, his decision to leave Liberia would save her family's lives.

"After he left, that December is when we heard news about [Liberia] being attacked by rebel leaders," Yanquoi explained. "It wasn't until 1990 that the rebels reached the capital city, which is where we lived."

Yanquoi's mother, Kebeh, was faced with the responsibility of protecting herself and her three children, 11, 9, and 5 years of age, from the death and destruction of ongoing tribal wars.

"There was so much devastation," said Yanquoi. "We saw people dying and there were mountains of dead bodies everywhere. With all that said, for my family, it was only

by the grace of God that we were always a step ahead of danger. My mother was always moving us just in time, before anything could happen. I believe that it was divine intervention that helped my mom decide to leave or not to leave, to move or to stay."

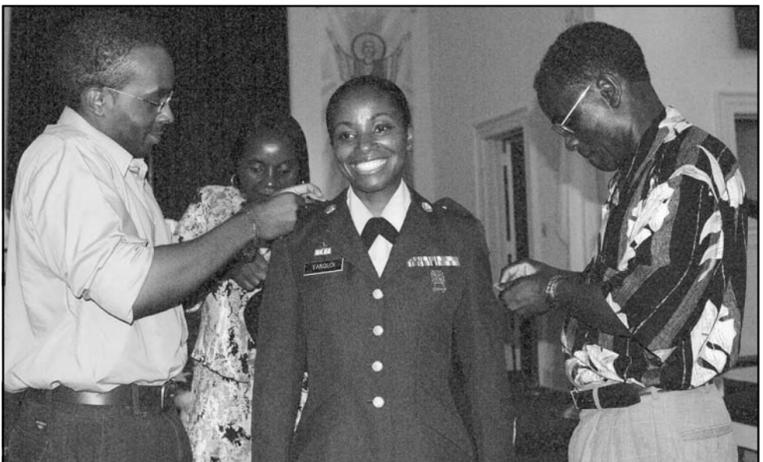
Kebeh made a point to keep her children laughing and happy so they were distracted from the horrors going on around them.

"We had fun," said Yanquoi. "Even amidst all those trials and tribulations we had peace. People say that in a storm, you can have peace. Well, that is real to me because, with all that was going on around us, we were always happy. Even when we had to run through stray bullets as we were escaping, and people were getting shot everywhere, we thought of it as a game. We were old enough to realize what was going on, don't get me wrong, but we just had that peace that nothing was going to happen to us."

Yanquoi always had a sense that God was watching over her family and helping to protect and guide them through the almost three years of war they survived.

One story involved her mother and a rebel that displayed how truly blessed her family was.

"We were so lucky because my mother owned a convenience store and prior to [the fighting], a rebel came to my mother's store to get something but was short a dollar," she explained. "My mom told him not to worry about the dollar and to just take it and pay



Vivian Yanquoi (center) receives her 2nd Lt. bars in her commissioning ceremony on Oct. 2 from her husband, Basil West (left), mother, Kebeh Yanquoi, and father, Slomo Yanquoi.

her back when he could. Later, as we were traveling to a particular camp site, we were stopped by some rebels."

The rebels forced everyone to display which tribe they were from. Yanquoi explained that each tribe in Liberia has a distinct marking or way to identify themselves. Her tribe used a marking on the back of every other generation of females to identify themselves.

Her mother did not have the mark, but Yanquoi did.

"The rebels didn't believe my mom when she told them what tribe she was from because she didn't have the mark on her back, and the rebels were looking for certain tribes to kill. But, there was a rebel man who remem-

bered my mother. He recognized her as a member of the tribe. He said, 'You are from the tribe of the eagle.' Yanquoi continued on page 12

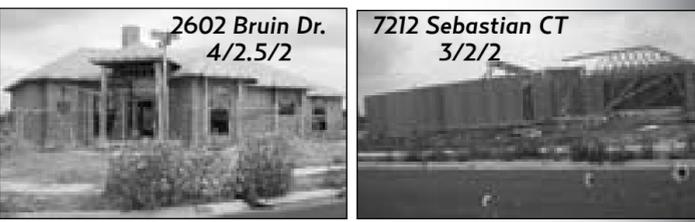
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Pilot for a Day 'hero' considered one of Corpus Christi's best under 40

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

On Nov. 2, Lt. Rob Rajotte of VT-35 was among the young professionals of Corpus Christi honored with the city's prestigious "Corpus Christi Under 40" award. According to their mission statement, "CCU40 is an event honoring the accomplishments of men and women under 40 years of age who have made signifi-

the Navy with the express purpose of earning his wings and did so in the fall of 2001. After flight school, he went to Enid, Okla. to fly the E-6 Mercury out of VQ-4 at Tinker Air Force Base.

In 2005, Rajotte reported to the VT-35 Stingrays and during the IUT (Instructor Under Training syllabus), he participated in a Pilot for a Day (PFAD) event and he has been involved ever since.



Lt. Rob Rajotte, center, was honored as one of Corpus Christi's finest in CCU40. Lt. Col. Jon Ullmann, VI-35 Commanding Officer, and Rajotte's wife, Cory, joined him at the celebration at Brewster Street on Nov. 2.

cant contributions in their professional fields as well as through service in the community."

Rajotte exemplifies these traits not only in his profession as a Naval Aviator, but also in his central role in the Pilot for a Day program here at NASCC.

Rajotte worked for two years as a mechanical engineer, but when his father passed away, he decided to join the Armed Forces. He joined

"This is awesome," said Rajotte. "We bring in these kids who don't have much to look forward to in life and just give them one awesome day."

The children are treated like kings and queens; they get their own flight suit and a set of wings, they fly the simulators, tour the control tower, and sit in the cockpits of T-34s and T-45s.

Shortly after Rajotte got involved in the program, Maj. Larry Brown, who had been running the program, transferred and left the reigns to Rajotte. Since then, he has worked with the program's founder, George Ruiz, to bring about some major enhancements for the kids in the program.

"With Driscoll [Children's Hospital] we were able to bring in twelve kids a year," said Rajotte. "And now that Children's Cancer Center of South Texas has gotten involved, we're

Rajotte continued on page 10

Silver Star recipient addresses Hamlin Middle School students

by Bill Love, NHCC Public Affairs Officer

HM2 Juan M. Rubio, a Silver Star recipient, addressed Hamlin Middle School students Nov. 9 in commemoration of the school's 25th Annual Old Fashioned Patriotic Veteran's Day



HM2 Juan Rubio participated as the Navy standard bearer in the Veterans Band of Corpus Christi Color Guard Flag Ceremony at Hamlin Middle School. In formation with Rubio are Lucy Earhart and Frederico L. Trejo.

Rally. Mrs. Mary Williams, Hamlin Middle School teacher emeritus and organizer of the event, said, "It is heart warming when you hear them singing 'God Bless America.'"

Rubio shared his views about national devotion while addressing the student body and Corpus Christi citizens who gathered. He also participated in the Veterans Band of Corpus Christi Color Guard Flag Ceremony as the Navy standard bearer.

An eight year Navy veteran, Rubio is currently assigned to Naval Hospital Corpus Christi Medical Records Department. He volunteers his time as a mentor for challenged middle school students of CCISD's Student Learning and Guidance center. He was awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry against the enemy on Jan. 1, 2005 while serving as a Corpsman with a Marine Platoon in support of *Operation Iraqi Freedom*. Besides the Silver Star Medal, Rubio has also been awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds sustained in combat, and two Combat Action Awards.



Bring a new, unwrapped toy to any of the following drop-off points aboard NAS Corpus Christi to make a child's Christmas special. (Toys will be picked up on Dec. 14):
 Child Development Center
 Building 89 - Lockheed Martin Building
 Naval Hospital Corpus Christi
 Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Fire Station
 Navy/Army Federal Credit Union
 Naval Exchange

Letters to the Editor

I agree with you whole-heartedly about the need for a media source that has good news about the War on Terror. Every once in a while, an article about the good our guys are doing will slip through, but mostly it's all the bad news. I believe it is for pure sensationalism, not a desire to keep the public informed. At any rate, thank you for the web site for the MNF-Iraq.

-Anonymous

If you have questions, comments or feedback, I'd love to hear them. Email me at anne.boohar@navy.mil. I can't wait to hear from you. -A.B.



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Yanquoi continued from page 3

bered my mother. He said, 'I remember you. Leave her alone. I went to her store once and I was short a dollar but she told me not to worry about it.' My mom said, 'I don't remember you, but I'm glad you remember me.' He said, 'Yeah, I remember her. She is a nice lady.' So, my mom survived just because she didn't make a fuss out of a dollar. It was the little things like that which made the difference [between living and dying]."

When the fighting briefly ceased in August of 1993, Yanquoi's father was able to return to Liberia, pick up his family, and bring them to the U.S. "It was so divine, because if my dad hadn't left when he did, he wouldn't have been able to come back and get us. He probably would have been killed."

Yanquoi settled into her life in the U.S., graduated from high school, completed a year of college, and then in 2000, accepted an offer from the U.S. Army to join and serve the country that provided her family refuge and a chance at a new life. "It was a hasty decision," she said, "but it brought me to where I am now."

She initially joined the Army as a Cargo Specialist and was later re-classed to a Human Resource Specialist, but was unable to find peace and true happiness in her work. Yanquoi started having feelings of uncertainty and doubt about her life.

"I just had this yearning and felt there

was something more I had to do... I was in a state of confusion. I didn't know which way to go. I knew there was something better I wanted to do with my life."

The same God that had watched over and guided her family through the trials of war and led them to the U.S. helped guide Yanquoi toward a decision. She knew what she was called to do, but she let her worries about money and her desire for independence keep her from making the choice. Then, Yanquoi explained, "One night, I just gave up. I said, 'I am just going to do whatever it is that you called me to do, God. It is your will and you fulfilled the desires of my heart.' I surrendered and submitted myself."

Yanquoi decided to seek the commission she recently earned in order to join the Army Chaplain Corps. "Now, all the confusion has just gone away and everything seems to just be working out. Everything is coming together. I am doing what I really want to do... I believe that every single thing that happened to me in my life was predestined to happen to me, and I just give God the glory and praises for it."

From the moment she made the decision to become a "woman of God" she has felt peace. Just as God led her and her family to peace when she was a child, again He has led her to peace - in her heart.

CCAD/Boeing engineers reduce turn-around time and cost of IEFAB

by Mike Shepperd, CCAD/Boeing Partnership Product Integration Engineering Manager

The Boeing/Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) partnership brings new overhaul capabilities to the depot. CCAD workers have the ability to repair many composite structures on the Apache airframe and now, they have the ability to make carbon fiber repairs to Apache's Improved External Forward Avionics Bay (IEFAB). This strengthens the depot's overall repair capabilities and instills Industry Best Practices.

The IEFAB pod is a carbon fiber composite structure that provides an enclosure for the avionics equipment installed on the aircraft. These pods are mounted to the fuselage and extend from the nose section to aft of the pilot's seat. Once installed, removal is a difficult and time consuming process.

In service, these pods receive a wide variety of damage from flight line mishaps and battle damage. Previous work instructions allowed CCAD employees to make minor repairs. Small cracks in the structure could be repaired using epoxy materials and stainless steel splice plates. If major repairs were required, the entire IEFAB would be removed and replaced with a new structure. This required the removal of the pod, all avionics, and related hardware. It was a very costly process for CCAD both in time and manpower.

A process team was established to explore having the CCAD Composite Shop perform major and minor repairs to the structure using carbon fiber materials. A Boeing Team

including Doug Bailey, Michael Richards, Luis Paredes, and Sam Turk worked together with Rene Alvarez and Gilbert Garcia, the CCAD Composite Shop supervisors, to create a new process so the pod could be repaired while still attached to the fuselage. Additional specialized training was provided to CCAD Composite Shop personnel and the



CCAD artisan Rene Alvarez and Boeing engineer Luis Paredes worked together to streamline repairs made to the IEFAB.

work instructions were updated to reflect the new repair process.

As a result, the Apache Team implemented new repair capabilities reducing the process time required for repairing the IEFAB resulting in a significant decrease in Repair Turn-Around Time (RTAT). Coupled with a reduction in manpower and material cost, CCAD can better support the war fighter.

Working together, Boeing and CCAD continue to make improvements to helicopter overhaul programs at the depot.

2-bedroom homes available on base for single service members and families

Courtesy of South Texas Military Housing

PPV Housing at NAS Corpus Christi presently has a number of vacant two-bedroom townhouse-style units available for immediate occupancy. Although active-duty military with families have priority, applications are currently being accepted from single service members. Military roommates are also welcome to apply.

Flight students have found the location of on base housing to be convenient and cost effective. The base offers amenities such as the gym, commissary and the Exchange. Rent (including utilities) for military with families is equal to the service member's BAH. A fair market rent (which includes utilities) has been established for other eligible applicants.

If you want to live close to work, save on gasoline expenses, and avoid paying high utility bills for an off-base rental, contact the Navy Housing office today at 961-3337 or stop by Building 3600 at the corner of E Street and Dimmit Drive. A copy of orders to the local area and certification of dependents documents will be required.



Several houses on base are open and available for new occupants.



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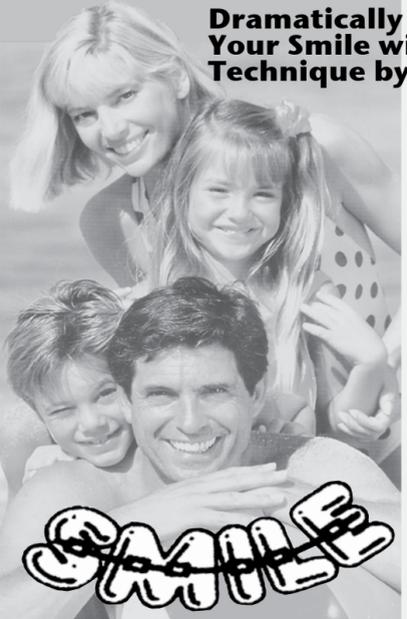


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Ask Dr. Garcia

Q: I'm planning on getting married next summer and our pastor has suggested that we attend premarital counseling. What can you tell me about this premarital counseling stuff?

A: Sounds like beneficial advice from your pastor. Premarital counseling can be viewed as counseling only in the broadest sense of the term. The function remains an advisement and educational intervention designed primarily to provide information typically to a young couple.

The foremost pioneer in the educational approach to premarital development was Ernest R. Groves. In 1924, he instituted a college course at Boston University entitled *Preparation for Marriage and Family Living*.

Another development in premarital counseling was the movement within psychology from an intrapsychic view of problems to a broad look at interpersonal systems and cultural aspects of problem situations. This gave impetus for mental health professionals and pastoral counselors to look more carefully at relationship variables in marriage and marriage preparation.

Beginning in the 1950s, the *Journal of Pastoral Psychology* began to reflect a wider interest in the relationship dimensions of premarital counseling as more articles were devoted to the subject. The increase in the study of pastoral counseling in U.S. seminaries is an indication that religious organizations are expanding their efforts in the interpersonal area. This may explain why your pastor felt it important for both of you to attend premarital counseling sessions together prior to getting married.

Marriage and family counselors are encouraged to assist those planning marriage to realistically appraise the romantic illusions and motivating forces associated with marriage. They can explore psychosocial dimensions of the dynamics of marriage, the process of bonding, and commitment. Additionally, many are aware of the need to explore the family of origin, the grieving process of separation, and saying goodbye.

There is growing evidence that at least some failed relationships result in more constructive second marriages. Counseling after a failed marriage can help the new couple avoid



Garcia

some of the problems that caused their initial marriages to fail. Previously married people would also be expected to have gained insight into the demands that marriage makes and to take a more rational approach to a new relationship.

By now, your probably asking, "Yeah, but is premarital counseling helpful?" The key to the success of premarital counseling is the length of preparatory sessions a couple will need to attend. A study conducted by the Center for Marriage and Family in 1999 showed that one session was not very helpful. Rather, eight to nine sessions appeared to provide optimum results, with more sessions not necessarily being more helpful. These results are consistent with a previous study, which established that 15 percent of respondents who attended only one session reported that marriage preparation definitely helped their marriage. In comparison, 75 percent of individuals who attended seven or more sessions reported that marriage preparation had definitely helped their marriage. The topics rated most helpful in marriage preparation in the Center for Marriage and Family study were collectively labeled the Five C's: communication, commitment, conflict resolution, children, and church. The fifth C, church, was a composite of religion and values within the marriage covenant.

Embrace the advice given to you by your pastor. You and your partner will experience a victorious beginning and a prosperous marriage.

Ruben G. Garcia, Ph.D., is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and co-founder of *The Healing Institute*. Email your questions to Dr. Garcia at: troubadour55@hotmail.com or call (361) 814-4556.



International Christmas Caroling
Saturday, Dec. 15 at 5 p.m.

Enjoy carols from around the world at the Catholic Chapel this Christmas. If you sing or play an instrument and are interested in participating, please call Richard Alegria, Chapel Music Director at (361) 289-3373 or the Chaplain's Office at (361) 961-3751.

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Captain continued from page 2

etery, where many who were killed at Pearl Harbor now lie. It's not often a tourist site for visitors to the island, but if you were to take the time to visit, the surreal beauty of the cemetery can cause a lump in your throat, or a tear in your eye. Like any National Cemetery, it's sacred ground.

Please take a moment to remember Pearl Harbor Day and the men and women that lost their lives. Join me at Sherrill Park on Friday, Dec. 7 to honor the survivors who live here in Corpus Christi.

Now for a more mundane, but still emotional topic - traffic at the Main Gate. From Dec. 8-21, there will be construction in progress as a new barrier system is installed between the Main Gate sentry post and NEX gas station. As you can see, the Inspection Area to the right of the entrance is almost complete. Construction is moving on to another phase with the barrier. Only the new sentry posts, Pass and Tag complex and an actual gate remain.

We planned the barrier construction during the holiday season in the hopes that, with people going out of town for the holidays, this might affect less traffic coming through the gate. Although there will still be a single lane available for entry, I recommend that folks use the Back Gate on Ocean Drive, which will be open from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday during the Main Gate construction period.

I know this will not please everyone, but please bear with us as we strive to make our base a better, more secure area to live and work.

Take care of your families and each other during the holiday season. Enjoy the beauty of South Texas and wherever your travels take you during the holidays. Enjoy the time off, too!

See ya on the beach!

Security continued from page 2

gradually reduce as more and more of us realize the Back Gate is a better option. Get ahead of the game: mark Monday, Dec. 10 on your calendar as a good day to take a morning drive past the bay. I'm marking it as the day I change my voice mail to "I told you so."

Rajotte continued from page 4

up to 16 per year."

Rajotte and Ruiz have also expanded the types of aircraft that the children are able to experience, bringing in everything from B-1s to F-16s and F/A-18s.

Even more, Kingsville and Pensacola got wind of the program's success and started their own versions; PFAD seems to be making some positive waves. And it's certainly not bound to air stations. "This could be Submariner for a Day," said Rajotte.

That kind of thinking and passion for these children earned him the attention and honor of the Corpus Christi under 40. Above all else, however, it's about taking a child and making him or her the focus; the hero.

And in the end, these children, for whom life can be very dismal, have a real hero: the tall, always smiling, wing-wearing pilot who looks like Superman in a green onesie. What must they think when their heads hit the pillow after their day as a Navy pilot? To venture a guess, it probably contains an overwhelming thanks for Lt. Rob Rajotte, George Ruiz, the VT-35 Stingrays and all of the other pilots and people involved.

Navy and civilian health providers triage, stabilize mock disaster victims

by Bill Love, NHCC Public Affairs Officer

The Naval Hospital Corpus Christi Emergency Response Team joined city and county medical professionals in an annual region-wide disaster drill. The scenario was that a tanker truck and tourist bus collided at a congested business intersection on the city's Southside. The resulting complexities of dispensing nearly 100 staged disaster victims to a dozen hospitals in four surrounding counties fell on the shoulders of civilian first responders.

Naval hospital emergency personnel quickly deployed from the base and linked with Kindred Hospital staff on their property. There, they shaped a cordoned decontamination and triage zone located less than a quarter mile from the mishap site.

Hector Bernal, Kindred's Disaster Coordinator, and Chief Hull Technician (SW) Fred Thomas, NHCC Disaster Preparedness Officer, worked in unison for four months planning their respective scenario roles leading to the mock catastrophe.

"Things progressed very well," observed Thomas. "Besides getting 'hands on' experience with our civilian counterparts, we had a chance to smooth out some minor communication wrinkles that occurred during the drill - mostly military civilian terminology differences."

Thomas gave his team's unified efforts high marks for assessing and triaging victims six minutes after they started setting up the bright yellow decontamination (DECON) tent. "It was pretty hectic, but the set-up crew and the triage folks didn't skip a beat."

According to Thomas, under optimum conditions it generally takes eight staff 20 minutes to set up the triage tent. Four Navy and two Kindred personnel donned DECON suits,

approximately a 10-minute process, requiring an assistant to attach masking tape. Lt. Scott McGill, Nurse Corps, and Hospitalman Walter Mackel were the first two military to suit out. Unlike McGill, it was Mackel's first experience.

"It's hot!" Mackel exclaimed, "and you have to get dressed quickly. It's not for someone who's claustrophobic."

McGill and Mackel took turns with two Kindred DECON scrubbers and promptly started scouring victims with long-handled brushes.

Twelve volunteers, students from Texas A & M University Nursing College, role-played the injured for the joint exercise segment. Onsite medical professionals processed each of them twice for assessment, decontamination, triage and stabilization to give everyone sufficient simulation opportunities.

As the wounded arrived, team members performed primary care and stabilized each one. If they required more intense treatment, the patients were shuttled from the cordoned area to a higher level of hospital handling.

Cmdr. Timothy Halenkamp and Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF) Russell Folley worked together to maneuver patients through the tent. Folley and his group outside the tent moved patients via stretchers for escalated hospital care.

Thomas had satisfaction written all over his face as he secured the drill on his Web Emergency Operation Center laptop. "We never slowed down seeing and processing patients," Thomas noted, crediting the cooperative spirit exhibited by the combined civilian and military lineup. "We're ready to take it to the next level, have more [mock] victims and get more proficient."



Lt. Misty Scheel (right), Nurse Corps and Emergency Response Team member, reaches for medical gear to stabilize victims in the triage tent. Civilian medical staff in the background observe, and Navy Corpsmen rush for more patients. NHCC emergency personnel joined city and county medical professionals in an annual region-wide disaster drill involving more than a dozen hospitals in four surrounding counties.

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AROUND THE BASE IN 2007

TAMU-CC gives servicemembers abroad a Merry Christmas



Photo by Barbie Baker, Base Ombudsman

A huge "thank you" to Dr. Karen Middleton's Leadership and Managerial Effectiveness class from TAMU-CC for the 25 Individual Augmentee Holiday Care Packages. These students raised \$1000 to purchase CD's, magazines, batteries, hygiene products, note pads, pens and other items. Their dedication to this project is much appreciated and will definitely bring smiles to our deployed servicemembers fighting the Global War on Terrorism during this holiday season. For more information on this program, or to contribute to Care Packages for the Troops, please contact Barbie Baker, Base Ombudsman at (361) 446-9031 or email mrsbaker@stx.rr.com.

Giving back on Thanksgiving



Photo by Coast Guard Port O'Connor PAO

The men and women of Coast Guard Station Port O'Connor collected more than 1,400 canned goods to be donated to the Calhoun County Ministries food bank.

Teen initiates on-base recycling program



Photo by Amy Rivard

"I've recycled most of my life, so recycling has become a habit," says 16-year-old Kristin Rivard, who started a recycling program for Buckeye Loop here on base. "I collect recycling on Sundays at 3pm. I drop off the aluminum cans to a lady in the RV park. Then I drive to Ropes Park, on Ocean Drive, where a group of people collect glass bottles. Then I drive to the HEB on Alameda and recycle everything else at a trailer in the parking lot." Kristin is recycling aluminum, tin cans, plastic (#1 and #2), paper, and glass (until Dec. 9). So far, she's just working with her neighbors, but hopes to expand recycling throughout the base. "I wouldn't be able to do it by myself, though," she said.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Service members of the Year and Quarter recognized



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Awardees listed by command (*Some not pictured*)
Fleet Readiness Center Mid-Atlantic Site, Corpus Christi
 Senior Sailor of the Quarter: AM1 (AW) Shaun Hura; Petty Officer of the Quarter: AZ2 (AW) Jimmy Salinas

HM-15
 Senior Sailor of the Quarter: AW1 (AW) Jason Pulk; Junior Sailor of the Quarter: AW2 (AW) Aaron Ortiz; Blue Jacket of the Quarter: ADAN (AW) Kristi Rhodes; Senior Selective Reservist of the Quarter: HM1 Adam Moya; Junior Selective Reservist of the Quarter: AD3 Tito Rocha; Blue Jacket Selective Reservist of the Quarter: MNSN Lavar Gabriel

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi
 Senior Sailor of the Quarter: MA1 Damien Holmes; Junior Sailor of the Quarter: ADAN Michael Laeder

Naval Hospital Corpus Christi
 Senior Sailor of the Quarter: PC1 Scott Brandt; Petty Officer of the Quarter: HM2 Ryan Lundeen; Junior Sailor of the Quarter: HN Curtis Jackson

Command PSD Corpus Christi
 Petty Officer of the Quarter: PS2 (AW/SW) Kumash Joshi; Junior Sailor of the Quarter: PSSN Damian Hyman

United States Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi
 Senior Coast Guardsman of the Quarter: AET1 Jason Wilkins; Coast Guardsman of the Quarter: FS2 Daniel Foster; Junior Coast Guardsman of the Quarter: SN Andrew Alvarez

Medelez awarded Bronze Star



Photo by Ensign Katie Inde, Wingspan Contributor

AE3 Perez: A shockingly safe Sailor

by Lt Steven Mason, HM-15 Public Affairs Office



Perez

Every month, HM-15 recognizes Sailors whose attention to detail and assertive attitudes help keep small incidents from becoming big disasters. Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class (AE3) John Perez is one of those Sailors.

AE3 Perez was assisting Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class (AE3) Sierra Dunn working on the MH-53E's Automatic Flight Control System. They were performing voltage checks on the system using a digital multimeter.

As Dunn checked the power across an electrical connector, her hand slipped and contacted the exposed portion of the lead, causing her to receive an electrical shock. Perez instinctively shut down electrical power to the aircraft, preventing serious injury to Dunn.

His quick reaction was indicative of the excellent safety training he received while onboard HM-15. Most importantly, he helped prevent further injury to his shipmate.

Perez recognized an unsafe situation and stopped it from becoming a tragic accident. He sets a fine example for the safety culture of HM-15 and those who follow his example continue to make HM-15 and the Navy a safer place to live and work.

(left) Senior Chief Reynaldo Medelez was presented with the Bronze Star by Captain Tim Coolidge, Commanding Officer of NAS Corpus Christi, on Nov. 19 outside of Building 2. Medelez earned the Bronze Star on July 24 for exceptionally meritorious service as Battle Captain for Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion, 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne) while serving in *Operation Iraqi Freedom*.