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Wingspan

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NMAWC Corpus Christi holds Change of Office

By Ed Mickley, NMAWC PAO



Rear Adm. Loewer

Command of Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command-Corpus Christi will pass from Rear Admiral Deborah A. Loewer to Rear Admiral John A. Christenson today, at 10 a.m., at NMAWC-CC Headquarters, Building 37, aboard NAS Corpus Christi.

Commander, NMAWC is headquartered in San Diego. In addition to headquarters functions, the NMAWC staff in San Diego will con-

tinue to focus on Anti-Submarine Warfare matters. The Commander NMAWC Corpus Christi will serve as Vice Commander and function as the Flag Officer Commanding the Mine Warfare battle staff for planning support, providing technical advice, and conducting mine warfare operations as required in support of the fleet.

Loewer is a native of Springfield, Ohio. Her academic credentials include degrees in Theoretical Mathematics and Computer Science from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and a doctorate in International Law from the University of Kiel in Kiel, Germany.

Loewer graduated from Officer Candidate School and was commissioned an Ensign on Dec. 17, 1976. She reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel (PERS-3) in Washington, D.C., and performed duties as the Navy's Pay and Allowance Functional Manager until March 1979. Selected as one of the first women assigned to shipboard duty, she attended Surface Warfare Officer Basic Course from April to June 1979, graduating first in her class. She reported to *USS Yosemite* (AD-19) and served as Electrical Division Officer, Operations Officer, Navigator and Administrative Officer.

Loewer served for several months on the staff of the Commander of Naval Surface Force

Atlantic as design architect for shipboard computer systems. In November 1982, she returned to Washington, D.C., as a telecommunications design engineer in the Decisions Support Systems Division (NMPC 164) at the Naval Military Personnel Command.

Following selection as an Olmsted Scholar, Loewer attended the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., and the Goethe Institute in Stuttgart, Germany, from January to September 1984. She then commenced her studies at the University of Kiel in Kiel, Germany, and received her doctorate in International Law in Oct. 1986. Returning to the United States, she attended Surface Warfare Officer Department Head School, again graduating first in her class.

Loewer reported to *USS Yellowstone* (AD-41) in July 1987 and served as Engineer and Executive Officer. In February 1990, she reported to *USS Monongahela* (AO-178) and served as Executive Officer. In October 1991, Rear Adm. Loewer returned to Washington, D.C., for duty on the Navy Staff as a long range strategic planner in the Strategic Concepts Branch (N513).

From November 1993 to August 1995, she commanded *USS Mount Baker* (AE-34). Returning to Washington, Rear Adm. Loewer

served as the military assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense from August 1995 until January 1997 and as the military assistant to the Secretary of Defense from January 1997 until July 1998. From December 1998 to July 2000, Rear Adm. Loewer commanded *USS Camden* (AOE-2). In September 2000, she returned to Washington and a reprise tour of duty as the military assistant to the Secretary of Defense. In May 2001, she assumed duties as Director, White House Situation Room and Director, Systems and Technical Planning Staff. From July 2003 to January 2005, Loewer served as Vice Commander, Military Sealift Command.

Loewer assumed command of the Mine Warfare Command on January 13, 2005. Rear Admiral John N. Christenson was born in Carmel, Ca. He is the fourth of the six sons of Captain Donald A. Christenson, USN (Ret) a Navy A-1 Sky raider Pilot, and the late Joanne Logue Christenson, a former Navy Nurse. He entered the United States Naval Academy in July 1977 and commissioned an Ensign in May 1981.

An interview and his biography will be in a following issue of the *Wingspan*. Fair Winds and Following Sea to Rear Admiral Loewer, and Congratulations and Welcome Aboard to Rear Admiral Christenson.

This is more than a gathering, it's a Birthday Ball!

Story and photos by Bob Torres



Commander Al Miller, the oldest Sailor present at the 231st Navy Ball, gets the first piece of cake, during the traditional Birthday ceremony.

More than 600 guests attended the 231st Navy Birthday Ball at the Omni Bayfront Hotel, Oct. 14.

Although the weather began wet and windy, it didn't deter Sailors and their ladies from gathering for the event.

Evening Mess Dress uniforms, tuxedos and Dress Whites joined with a kaleidoscope of evening dresses and just a host of pretty women for the evening.

There was a no-host bar setup prior to entering the Ballroom, but at around 6:30 p.m.,



A "toast" to the US Navy brought smiles and "Hear, Hear's," from the assembled audience at the Omni Hotel, Oct. 14

Sailors and their guests began taking their seats. At 6:45, a bagpiper "piped" the Official Party to their seats, circled the dance floor and departed. Moments later, the Color Guard, comprised of American Flag carrier, PSSN Albert Mitchell; Navy Flag carrier, CS3 Darion Price;

and Rifle bearers, PS2 Julie Britman and AM3 Ronald Jones made their presence known to the center of the room.

Navy Ball continued on page 11

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From The Skipper

Where were you when the lights went out?

By Capt. T.E. Coolidge

Well I hope that those who attended the 231st Navy Birthday Ball at the Omni Bayfront Hotel had as much fun as I did! For those of you who were there, you saw what kind of time I was having. There's just something about dressing up and taking my wife out to celebrate with a bunch of good folks!



Coolidge

I saw some sharp-looking Sailors at the Ball. The pride and camaraderie were showing well that night! The guests were looking good, too. Their presence really made the night special!

For those that didn't attend, think about it for next year. Teresa (my wife) and I intend on going and having another great time!

This year the Command Master Chief, Mike Cisneros, was worried. Not about tick-

ets sales, though. This year people were contacted early and ticket sales were brisk. In fact, we sold out! No, what the CMC was concerned about was possibly being part of one of the Navy's traditions. As part of the ceremony, the oldest and youngest active duty Sailors are identified and called front and center by the Birthday Cake. CMC was going to be the "old guy" until Commander Al Miller of HM-15 stepped forward to reveal his age and length of service. CMC was extremely relieved to know that he wasn't the oldest Sailor present! The CMC did tell us all that this will be his last Navy Birthday while on active duty. But that's another story.

There are a lot of people to thank for making this such a wonderful event. I know I can't name them all but there was a joint Birthday Ball committee comprised of our Morale, Welfare and Recreation gang, and their counterparts NS Ingleside. Among them were Tom Hudson, Dora Thomas, Laurie Garcia, Monica Zamorano, George Beyluni, John Frisco, Magaly Griffis and Jeanette Lowrance.

They met with people from the Omni, set

the layout, ordered the food, set up the presentation area...and a whole lot more that even I don't know about. An amazing feat that made the party happen for the more than 600 people that attended. I can't tell you how many hours they spent getting this done, but I didn't hear any complaints and the smiles I saw on people's faces told me that I wasn't the only one having a good time.

We didn't have a high-powered speaker, so Captain Tim Watkins (CO, NS Ingleside), the CMC and I decided we'd do it ourselves. I did read birthday messages from SECNAV and the CNO as well as a letter from Congressman Solomon Ortiz and a proclamation from Mayor Henry Garrett honoring Oct.14-21, 2006, as "Navy Week in Corpus Christi." I read those to show that there are other people who know and appreciate what we do and wanted to share their thoughts about how important you are in the grand scheme of protecting and serving our country.

Now, right around the corner, we'll be

Captain continued on page 10

Chaplain's Column

Gods love for us

By Chaplain Chin Van Dang

After a few of the usual Sunday evening hymns, the pastor slowly stood up, walked to the pulpit and, before he gave his sermon for the evening, briefly introduced a guest minister. In the introduction, the pastor told the congregation that the guest minister was one of his dearest childhood friends and that he wanted him to have a few moments to greet the congregation and share whatever he felt would be appropriate for the service. With that, an elderly guest minister stepped up to the pulpit and began to speak.

"A father, his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific coast when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to the shore. The waves were so high that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright and the three were swept into the ocean as the boat capsized.

Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to

make the most excruciating decision of his life: To which boy would he throw the other end of the life line. He only had seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision would not be matched by the torrent of waves. As the father yelled out, "I love you, son!" he threw out the life line to his son's friend. By the time the father had pulled his son's friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beneath the raging swells into the black of night. His body was never recovered.

"How great is the love of God that he should do the same for us." The guest minister said, "I urge you to accept his offer to rescue you and take a hold of the life line he is throwing out to you." With that, the guest minister turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the church.

After the service, two young men approached the guest minister. "That was a nice story," said one of them politely, "but I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give

up his only son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."

"Well, you've got a point there," the old minister replied glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face. He once again looked up at two young men and said, "Its sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I was that father and your pastor is my son's friend."

God's love for us is immeasurable! And He invites us: "Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; There is no other!" He is good to all and has compassion on all he has made. He offers help to the hopeless and assurance to those who respond to his call.



Dang

Health Watch

A Cure for Cervical Cancer?

By Lt. Wayne Murphy, MD

You may have recently heard about a new vaccine which targets the Human Papillomavirus or HPV. This new vaccine called Gardasil was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in early June. Why all the excitement you may ask? Because it has the potential to dramatically decrease the chances of a woman developing cervical cancer, a disease which is expected to claim the lives of nearly 4,000 women this year alone. The American Cancer Society even called it "one of the most important advances in women's



Murphy

health in recent years."

HPV is spread by both men and women during sexual contact and is the most common sexually transmitted disease. In fact, some 20 million people are currently infected with HPV and more than half of those who are sexually active will be infected at some point. Most people who become infected will not have any symptoms and the infection quickly clears. However, in some individuals, HPV causes genital warts and cervical as well as other female cancers. Rarely, HPV can also cause cancer in males.

The vaccine is purported to protect against the four different strains of HPV which cause the majority of cervical cancers and genital warts. Currently, it is only approved for females; however a clinical trial evaluating its potential use in males is underway. So far the vaccine has proven to be extremely effective. In fact, studies have shown it to be 100 percent effective in preventing infection with

the HPV-16 and HPV-18 strains, which are most commonly linked to cervical cancer. Just as important, the vaccine appears to be very safe. One possible reason for this is because the vaccine is not a live virus, but instead contains only virus-like particles which stimulate our bodies to develop immunity to the real virus.

While the vaccine is very promising, it will not protect against every HPV strain and therefore can't prevent all cervical cancers and genital warts. With approximately 100 different strains it is difficult to protect against all of them. Additionally, it will not protect people who are already infected with HPV. For this reason it is important that females continue to get annual pap smears to screen for cervical cancer and always practice protective sexual behaviors. It is also not clear

Health continued on page 10

Wingspan

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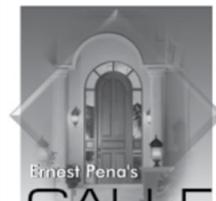
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Station Spotlight



HM1 Peter Raisenen NASCC Naval Hospital, Physical Therapy

Hospital Corpsman Peter Raisenen, a native of Fort Bragg, Calif., is currently stationed at Naval Hospital Corpus Christi as a Physical Therapy technician. Raisenen's former assignment was at the Naval Ambulatory Care Clinic in Newport, RI. He recently returned from deployment. Raisenen has served proudly since February 1994, and has been a Physical Therapist since October 1996. "What I like most about my job is that I have a chance to interact with patients, and allows me the opportunity to make both and immediate and long term impact on peoples lives." Said Raisenen. "I do plan on staying in for my full 20 years. I am hoping to put on chief within the next two years; I am also going to pursue a commission." One of Raisenen's hobbies includes downhill skiing. Above you can see Raisenen training Physical Therapy Assistant Mary Davis from Del Mar College. (Photos By LI2 Paul Hewitt)

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Cassidy

What is the Board for Correction of Naval Records?

By Lt. Heather Cassidy, NLSO Central, BROFF Corpus Christi

The Hypothetical Situation

Consider this hypothetical situation: Applicant served 29 years in Reserve Component valid for non-regular retirement. He never received his 20 year letter. He last performed service in 1981. He never requested retirement, but is now 70 years old and he requests non-regular retirement retroactive to 1992 when he turned 60. Can the BCNR grant the service member the retroactive retirement pay? As we lawyers like to say: it depends. Read on to learn more about what the BCNR can and cannot do to assist this individual.

What is the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR)?

The BCNR was created by Congress in 1946 for Navy and Marine Corps members and is codified in 10 U.S.C. 1552, which allows the Secretary of the Navy to correct a service member's record when "necessary to correct an error or remove an injustice." Each branch of military service has its own Board for Corrections.

What are errors and injustices?

The member must demonstrate that their military record contains an error or injustice. An error is any factual or legal error in a service member's record. An injustice is can include a wide range of issues. Basically, an injustice is something that happens to a service member that "just isn't fair". However, a service member must provide evidence in support of any claim, usually in the form of documented evidence of the alleged error or injustice.

What parts of the record can the Board change?

The board has general power to make revisions to a service member's record, including but not limited to errors or injustices regarding awards, separations, promotions, retirements, disabilities, evaluation reports, pay, allowances, survivor benefits, homes of record, titling decisions, clemency petitions and memoranda of reprimand. Military records *do not* include civilian employment matters, non-DoD records and for one service board, the records of another service.

When can a Service member apply to the BCNR?

Before an application to the BCNR is proper, the service member must first exhaust all administrative resources. Determining whether all administrative resources have been exhausted depends on what kind of correction the service member desires. For example, if a service member wishes to dispute his or her discharge from the Navy, they must first go to the Naval Discharge Review Board

Legal Corner

(NDRB). Only after the NDRB makes a decision, can the service member submit the issue to the BCNR. Effectively, the service member must determine what steps can be taken administratively to resolve the issue with the military record before applying to the BCNR.

How does the Service member apply to the BCNR?

Any applicant should read over the instructions which can be found at <http://neds.daps.dla.mil/directives/s5420193.pdf>. This link includes all necessary forms and an "Applicant's Guide" (enclosure 3) which should be thoroughly read by all applicants. In general, an applicant must submit a signed DD form 149, Application for Correction of Military Records, to BCNR. An applicant's claim must also satisfy the BCNR's statute of limitations.

There are two statute of limitations that serve to bar the applicant from submitting an application if they apply outside the prescribed time frame.

The first statute of limitations (10 U.S.C. 1552(b)) allows the service member three years to file an application after *discovery* of the injustice or error. This time limitation can be *waived*, however, in the interest of justice.

The second statute of limitations (31 U.S.C. 3702) bars the retroactive payment of benefits unless the claim for payment is received within six years of accrual of the claim. This means that if the correction sought by the service member involves a claim for payment of benefits, the application must be submitted within six years of accrual of the claim.

If a service member is deceased, incapacitated or whereabouts unknown, the service member's spouse, parent, heir or legal representative may apply as long as the applicant can show that he or she is entitled to apply on behalf of the service member by submitting proper documentation.

What happens after I apply?

While most applicants represent themselves, private attorneys are sometimes used in factually complex cases at the expense of the applicants. The applicant may seek assistance from national organizations, including the American Legion, VFW, Disabled American Veterans, and Order of the Purple Heart.

There are two steps involved in processing BCNR applications. Step one, the application is reviewed to determine if the problems can be resolved by other administrative means. An advisory opinion may be obtained from other naval authorizes to assist in the approved/denied determination. In the case that an advisory opinion recommends denial

Legal continued on page 6

MWR continued from page 12

sauce, fluffy whipped potatoes, honey glazed yams, Italian mixed vegetables, bread pudding, pumpkin, pecan and mincemeat pies, ice tea, coffee and a complimentary glass of champagne or bloody Mary or fountain soda. Price for members is \$14.95 and \$15.95 for non-members, \$6 for children 3 to 10 and free for children under 3 years old. Reservations are required.

Reminder: The Club will be CLOSED on November 10 in observance of the Veteran's Day federal holiday. The Club will also be closed on Nov. 24.

For more information, please call The Club at 961-2541.

Holiday Parties: The holidays are right around the corner. Start planning your party, but let the Corpus Christi Bay Club take care of your catering needs. Deliveries for home and office on base and full catering at The Club and The Recreation Center are available. For more information call The Club today.

For more information, please call the Corpus Christi Bay Club.

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Hours of Operation: The ITT office is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located on the Westside entrance of Building 39.

Lighthouse Lanes

Plan your Holiday Party at Lighthouse Lanes. For \$2 you get shoe rental and all the bowling you can for 4 hours. Please call 961-3805 for time and date availability.

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MWR News and Events

By Laurie Garcia, NAS MWR

Aquatic News

The Oasis Pool is open for lap swim. The hours of operation for the Oasis Pool are as follows:
 Sunday and Monday
 CLOSED
 Tuesday thru Friday 6 a.m. – 8 p.m., 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
 Saturday 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 The Oasis Pool will be closing November 15, weather permitting.
 If you need a PT, PRT, or swim test after the pool closes, you can make an appointment with the Aquatics Director, Earl Olsen, at 961-3260.

Corpus Christi Bay Club

Special Events for October:
Oct 27: Mongolian BBQ
 The Holiday Season is approaching fast and our catering department is here to do all the work so you can enjoy your holiday parties. The Club provides take-outs and deliveries for your office and; home holiday parties and full catering at The Bay Club and The Gulfstream Recreation Center. The Club also has the

following specials and events planned for November.
Specials for November:
Nov 3: Shrimp A Peel \$15.95
Nov 4: Medallions of Beef Bernaise \$17.95
Nov 11: Surf n' Turf \$17.95
Nov 18: Chateaubriand Flambe For Two \$35.95
Nov 25: Seafood Platter \$16.95
 All the above specials are served along with the A La Carte from 5 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Prices are for club members. An additional \$1 per person is added for non-members. Salad, ice tea or coffee is included with all the meals. Reservations are required for the specials in order to serve you better.
Special Events for November:
Nov 9: Winging Designation Ceremonies will be held in the main ballroom at 4 p.m.
Nov 23: Traditional Thanksgiving Buffet is scheduled to be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with our "Bountiful Menu" including corn chowder and French onion soups, fresh garden salad, waldorf salad, roast turkey with dressing and giblet gravy, baked ham with fruit
MWR continued on page 13

NASCC Coast Guard medevac fisherman

By Lt. Lane Steffenhagen



The pilot and crew of an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas, lowers a rescue swimmer in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. (Photo by PA2 Adam Eggers)

The Coast Guard medevaced a fisherman suffering from an allergic reaction; off the fishing boat *Scatterbrain* on Sept. 7, approximately 35 miles south of Port O'Connor, Texas.
 A watch stander from Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi received the call from the crew of the 68-foot fishing boat at 8:09 p.m., reporting that a 54-year-old male crewmember was having difficulty breathing. The crewmember had taken medications that were not prescribed to him without knowing how the medications would affect him, he had an allergic reaction.
 An HH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopter crew from Air Station Corpus Christi was launched to provide assistance. The rescue helicopter crew arrived on scene, hoisted the man and transported him to Spohn Memorial Hospital in Corpus Christi for treatment. While transporting the man it was noted that he was covered in hives.

Marine Corps Birthday Ball Tickets on Sale Now



The Marine Corps' 231st Birthday Ball celebration will be held at the Omni Bayfront Hotel on Saturday, November 4. The festivities will begin at 6 p.m. until 1 a.m. Tickets can be purchased from MATSG-22's Training Office located in Bldg#3, 2nd deck until November 1. Limited tickets are still available.

ALL OFFICERS/CIVILIANS	\$55
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SGT AND BELOW TICKETS (E-1 – E-5)	\$40

The point of contact at this command is MGySgt P. A. Torres at DSN 861-1307 or Commercial (361) 961-1307.

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"A" PLUS PREPARATION COURSE
 Tuesday's and Thursday's, 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM (10 weeks) CET 100 – "A" PLUS PREPARATION COURSE: 80 clock hours, 5 credit hours. 10 Jan 06 – 16 Mar 06. The course is designed to provide students with in-depth understanding of the operation and basic maintenance of personal computers and various PC operating systems with emphasis placed on DOS and Windows 95/98NT/2000. Students are instructed in the methods and procedures required to upgrade, maintain and repair personal computers. Emphasis is placed on the use of diagnostic software, memory expansion, and hard drive replacement. Laboratory activities include upgrade and maintenance of PC systems. Room215. Instructor: TBD
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 Monday and Wednesday, 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM (5 weeks course) CET 108 – FIBER OPTICS DESIGNER: 40 clock hours, 2 credit hours. 13 Feb – 15 Mar 06. This new course will provide an in-depth knowledge of optical local area networks. This course covers all aspects of a successful fiber optic system design from network protocols, network configurations, optical cabling, industry communications standards, determination of fiber count, hardware selection, splicing/termination methods, and cable system testing and documentation. All that is learned in class is put into practice through multiple and intensive case studies. Room211. Instructor: Mr. Tim Erickson.
FIBER OPTICS INSTALLER COURSE BY ETA
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Legal continued from page 4

of an application, the application has 30 days to respond. The BCNR is not required to follow the recommendations of an advisory board.

Step two, if there are no other administrative means available to resolve the issue, the application is processed by the BCNR staff for presentation to the Board. The Board will review the application, and based on the evidence the Board will decide to either deny the application, grant the application in whole or part, or recommend that a formal hearing be held. The applicant does not appear personally in front of the board in this "executive session" except in unusual cases. The recommendation of the BCNR must be approved by the Secretary of the Navy before any corrections are made. On average, it takes approximately six months to process a case. In addition, each applicant is entitled to have the decision reconsidered by the BCNR if the applicant obtains important new evidence, if there was a mistake of law, or if there was a mathematical miscalculation. Furthermore, the BCNR can reopen final decisions in rare circumstances. The bases for reopening include: a valid reconsideration request that demonstrates substantial new evidence, a mistake of law, or a mathematical miscalculation, or evidence of fraud.

Common Bases for Denial

The BCNR commonly denies applications for failure to meet eligibility requirements. The most common denials are for: record is not a department record, failure to exhaust remedies,

effective relief cannot be granted, failure to meet burden of proof, if the request is a reconsideration request, if there is no new evidence or the request is untimely, and the application falls outside the statute of limitations and it is not in the interest of justice to waive the limitation. The BCNR is subject to other limitations, and upon application the service member will learn if they apply to his or her situation. For example, the BCNR cannot overturn a courts-martial conviction that was tried or reviewed under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), but can upgrade the discharge that was part of the sentence.

What about our Hypothetical?

A statute of limitations bar may exist to the applicant because more than three years have passed since discovery of the error or injustice. However, the BCNR has discretion to determine whether injustice warrants waiving the statute of limitations bar. Arguably, the service member has the obligation to apply for retirement, but in this case, the military committed the original error by not giving the member his 20 year letter. In equity, the BCNR has, and may exercise, the authority to fix this problem and grant the back pay, because the original error was made by the military.

How do I contact the BCNR?

An applicant should contact the BCNR with any questions he or she may have. After an application is complete, the applicant may mail or fax the application to the Board.

If you have additional questions regarding BCNR, please contact the Naval Legal Services Office at 361-961-3765.

The Legend Behind Jackolanterns

By LI2 Paul Hewitt



The history of the Jackolantern can be traced back to Irish folklore with a story of stingy Jack. Jack was an Irish blacksmith who had the misfortune of running into the Devil in a pub on Halloween. Jack had drunk a bit too much that evening and was about to fall prey to the Devil, but Jack was crafty and with quick thinking the trickster made a bargain with the Devil. In exchange for one last drink, Jack offered the devil his soul. The Devil changed into a coin to make payment to the bartender, but Jack pocketed the coin in a bag with a silver cross with the knowledge that the Devil couldn't revert into his original form. Once trapped in Jack's purse, the Devil agreed not to come for Jack's soul for another 10 years.

Ten years later, the Devil came across Jack walking on a country road and explained to him that he was there to collect Jack's soul. Not yet ready to go, Jack, pretending to comply, asked the Devil if he would climb an apple tree first and give him an apple. The Devil, thinking he had nothing to lose, climbed the

tree, but as he was plucking the requested apple, Jack pulled out his knife and carved the sign of the cross into the tree. The Devil was unable to come back down and Jack made another agreement for his soul. The Devil had agreed upon Jack's wishes that he would never take his soul.

Years later, Jack had died. He went to Heaven, but he was not permitted to enter the Pearly Gates due to his drinking, tricking, and horrid ways. He then went to Hell, but was denied there as well because the Devil had remembered his promise and planned on keeping it. Jack asked, "But where am I to go?" And the Devil replied, "Back to where you came from."

The way back was dark and windy, so Jack pleaded with the Devil to at least grant him light in which to find his way. The Devil, in a un-Devil kind-like manner, tossed Jack an ember from the fires of Hell. Jack placed the ember in a turnip he'd been eating and left Hell to find his way back.

The fear of souls like Jack's venturing back to the warmth of their previous homes on Halloween created a custom that is carried on today. Originally, Irish villagers, concerned about the possibility of visits from past occupants, would dress in costume to frighten away ghosts. They also left food outside the door to appease the spirits and carved or painted faces on turnips, potatoes, rutabagas, or beets to place in windows or doors in order to chase away ghosts with the symbol of a damned soul. The Irish discovered that turnips were not easily available in America and substituted the vegetable with pumpkins instead.

Loewer continued from page 6

Council staff," said Loewer, relaxing with a smile. "It was April 2001, I'm very proud of that. I studied hard and learned everything I could about the NSC. I worked very hard to obtain that job, and I worked very hard at the job. My job was to ensure that the President and Dr. Rice were kept apprised of any issue that affected our National Security. I learned a lot while serving for Dr. Rice. My job at the White House was probably the most significant position in which I have ever served. The job title – Director, the White House Situation Room. All the things that happened to our Nation from April 2001 to June 2002. I observed up close and personal. And I was blessed to be there, at that level of government, during those events."

And Faith has played a dominate role in Rear Admiral Loewer's life and career.

"God has blessed me by putting me in a lot of places," she reflected. "You couldn't do what I've done in 30 years, in isolated, lonely positions, either by yourself on holidays, in my stateroom on a ship, or behind this desk – without Faith. And, I believe my Faith has guided me. My ability to pray and to listen, and being able to hear the response back, and follow it has been a key to my success. Someone many years ago said that being in command is a very, very lonely place. That person was not wrong. Command can be a very lonely place. But, if you have God in your life and you know how to listen, you have great confidence in your ability to do the right thing."

Like Dr Condoleezza Rice, the Admiral does other things to release the stress of the daily grind. "I enjoy running," she said, as she leaned back and reflected on the joy of running. "I solve problems when I run. My body is running, and my brain is free to think about things. So I find I do tend to solve serious issues as I run."

Another form of relaxation is reading, or watching Nature through a window in her home on Corpus Christi Bay. "I especially enjoyed this morning; getting up and watching the northwest wind blowing the waves across Corpus Christi Bay," she said. "That's a phenomenal sight – the power and magnitude of the strength in the wind and waves is awesome and inspiring at the same time!"

"I'm going to miss Corpus Christi," she reflected. "Corpus Christi is a wonderful place to live. And the people here are fantastic. This is a very patriotic, and a very service-oriented community. I have felt most welcome here. It will bring a real tear to my eye when I have to drive away and head north."



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You need to contact the MWR/ITT office and register each month. The Registration fee is \$20 per month. If you place your vehicle or sale item prior to registering with the MWR Office, the Abandoned Vehicle Officer will be notified and your vehicle/sale item will be towed at your expense. For more information, please contact ITT at 961-3961.

Captain continued from page 2

celebrating with ghouls and goblins as we prepare for Halloween. Please celebrate this holiday with care and pay particular attention to the little "ghosts and goblins" that will be out in the evening demonstrating their tricks and collecting treats.

As you have observed, it's getting late earlier and getting lighter later (did I say that right?). We'll be going into Daylight Standard Time by the end of the month ("spring forward, fall back").

See ya on the beach!

Health continued from page 2

how long the immunity provided by the vaccine will last. Studies have demonstrated it to be effective for at least five years; however the endpoint of protection is not yet known.

The vaccine against HPV offers tremendous potential for preventing both cervical cancer and genital warts in females and so far all indications are that it is safe and well tolerated. It is currently recommended for females aged 9-26 years old and is most effective when given before the onset of sexual activity. However, it is not for everyone. Talk with your doctor today to see if it is right for you or your family. For more information on this subject go to <http://www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV-vaccine.htm>

Navy Ball continued from page 1

As the Master of Ceremonies, Command Master Chief Mike Cisneros, asked the assembled guests to rise, AC3 Latoya Clark sang the National Anthem. Once guests took their seats, the program began.

Commanding Officer Tim Coolidge read messages from dignitaries, addressed to the navy Birthday, MNCS Chris Paul Reynolds participated in addressing a special table set aside for those "missing" from the night's program and the significance of everything on the table; including a Bible, place setting, upside-down glass, salt, lemon and a rose.

Special guests were presented, and a cake for the Air Force, Coast Guard, and Army were pointed out, before the official cake for the Navy Birthday Ball was rolled out.

Again, according to tradition, the oldest and youngest Sailor came forward, in this case, Commander Allen Miller, and PSSN Albert Lewis, respectively received the first pieces of cake. This represents those that came before, and those that will serve in the Navy's future.

As Chaplain Chin Dang gave the benediction, and meals were wheeled out to individual tables, more frivolity and cheer began. The dance floor was soon crowded as Sailors and their guests – enjoyed a Navy Birthday!

RDML D. A. Loewer relinquishes command

'My accomplishments – have been the accomplishments of the Navy'

By Bob Torres



Rear Admiral Deborah A. Loewer displays roses she received celebrating the US Navy's 231st Birthday, Oct. 13.

Today Rear Admiral Loewer passes command of the Naval Mine and Anti-submarine Warfare Command, Corpus Christi to RDML John Christenson. Additionally, today is the day that Admiral Loewer begins her transition to civilian attire after more than 30 years of naval service. She'll soon be leaving for Washington, DC, to serve once again as a "public servant."

"Someone asked me what I want to do as I retire," said Loewer, with steel shining through her blue eyes. "I want to serve in a position of consequence. I've heard people say, 'I'm going to be a greeter at Wal-Mart.' Or, 'I'm going to be a contractor inside the Beltway.' I don't want to do any of that.

"There's not enough time in my life to get everything done that I want to get done," she continued. "I have a deep passion to make a difference with everything that I do."

For someone who helped push the door open for other women to follow, in the male-dominated military, Loewer holds few regrets about her service.

"My accomplishments have been the accomplishments of the Navy," said Loewer, leaning forward to emphasize her statement. "I have helped by pushing the door open just a little bit further, so that today women in the Navy can serve anywhere and in any position in which they want to serve. And the reassurance that progress for women has gone well is that for years, I could go aboard

a ship and I was the only woman onboard. This has been a 30 year journey for me. When I first served at sea, women served onboard ships that were predominantly male and there were perhaps two or four women onboard. Today you would be hard-pressed to find a ship on the waterfront with no women on board. I'm proud to have been a part of this seminal change in our Navy."

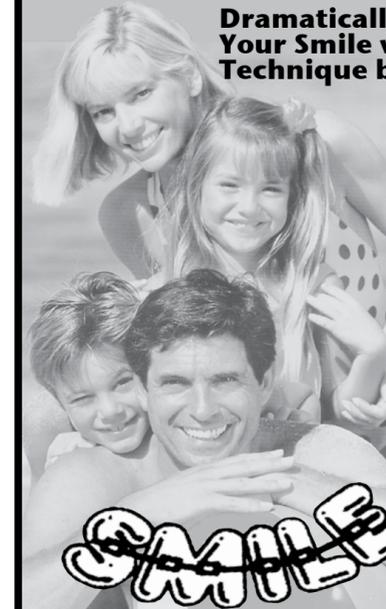
She further amplified what she considered was the role she played during the past three decades. "The Navy can be proud that it has been the leader in the integration of women throughout all sectors of the naval service. The Navy has led the other services, we've been far ahead of them, and certainly the Surface Warfare community has led within the larger Navy community. It's something that we can and should be very proud of and we should celebrate that. The CNO, Admiral Mike Mullen, is pushing very hard to build a diverse force. That's exactly the right thing to do; but, I would also assert that the Surface Warfare community has been working this issue for quite some time."

There have been parallels between her career and the career of Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, for whom Loewer worked during her time at the White House.

"I was the first person who Dr. Rice hired at the White House, for the National Security

Loewer continued on page 11

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AROUND THE BASE

“What is your favorite Halloween tradition?”



AN Jose Serna
HM-15/SUP

AN Virginia Austin
HM-15/300 DIV

Senior Airman Dave Powell
Air Force, VT-31/OPS

ATAA Marina Myers
HM-15/SUP

“I enjoy dressing like my favorite anime character.”

“The best part of halloween is eating the candy.”

“Definitely watching horror movies.”

“I always look forward to costume parties.”

An Insane Asylum Adult Halloween Party

The Gonzalez Liberty Center will be hosting its own quiet little asylum. It has gone quite mad and some of our employees have gone missing, so enter at your own risk. The maddest doctor of them all invites you to an insane gathering of souls.

Join him as he walks you through a holding cell, a gory mortuary, but stand back from the electric chair, lest you get electrocuted. Enjoy a buffet of bat wings, fried eyeballs, cauterized fingers, dead man's ears, and other terrifying delicacies as well as house beverages sure to put your hair on end. Our mad scientist will be serving up your favorite adult beverages in the la-Bar-tory and is available to anyone 21 & up with proper ID.

Enter any of the many ghoulish contests and win prizes. So come dressed in your best costume to enter the Costume Contest and enjoy a night of insanity, tricks, treats and all around frightening fun. The fun starts on Oct. 28th, at 6 p.m. and ends at Midnight. You must be 18 years or older to attend. For more information, please call 361-961-3768.

Pilot For A Day



This month's PFAD is Jacqueline “Jackie” Black. She is diagnosed with Anaplastic Astrocytoma Brain Cancer. She is seven-years-old and her hometown is right here in Corpus Christi. She was accompanied by her mother, Barbara, Daniel (brother), and cousin Andrew Canales. She is seen above wearing her Firefighter helmet with joy. (Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NAVY

CDC celebrates the Navy's Birthday



The Child Development Center hosted a Birthday celebration for the Navy where the children sang the National Anthem as well as Anchors Aweigh, the United States Navy's Anthem. On the left you can see Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's Executive Officer Cmdr. Bo Lankford getting a helping hand from some of the children at the CDC while they cut the birthday cake. Representing the present Navy, is Cmdr. Lankford and representing the future of the Navy, are the children as they cut the cake so it may be shared amongst the CDC. On the Right you will see Cmdr. Lankford standing proudly with some of the children at the CDC just after singing Anchors Aweigh. (Photos by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

Last Buck Night at the GLC



It has been another fun-filled day at the Gonzalez Liberty Center, as single sailors came in to enjoy massive amounts of fun, entertainment, and free food. (Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)

Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal



Lt. Brent Simmons receives the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal from Capt. Tim Coolidge, during a ceremony, Oct. 11, in Building 2. Simmons received the medal for his service while serving in Afghanistan. (Photo by LI2 Paul Hewitt)