

# WINGSPAN



Vol. 19, No. 14

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

July 11, 2013



## Master Gunnery Sergeant Libby: 30 Years a Marine

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## Aleman Retires with 40 Years Civil Service

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## NHCCC's Newest Senior Chief

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## Navy Wounded, Ill & Injured Warriors Annex opens at Joint Base San Antonio



Joined by Capt. Jimmy Bradley, commanding officer, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi (center right) and fellow Navy leadership, Rear Adm. William Roberts, (center) cuts the ribbon during a ceremony officially opening the Wounded, Ill & Injured Annex at the Navy Operational Support Center in San Antonio. The annex is a detachment of the NHCCC.

Story & photo by MC2 Leslie A. Shively, JBSA PA

Caring for Sailors and their families was the focus of nearly 100 people who gathered June 25 at the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) San Antonio to celebrate the official opening of the Wounded, Ill & Injured Warriors Annex with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of the spaces.

The annex supports Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard service members with traumatic injury and illness during their treatment and recovery at the San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"We owe it to our shipmates and all wounded warriors, who have sacrificed so much and who have given their all for us, to provide them the best possible care and help them put their lives back together," said Rear Adm. William Roberts, commandant, Medical Education and Training Campus (METC), during his keynote presentation at the ceremony.

Roberts pointed out that fewer than 1 percent of Americans are *Wounded continued on page 6*

## West Point internship program comes to CCAD

by Brigitte Rox, CCAD PA

West Point cadets are swapping the classroom for the shop floor at the Corpus Christi Army Depot.

The United States Military Academy sends West Point cadets studying systems engineering around the globe each summer to work with industry, Department of Defense, government, and academia for three weeks through the Advanced Individual Academic Development (AIAD) program.

While the program has been around for some time, 2013 is the first time it has come to CCAD.

CCAD is the industrial depot responsible for the repair, manufacture, and overhaul of joint rotary wing aircraft – the very helicopters warfighters rely on in the field.

"I was the first one to take part in this internship [at CCAD]," said Cadet Jed Lee, who interned at the depot in June.

"This is a growing program we're still trying to develop and it's already improving."

Also interning was Cadet Elizabeth O'Donnell, a 20-year-old aspiring pilot.

"They wanted us to see real-world systems like CCAD and try to apply what we learned in our studies and classes," she said.

"I wanted to get a real life experience and apply engineering to it. I didn't really know what CCAD was, so I wanted to learn more about that. I want to learn more about aviation in general."

*Interns continued on page 5*



West Point Cadet and aspiring pilot Elizabeth O'Donnell wraps up her Systems Engineering internship by briefing CCAD leadership.

Photo by Kiana Allen, CCAD PA

## Skipper's Column

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Edgecomb

Summer is in full swing here in South Texas, and I'd like to remind you about some of the recreational opportunities we have right here on the Air Station.

If you are a golfer, you probably already know about the improvements to

the Gulf Winds Golf Course made over the last year or so. But if you haven't experienced them, you should give it a try – greens fees are competitive with other area courses and there rarely are long waits for a tee time.

If you're more inclined for indoor sports,

check out the Lighthouse Lanes for bowling at a reasonable price.

But what I'd really like to talk about is all the things offered by our Outdoor Recreation Adventure Center (ORAC) and Marina.

You probably know that we now have a two vehicle boat ramp, thanks in large part to Navy SeaBees. Use of the ramp is free.

But you may not know about all the other things ORAC has to offer.

Want to try your luck fishing off one of our piers? ORAC can rent you rod and reel, net and bait bucket. They can sell you artificial lures and frozen bait.

All you need to bring is your state fishing license.

If you want to fish a little further out, ORAC can rent you a kayak or canoe. Or you can rent one of their six 18-foot Sea Hunt fishing boats, with all the appropriate safety gear.

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## On-base Recreational Options

Boater's Education certificate – which you can get from a free online course at <http://www.boatus.org/onlinecourse/Texas.asp>.

ORAC also has sailboats; for those, you need a training certificate from a school or instructor approved by the American Sailing Association.

Other rentals include bicycles, windsurfers, paddle boards and boogie boards.

If you want to try tent camping, ORAC has a full line of gear, including tents, stoves, sleeping bags and other items.

They also have a tent camping area in the Shields RV Park.

Planning an event? Sunfish Beach is available for free; just make a reservation. And ORAC can rent you a large BBQ trailer, a dunk tank, a bounce house – check them out.

Co-located inside ORAC is the Information, Tickets and Tours office, if you are looking for tickets or other information.

It's summer – get out and enjoy it!

## Chaplain's Message Feeds Feed Families Food Drive

by Lt. Stephen Warne, Chaplain

For the last several years, "The Feds" have promoted a nationwide benevolent food drive to help under-privileged families within local communities.

The intent of this program is to focus efforts on children during these critical summer months.

Many children in the Corpus Christi area depend on school lunches for their nutrition, and summer is an especially difficult time.

While some folks are busy planning family vacations and enjoying time at the beach, amusement parks, or any number of leisure activities and trips, others are simply thinking about their next meal.

The Feds Feed Families annual food drive was launched in 2009 as part of the

President's "United We Stand" initiative.

Once again, the Chaplain's Department is teaming up with the Commissary and many other Commands onboard NAS Corpus Christi to collect non-perishable food items for the less fortunate.

These items will be used locally to benefit people here in the Coastal Bend.

Donations are used to help the Corpus Christi Food Bank keep up with high demands.

There are donation drop boxes located in the Commissary and Protestant Chapel Fellowship Hall, as well as throughout various other Tenant Command spaces.

I have witnessed firsthand how these gracious donations bring joy into the lives of others.

I encourage each of you to consider how you can impact the life of someone in need.

As a former Chaplain once said, "While most of us are making plans for summer relaxation, let us not forget that hunger never takes a vacation."

Thank you for your donations!



Warne

## Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

In one of the latest rounds of newspaper cutbacks, the Chicago Sun-Times fired its entire photography staff.

Including a Pulitzer Prize winner.

And the next effect was what everyone outside

of the paper's bean-counting managers expected – the paper was cursed with blurry, poorly composed photos taken by reporters who were forced to use cell phones as cameras.

There's a point here: Although cell phones are everywhere and most have some

kind of camera, they are not really well suited for print publication.

Yes, the look good on your camera screen and even on your computer.

But printing, especially on newsprint, exposes cell phone photos for what they are – low resolution images with poor depth of field, taken with limited image control.

See, there's a reason you see me and other PAOs schlepping around those big cameras with those big lenses – they are still the best way to get a high resolution image.

And there is a simple law of physics: The better the original image, the better the reproduction will be.

When you shoot with a digital camera – SLR or cell phone – it breaks the image into pixels, tiny bits of individual color.

The more pixels you have, the higher the resolution. And while most cell phones can give you resolutions similar to a normal

computer monitor screen, they cannot come close to the millions of pixels in a digital SLR.

When they go to print, those pixels are converted to dots of ink.

And the more dots you have per inch, the better the image will look, at least up to the point where the dots bleed into each other.

If you want to send us photos, they need to be the highest resolution you can get.

The good news is, you don't need to know all that pixel/dpi stuff – look at the size of the photo file.

If it is close to a meg or larger, you are in the ballpark – and if everything else is right (focus, composition, etc.), we can make it work.

If you need help, talk to us.

We're glad to help you set your camera to give good images.

Or let us know early enough - we'll come shoot it for you.

## Wingspan

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*Wingspan* is published every other week by D.J. Young Publishing, 145 Naples, Corpus Christi, Texas 78404, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas.

The editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas. Stories and photos not otherwise attributed are written by the *Wingspan* staff. The address is: Commanding Officer, NAS Corpus Christi, Attn: *Wingspan*, 11001 D St. Suite 143, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78419-5021. All news releases should be sent to the above address.

Please call (361) 961-2674 for deadline information.

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(7341 McArdle Rd.)  
Jumah Service – 1:30 p.m.  
For other worship service times, call 992-8550

# Civilian Workforce recognized for contributions to NHCCC

Story & photo by Bill Love, NHCCC PAO

If you want to know what's happened at Naval Hospital Corpus Christi over the years, or who's come and gone, chances are Sandra Hlavinka could fill you in.

She's seen 14 commanding officers change the guard over the past three decades, including watching the hospital become a clinic, and last month she achieved a 41-year milestone in civil service (GS) employment.

So, it was fitting that she be recognized as the most senior GS employee during the clinic's 2nd Annual Civilian Appreciation Month observance June 20.

"As you have heard me say many times, we could not do our job without our civilians - civil service and contractors," said Capt. Bill Davidson, acting commanding officer.

"They are the backbone, the corporate knowledge of the clinic. Active Duty come and go, but they remain."

The civilian workforce makes up more than 42 percent of command personnel.

Another long-time GS employee was spotlighted during the celebration.

Judy Bolten received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for serving as a Certified Occupational Health Nurse, Occupational Medicine Clinic, Directorate of Public Health Services, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, from June 1989 to June 2013, culminating in 24 years of loyal service to the

Department of the Navy.

"It is with great pleasure that on behalf of the command I present you this Meritorious Civilian Service Award for not only your many years of service but your accomplishments, as well," said Davidson.

Other recognition included a 10-year Length of Service Award presentation to Rebecca Hernandez, medical technician, Lab. Suzanne Pedraza and Lucy Kumuhone were not present to receive theirs.

Also, the newest and longest serving GS employees, Andres Gomez, information technician, six weeks, and Sandra B. Hlavinka, administrative support assistant; and contract employees, Wanda Carter, nurse case manager, five days, plus John O. Vasquez, information technology specialist, 18 years, participated in the cake-cutting ceremony.

"What they did for Judy was awesome! She's given so much to the command and she was very gracious," said Carter.

"I've only been here for five days but I am so happy to be here because everyone has greeted me with open arms and everyone smiles here. There's a lot of positive energy"

In Davidson's closing message, he expressed the staff's gratitude.

"Each and every one of you, civil service and contractor, should be proud of what you do for us," he said.



**Judith A. Bolten receives the Meritorious Civilian Service Award during the NHCCC Civilian Appreciation observance on June 20.**

"It is so easy for us to get wrapped up in our jobs and forget to take a moment to stop and say thanks. And that is what we are doing today, saying thank you, for taking care of

our patients, being committed to serving your country, and for being a huge contributor to the success of the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi team."

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# Reynaldo Aleman retires after more than 40 years civil service

from NAVFAC Southeast

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast Public Works Department Corpus Christi employee Reynaldo Aleman retired June 30 after dedicating more than 40 years of federal civil service to the U.S. Navy.

Aleman, an environmental protection specialist at NAS Corpus Christi, said good bye to many of his co-workers and friends with his wife at a luncheon held in his honor June 27.

"Thank you for coming and thank you for assisting me during my 21 years here," he said.

During the luncheon, Aleman acknowledged former Installation Environmental Director Didi Byerly, who was not present, with helping him climb the ladder of success.

Aleman's friends presented him with a Texas-shaped plaque (which held a dozen commemorative coins from many commands and tenants at NASCC) and a large framed photo of Navy training aircraft above NASCC.

The frame was signed by all the attendees and others from the Air Station.

Aleman began his Navy civil service career in 1974 at NAS Chase Field in Beeville as a WG-2 Fueller/Oiler of Jet Aircraft in VT-25, transferring to the Public Works Department there in 1987. In 1988, he was named Employee of the Year.

In 1992, he transferred to NAS Corpus Christi, where he eventually became a well-respected GS-12 Environmental Protection Specialist and Program Manager for the Hazardous Waste Program.

He provided invaluable environmental support and expertise to all tenants aboard NASCC and mentored another generation of environmental experts to follow in his place.

In February 2008, Aleman was named the Public Works Employee of the Month.

"Among your valuable recent accomplishments was being part of the team that successfully assumed responsibility for organizing and operating the new Hazardous Wastes Commodity Branch over the last three years, achieving zero notice of violations (NOVs) at the permitted facility during your tenure," said NASCC Public Works Officer Lt. Cmdr. Amanda Brooks.

Aleman's reputation can best be summed up by an unsolicited observation from a regulator at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), who claimed, "You guys keep a tight ship. Y'all's hazardous waste management is downright inspirational."

"Your other contributions are too numerous to mention; however, you have been a professional performer all your career, and part of your legacy is the positive impact you have had on the lives and careers of others," Brooks said.



NAVFAC Southeast Public Works Department Corpus Christi Environmental Protection Specialist Reynaldo Aleman was presented a plaque carved in the shape of Texas with command coins representing over 40 years of federal civil service to the U.S. Navy. Friends and co-workers gathered at a June 27 luncheon to honor Aleman on his retirement. Photo by Bob Torres



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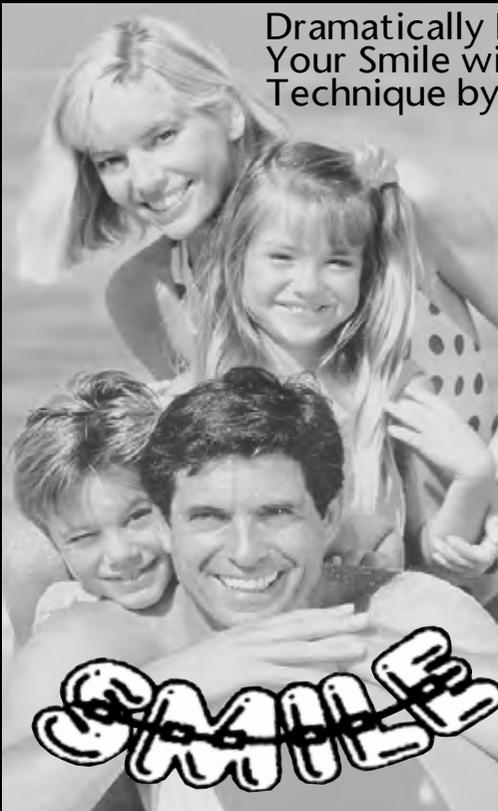
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**Interns continued from page 1**

While Lee and O'Donnell were aces in engineering, seeing it applied at an Army depot was something entirely new and challenging, especially since they only had three weeks.

"It was cool to see how complicated the process is for a single aircraft to undergo for repair," Lee said.

"It's interesting to see how systems engineering can be incorporated into a government [facility like] CCAD that works directly for the military."

O'Donnell's first day, she observed the production process from disassembly to final line to test.

"I had no idea that it was that complicated and complex," she said.

William L. Braddy, Depot Executive Director, said it "takes a long time to understand how an industrial operation runs."

"The cadets are only able to scratch the surface."

The internship culminated in a project to identify production improvements that could benefit CCAD.

This Master Scheduling project was briefed to CCAD leaders on their final day, impressing upon senior leadership the value these cadets bring during their three-week stay.

West Point cadets in the program are typically rising juniors or seniors majoring in one of three Systems Engineering majors: Systems Engineering, Engineering Management, or Operations Research.

The internships give cadets a chance to observe how Systems Engineering methodologies, tools, and techniques are applied in world-class organizations.

This helps bring concepts they have learned in the classroom to real-life scenarios.

When they weren't hitting the shop floor, the cadets got the chance to enjoy what Corpus Christi had to offer.

O'Donnell visited the local beaches, aquarium, and other tourist spots in South Texas.

Lee opted for fishing.

"I got some red snapper on the first day of the season on a deep-sea fishing trip...and I accidentally caught a sea turtle," he said.

At the end of their internship, cadets out-briefed CCAD's senior leadership.

"I was able to see all the work going in to build an aircraft," O'Donnell said.

"For the future, if I am a pilot and something breaks down and we have to repair, I know there's a lot of attention to detail."

"If we need to repair it we can send it to CCAD and it's a lot cheaper than buying new."

CCAD is the only facility in the Army's organic industrial base currently available to Systems Engineering Department (SED) interns.

While the program is still new, CCAD is learning all it can from these first interns to maximize the learning opportunities for future interns.

Another cadet is set to arrive in July.



**West Point Cadet Jed Lee is Corpus Christi Army Depot's first intern in West Points Systems Engineering Program.** Photo by Ervey Martinez, CCAD PA

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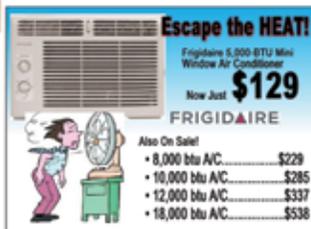


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## Wounded continued from page 1

serving in the military today.

"As we consider the impact those individuals have had on the world defending freedom and protecting democracy, I am reminded of the words of Winston Churchill. 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few,'" he said.

Originally just a small detachment from the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi (NHCCC), the group managed service-specific paperwork and other requirements for sea service patients from a lower-level office area shared with the Warrior Transition Battalion at SAMMC.

"As the need became larger, we had to grow, and as we grew, the Navy Wounded, Ill & Injured was created," said Anthony Reyes, a retired hospital corpsman who was part of the small detachment while on active duty.

At that time, the staff consisted of him and one other.

Reyes is currently an administrative specialist with an annex staff that also includes a case manager, a case manager assistant, a social worker and a uniformed military member.

Annex staff members establish lines of communication among patients, family members and the patients' commands; track service members during transfer to and from SAMMC; and provide supervision and coordination as they progress through treatment.

"It made such a difference; now it's a one-stop shop," said Cryptologic Technician (Interpretative) 1st Class John Sobery, who entered treatment several months ago.

Sobery said that, prior to the annex,

sea-service patients would shuffle between floors and offices at the hospital, which could be difficult.

Now he has a case manager who schedules all of his appointments and ensures he keeps them.

"She's my drill sergeant," he joked.

Sobery's wife, Angela, and daughters, Sabrina and Clara, attended the ceremony with him.

"It's a very family-oriented system," Sobery said. "They encourage my family to be part of my recovery. My wife comes to all the meetings, and my children are encouraged to attend. That's why they are here today."

There is a comfort zone among Navy and other military families who share similar cultures and languages that the Annex provides, Angela Sobery said.

"It's something that we are a part of instead of being detached from a command. This is healing for all of us," she said.

"It's comforting to have him home because I was scared when he was gone," said 10-year-old Clara Sobery.

"It is such a great relief to be with my dad," 16-year-old Sabrina Sobery added.

Annex staff arranged to have Sobery's family coordinate assistance through the Warrior and Family Support Center (WFSC).

The WFSC gives injured and ill service members and their families a chance to take a break in a welcoming environment, watch a movie, play video games, check email, use the Internet and just relax.

"We have a bunch of adopted grandmas over there, and we love them to death," Angela Sobery said, laughing.

## COMMISSARY FURLOUGH OPERATING HOURS (Jul 8 - Sep 30)

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## September Worldwide Case Lot Sale Cancelled

The Defense Commissary Agency is cancelling its September case lot sale because of budgetary reductions mandated under sequestration.

This announcement follows DeCA's decision in February to cancel the May case

lot sale. The case lot cancellations are part of ongoing steps to reduce operating costs wherever possible. Those steps include a hiring freeze, restrictions for official travel, and postponement of all Guard and Reserve on-site sales after July 8 until further notice.

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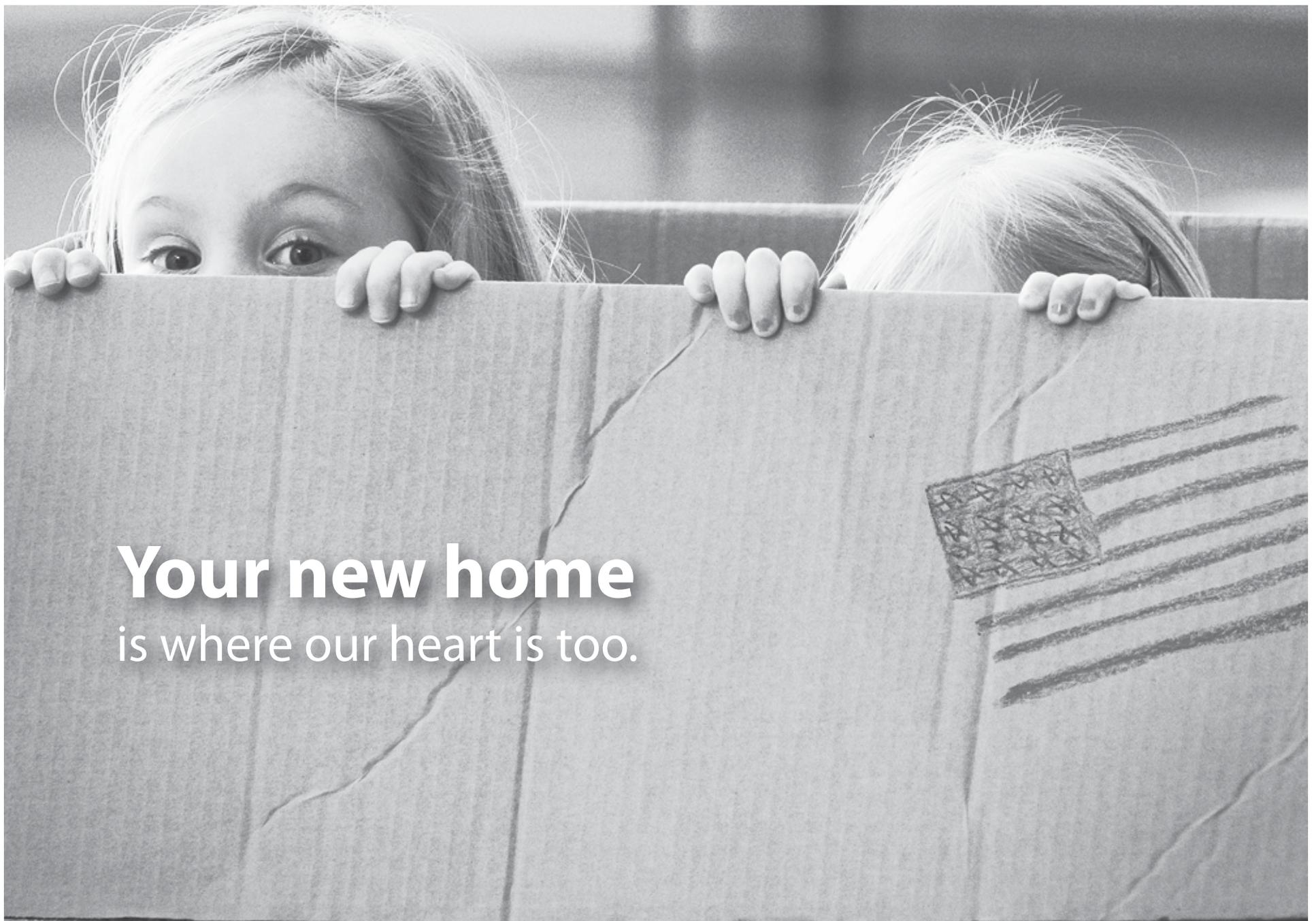
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# Master Gunnery Sgt. Brian Libby Retires



Master Gunnery Sgt. Brian Libby retired after three decades as a Marine on July 2, in a ceremony attended by family, friends, fellow Marines and co-workers from his final assignment with Chief, Naval Air Training.

Photos by Richard Stewart and Rod Hafemeister



## SeaBees fix the road, save the Air Station money



The SeaBees of the 1st Lt. Division recently took on the job of repairing potholes on the service road on the west side of Building 1846 – saving NASCC about

**\$10,000 compared to contracting out the job.**

Photos courtesy Ensign Eric M. Negrón Ruiz, 1st Lt Division Officer

# Awards and Achievements

## Winging — June 28



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Wiving officials, from left: Clarissa Beltran, Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce; Lt. Stephen Warne, Chaplain; Lt. Col. Jerry Estell, USMC, Executive Officer, MATSG-22; Cmdr. Todd Copeland, Commanding Officer, VT-31; Cmdr. R. Scott Kramarik, Commanding Officer, VT-35; Cmdr. Marc Christino, Commanding Officer, VT-28; Capt. Rex Curtin, Commodore, Training Air Wing Four.

Wingees, in alphabetical order: Ensign Christopher Allen Foight; Lt. j.g. Lauren Marie Furbush; Ensign Michael Paul Kelly; Ensign Jeffrey Ryan Lewis; 1st Lt. Christopher John Melear, USMC; 1st Lt. Jerome Michael Miller, USMC; Ensign William Adam Morse; Ensign Brandon Steven Roberts; Lt. j.g. Joseph Beryl Nevitt Silverman; Ensign Brian Keith Young.

## NHCCC's Roest frocked to Senior Chief



Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/FMF) Steven G. Roest, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, is frocked from chief petty officer June 27. Surrounded



by his loved ones, he receives his new hat and collar devices; and a thunderous round of applause from the entire staff.

Photo by HM2 Jacob L. Welch, NHCCC



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## Commendation for Browning



Capt. Jimmy Bradley, commanding officer, presents the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal to Lt. David C. Browning, Medical Service Corps, for meritorious service as department head and senior optometrist, NHCCC from July 2010 to June 2013.

Photo by Bill Love, NHCCC PAO

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# Commendation for Mayhew



Capt. Dave Edgecomb, commanding officer of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, on July 1 presented MA1 Thomas Mayhew the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal on July 1 for his service as anti-terrorism officer with the Security Dept. from July 2009 through July 2013. Photo by Rod Hafemeister

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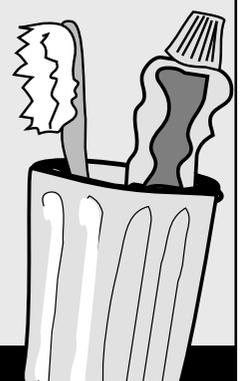
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**Dive-In Movies** are double the fun. Movies are shown on select on a BIG screen while participants float in the pool and eat free popcorn. Titles are family-friendly films great for all ages. All movies may be set to closed-captioned upon request. (Due to contract agreement, no movie titles may be provided for promotion, but customers may call for that information.) General pool admission fees apply: FREE for ages 2 and younger; \$1 for Youth; \$1.25 for Seniors; and \$3 for Adults. The general admission fee for everyone at H-E-B Pool is \$4. For more information about the upcoming Dive-In Movies or movie titles, please call the pools. **Join us for the last Dive-In Movie on Friday, July 12, starting at about 8pm at H-E-B Pool (1520 Shely St.; Phone 826-1724).**

**Family Swim Nights** are back this summer by popular demand. Great entertainment offered at Collier Pool and Oso Pool for a family of five for only \$7.50! Mark your calendars for Friday, July 19, 2013.

**Splash Parties** offer a fun venue for your special celebrations. Pools are available for rentals after normal public swim hours. Fees are based on a minimum of two hours and 50 participants. For smaller swim parties, check out the General Swim Party. For more information or to book a party, visit our website [www.ccparkandrec.com](http://www.ccparkandrec.com). Be sure

to check out our **BIG WATER SLIDE** at **Greenwood Pool**—it's three rides in one slick water slide. Ride the **Swirl...take the Deep Drop...or go for the Three Loop!** Our latest attraction is the **state-of-the-art Splash Pad** at **H-E-B Pool**, which includes a zero-depth pool, fun water features, cabanas and party-concession area.

**Needed, two or three volunteer crocheting and knitting instructors** to meet at the Garcia Public Library, 5930 Brockhampton Street, one evening a week. This is a free class to the public... For more information call 361-334-7300.

**FREE MOVIES ... The Janet F. Harte Public Library** would like to invite teens and young adults to their summer movie program, Dig it Dive in Theater every Friday through July 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch and snacks will be provided. For movie titles call the Harte Library at 937-6569. Free. The Harte Library is located at 2629 Waldron Rd. in Flour Bluff.

**FAMILY BOOK FESTIVAL TO COMBINE ART, SCIENCE AND LITERACY** Corpus Christi Public Libraries Partner with the Art Center of Corpus Christi for Festival - Saturday, July 27, 2013-10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Art Center of Corpus Christi, 100 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi. Families can explore the Trailblazer, a 40-foot mobile traveling exhibit trailer with seven interactive engineering and science exhibits including magnetism, aerodynamics, space science, weather and the medical sciences. The Trailblazer will be open to the public

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until 4:00 p.m. Other activities at the Family Book Festival include The Illustration Project where children can make and take a project that combines literacy and art, a 15 minute performance by the Texas A&M University School of Arts, Music and Communication of James and the Giant Peach, a bounce house for children, face painting, games and many other activities. Rainbow Books and Half-Price Books will have books available for sale. All activities are free and open to the public. FMI call McDonald Library at 826-2356 or the Art Center at 884-6406.

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## Achievement Medal for Gomez



Capt. Dave Edgecomb, commanding officer of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, on July 1 presented MA1 Rogerio Gomez Jr. the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal on July 1 for his service as LPO with the Security Dept. from October 2009 through June 2013.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

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MWR's Exceptional Employees of the Month for April and May were (above, left to right) Theresa Hauser, Larry Meehan, Jeremy Zercher, Noel J. Westerkom and (right) Trisy Strople.

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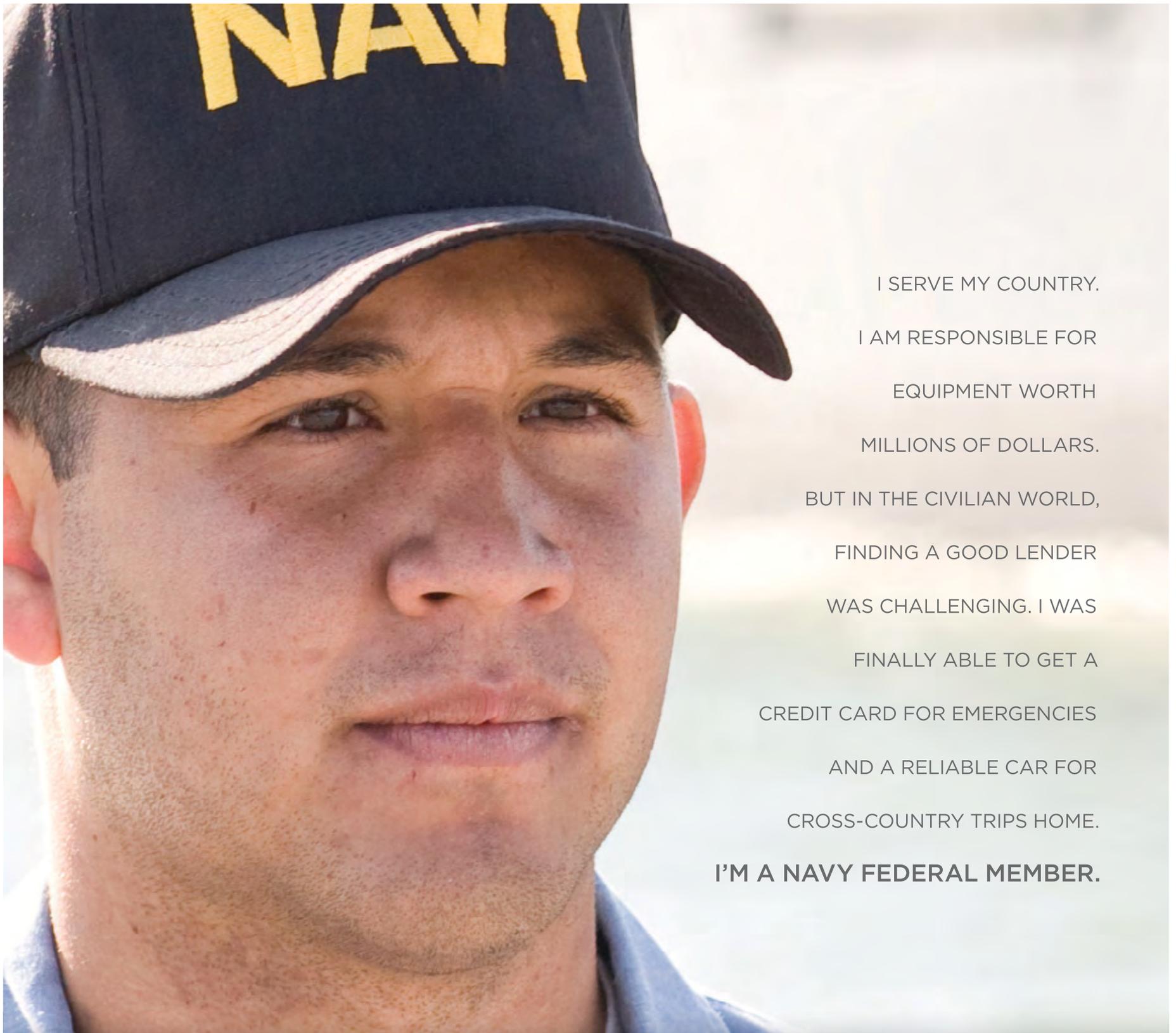
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