

# WINGSPAN



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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

September 19, 2013



**SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH**

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## 'A few months' turned into more than 10; now back to Naval Air Forces Rear Adm. Leavitt leaving as Chief of Naval Air Training

by Rod Hafemeister

When Rear Adm. Mark Leavitt agreed to become Chief of Naval Air Training, it was only supposed to be temporary – a few short months.

Rear Adm. William G. Sizemore II was scheduled to retire in November 2012 – but his replacement as CNATRA, Rear Adm. Mike Shoemaker, was suddenly needed elsewhere and Navy leaders needed to find someone to take the job.

The “Air Boss” – Vice Adm. David Buss, Commander, Naval Air Forces – turned to Leavitt, his Reserve Component Chief of Staff, and asked him to take the job.

“It was fairly short notice,” Leavitt said. “My name came up as the former Reserve Component commander for Training Air Wing Two and former Reserve Component commander here.

“Initially, we were looking at a couple of months down here. But as it turned out, with Adm.

Shoemaker having to remain at sea with the strike group, it turned into a 10-month command tour for me.”

It turned out to be a challenging time. Leavitt found himself managing a training program during the impact of sequestration and furloughs of Defense Department civilians.

And the cancellation of the demonstration season for the Blue Angels, which fall under CNATRA.

“I guess what I’m most proud of is being able to continue the production here at CNATRA, which is absolutely required for the Fleet demand.

“People continue to transfer at the end of their three years of orders in their Fleet squadrons – and we have to have pilots and NFOs to replace those people.

“I didn’t do it alone – obviously. The CNATRA team was able to function during times of uncertainty.

*CNATRA continued on page 7*



**Lt. Stephen Bruner, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 30, right, shows Rear Adm. Mark Leavitt, Chief of Naval Air Training, some of the navigation features in the new P-8A Poseidon. The Poseidon is one of newest additions to Navy's inventory and will replace the P-3C Orion.**  
Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA PA

## Remembering 9/11

Story and photos by Rod Hafemeister

The first bell rang at 08:46:40 a.m. precisely – the time the first hijacked aircraft crashed into the World Trade Center.

As they have for years now, the firefighters of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi took the lead in remembering the terrible events of Sept. 11, 2001, and what followed.

“Twelve years have passed, and for many of us in the fire service the pain we felt that day is as raw as ever,” said Fire Chief John Morris.

Firefighters stood at parade rest with fire pikes; Sailors and others recalled the events as they happened: the terrified people jumping to their deaths, the second aircraft, the strike on the Pentagon, the crash in Pennsylvania, the long day and night of fighting fires and rescuing those who could be rescued.

And the bell tolled.

Sailors, Marines and civilians joined for the memorial ceremony – one that those who remember

that day intend to keep holding each year.

“At Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Fire and Emergency Services, our youngest post-9/11 firefighter is 25 years old --- 13 years young on that day that changed the fire service, and the world,” Morris said.

“In about six years the fire service will hire its first recruit that was not yet alive on that day.”

“We intend on keeping the promise that was made that day 12 years ago, and that is to ‘Never Forget.’

“Those of us on the job, regardless of where we were that day have the memories seared into our memory. For most of us, a glimpse of any image from that day instantly transports us back to where we were, and what we were doing.

“On that day it was firefighters and innocent civilians that were

*9/11 continued on page 7*



**Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Fire Chief John Morris talks about the importance of keeping alive the memory of 9/11.**

## Skipper's Column

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



**Edgecomb**

Well, you did it. This time last year, I asked for your help to keep the Gulf Winds Golf Course open.

I am happy to report that the golf course is no longer in danger of being closed because it loses money - it's not making a big profit, but it is consistently in the black, thanks to reduced costs and increased patronage.

For several years, the golf course had operated at a deficit, bringing in less money than the cost to operate and maintain it.

And last year, it fell under the MWR Red Flag Reporting System established by Commander, Navy Installations Command.

The golf course is a Category C Morale, Welfare and Recreation activity. Cat C activities are highly desirable programs that provide recreational activities that contribute to building a sense of community and enjoyment.

But they are considered optional, not essential - and have to be self-sufficient, generating enough income to cover the cost of operations.

If an installation Category C activity has a rolling negative cash flow of \$50,000 or more for a 12-month period, the program is put in Red Flag status.

Last year, the Gulf Winds Golf Course had a negative cash flow of more than \$515K for the previous 12-month period and went into Red Flag status.

Red Flag for six consecutive quarters and the regional commander is to close the activity.

The biggest expense for the golf course was the high cost of potable water used to irrigate the course at a cost of \$7.75 per 1,000 gallons.

In May 2012, we began irrigating the course with effluent water from the city, which dramatically reduced operating costs.

As a bonus, it also allowed us to keep the course watered when drought restrictions took effect this summer.

That cut expenses - but we also needed to increase revenue.

Last year, we also hired a new Grounds Maintenance Superintendent, Shane Zercher.

He took charge of improving the course overall with that help of the entire golf course team, to great effect.

*Skipper continued on page 15*

## Golf Course Success - You Did It

## Chaplain's Message

by Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain

In the last edition of the Wingspan, I wrote about the importance of everyone's role in suicide prevention.

As the nationally recognized month for suicide prevention awareness (September) comes to a close, I would like to highlight this year's theme: Thrive in Your Community.

The importance of community and self-purpose is extremely helpful when dealing with adversity.

Working together for the benefit of others instills self-worth and purpose into one's life, and generates a sense of well-being within the community.

In turn, this fuels healthy feelings and emotions in others and contributes to a greater purpose in life.

This may sound a bit lofty, so let me restate it plainly: small contributions of time and means make great impacts.

This month is only the beginning; a month designated to focus on suicide

prevention awareness, but the work should continue throughout the year.

The Navy is encouraging all to come together as commands, work-centers, installations, organizations or other groups to contribute to a project of their choice that benefits others.

Participation is not mandatory, but I assure you that volunteering your time will benefit both giver and receiver.

For the past five years the federal government has encouraged people to give non-perishable food items to local food banks during the summer months.

This campaign is commonly referred to as Feds Feed Families.

This summer, Chapel congregants and personnel from all over base worked together to donate food items to our local food bank.

In total, more than 18,000 pounds of food was donated from NAS Corpus Christi to help needy families in the Coastal Bend.

## Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Continues

Even if you were not personally involved in this effort, be proud of the fact that people in South Texas, and particularly our military family, value the lives and well-being of others.

The Navy uses a simple acronym to help remember the importance of suicide awareness: A-C-T!

ASK - Don't be afraid to ask the tough questions. CARE - Listen, offer hope, and don't judge. TREAT - Take action, get assistance, and follow up.

**Confidential Help is available 24/7. Call 1-800-273 TALK (Option 1).**



**Warne**

## Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



**Hafemeister**

As I scrounge around trying to find something to write about, I glance at the calendar and realize today (the day I ship the Wingspan) is Constitution Day.

On Sept. 17, 1787, the 39 men of the U.S. Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution in Philadelphia.

You can be forgiven, sort of, if you

missed it. It's not the kind of holiday where you get a day off; in fact, it's only been an official observance since 2004, when it was tacked onto "Citizenship Day."

Of course, if you are in school, you know about it - the observance is mandatory for any schools receiving federal funds.

But for the rest of us, it tends to pass unnoticed.

That's a shame, though. Where the Declaration of Independence was a call to revolution against the monarchy, the Constitution was even more important, historically and internationally: it set forth, for the first time, a framework for a republic based on specific principles, including a division of power between three branches of government.

## The Oath We Take

That was in many ways a much more radical concept than the Revolution. And it set an example for many nations that followed - with varying degrees of success, of course.

And a significant element was the procedure for amending the document - it became possible to make changes without throwing out the whole thing.

In many ways, those amendments, especially the first 10, are as important as the original Constitution - they set out the limits on what government can do to the people.

I love Old Glory - but the oath any of us took when we donned the uniform was not to a flag, or a person - it was to the Constitution and all that it means.

When you have a chance, go read it.

## Wingspan

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# CNRSE emphasizes National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Story & photo by MC1 Greg Johnson, NRSE PA

Rear Adm. Rick Williamson, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, signed a suicide prevention awareness proclamation on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville Sept. 9.

The proclamation recognizes September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and is intended to raise suicide awareness prevention throughout the Southeast Region.

"This proclamation brings to light an issue of paramount importance in our military today," Williamson said. "Each year, we lose shipmates, co-workers and family members to suicide and these losses can be prevented. It is our collective responsibility to remain alert to the warning signs and to be prepared to take action with those in our lives who might be at risk. An actively engaged force, including everyone in the Navy family, is key to the successful prevention of suicide."

The proclamation's theme highlights the importance of taking action as individuals and to recognize the impact of stressors in our day-to-day lives, as well how to develop protective factors against stress and suicide.

According to Dianne Parker, Navy Region Southeast assistant suicide prevention outreach coordinator, there is no better way to have a successful program than ensuring suicide prevention information and indicators are available to all personnel.

"Suicide continues to be a major issue for all hands," she said. "Our goal is to reduce the number of these tragedies through education and awareness campaigns, and we hope this proclamation will go a long way in those efforts."

One of the latest tools the Navy is using toward suicide prevention efforts is the NavyTHRIVE campaign, which encourages Sailors, commands, families and civilians to empower themselves by taking personal responsibility for their health, wellness and growth.

"The program is a new approach to resilience and it really emphasizes self-empowerment and growth," Parker said. "The goal is not for Sailors to merely overcome adversity, but to come back from it stronger than they were before."

In addition to those efforts, the region implemented an aggressive suicide prevention coordinator (SPC) training program in September 2011 that utilizes Defense Connect Online.

So far, it has resulted in more than 300 newly-qualified coordinators throughout the region and more than 1,700 worldwide.

Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) educational services and work and family life specialists assist command SPCs with training in the areas of stress management,



Rear Adm. Rick Williamson signs a proclamation designating September as Navy Suicide Prevention Month throughout the Southeast Region.

conflict management, parent education, anger management and suicide prevention. So far this fiscal year, command SPCs and FFSC personnel have conducted more than 1,200 training sessions attended by more than 43,000 people.

"The program has been instrumental in raising awareness and getting the message out to leaders throughout the DoD. Leaders need to make Sailors understand that there is no shame in reaching out for help," Parker said.

Each year, hundreds of DoD personnel commit suicide; many of these cases could

be prevented if friends and co-workers knew what to look for and took action, she added.

"The bottom line is if you suspect that someone may be thinking about suicide, you need to act, care and treat," she said. "The key is to take action. The worst thing that you can possibly do is nothing."

For more information about NavyTHRIVE, visit [http://www.public.navy.mil/BUPERS-NPC/SUPPORT/21ST\\_CENTURY\\_SAILOR/SUICIDE\\_PREVENTION/SPMONTH/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.public.navy.mil/BUPERS-NPC/SUPPORT/21ST_CENTURY_SAILOR/SUICIDE_PREVENTION/SPMONTH/Pages/default.aspx).

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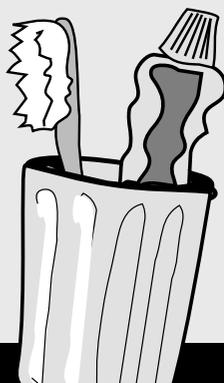
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## National Guard hones aircraft maintenance skills at CCAD



Soldiers with the Ohio National Guard's 638th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) unit were recognized by depot Commander Colonel Garner Billingsley Pogue III for the special impact they have made to the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) during their annual training. Soldiers worked alongside CCAD artisans to develop the critical skills they will need to support aviation maintenance on the field.

Photos by Ervey Martinez, CCAD PA

by Brigitte Rox, CCAD Public Affairs

Soldiers with the Ohio National Guard's 638th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) unit were recognized for the special impact they made to the Corpus Christi Army Depot during their annual training, August 10-24.

The 32 Guardsmen are part of an aviation intermediate-level maintenance unit, or AVIM.

The men and women have an array of military occupational specialties, but they all tie directly to aircraft maintenance.

"We have everything from general mechanics to all the different breakouts," said Capt. Andrew Gupko, the Production Control Officer for the 638th.

"We have an avionics shop, an electronic shop, a hydraulic shop, prop and rotor, sheet metal, aircraft structural repair."

Known mainly as the core entity for Army Aviation's maintenance, repair and overhaul for helicopters, engines and their components, CCAD is the perfect training ground for the battalion's specific needs.

During their rotation, the 638th worked alongside the many federal civilians who call themselves depot artisans.

CCAD's civilian workforce of approximately 4,000 skilled employees and contractors go to the depot every day to produce indispensable military aircraft for the customer.

It was their job to help the Guard develop the critical skills they need for their next mission.

"We host units regularly for aviation maintenance training across a wide array of aviation MOS categories," said Col. Billingsley Garner Pogue III, Depot Commander.

Though the depot is primarily an industrial facility, CCAD offers no-cost on-site lodging to military personnel and reserve components.

"This block of training is our biggest bang for our buck," said First Sgt. Brad Pietzcker of the 638th.

He says that the nature of training the National Guard has its challenges.

"Throughout the year we meet one weekend a month, 12 months a year. If they are deployed, our people are going to have to know how to do exactly what they do here at CCAD.

"We're going to have to know how to tear down hydraulic components, engine components and engines, we're going to have to know how to do in-depth sheet metal repair."

"CCAD is like nowhere else," said Capt. Andrew Gupko. "You can't get this experience anywhere else in the Army.

"That's why it's very important for us to keep coming down. You come in every day and there's going to be something to do and it's always going to be something that you probably never done before. It leads to new experience."

Pietzcker said CCAD workers are "the best."

"I've taken [Soldiers] to other places where you go in the shop and the guy that's in charge of the shop just does not want to train anybody," he said.

"Here, they know these guys by their first names. They embrace them, they slow down, they train them, and they make them a part of the CCAD family which, to me, is pretty cool."

CCAD continued on page 5

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*CCAD continued from page 4*

“Our artisans love having Soldiers among us,” Pogue said. “And the Soldiers helped us reduce some furlough- and sequester-related backlog.”

Spc. Sarah Cloutier, an Automated Logistical Specialist, was on her second rotation of training at CCAD.

She and Spc. Tyler Ganzer were assigned to work in one of CCAD’s Aircraft Production Control Division hangars.

Joe Quintanilla, the manager in the hangar, had a special assignment for the team: develop a new Standard Operating Procedure for a neglected tool room – and a template for all production hangars at the depot.

First, the specialists assessed the ebb and flow of a cluttered tool cage. Then, they used their logistical prowess to create a plan.

“We came up with an idea of what we can change in 30 days and beyond 30 days to improve the logistics and flow of the tool cage,” Cloutier said.

“The very last briefing we did wasn’t just for that hangar, but for all the hangars that will implement our new SOP.”

Cloutier, a student at Kent State University, studies accounting and business management. She said the project fit perfectly with her minor.

“I learned all about tool rooms,” she said. “I don’t know anything about tools, but I learned the little things to make it efficient and accountable to control it.”

Pietzcker said the tool room “...now runs like a tool room should.”

“CCAD only has room to improve now,” he said. “These troops have left a legacy in that department.”

Quintanilla expects to have the new process fully implemented in Production Control’s five tool cages by the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Their legacy will be fully realized when they return to CCAD next year to build on all they have learned.

“This was a particularly successful rotation and a win-win for both of our organizations,” Pogue said.

Another rotation of 50 National Guard out of Ohio is expected to arrive at CCAD this month.



Spc. Sarah Cloutier and Spc. Tyler Ganzer used their logistical expertise to bring order to hangar tool rooms with a new standard operating procedure.

# In My Seat

A Pilot’s Story from Sept 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>

*Living on Borrowed Time*



**Sunday  
September 22**

Steve will speak twice:  
**9:30 a.m. - Sunday School**  
**11:00 a.m. - Worship**

On September 11, 2001, Steve Scheibner was scheduled to be the First Officer on Flight 11, the first plane to hit the World Trade Center. *Come hear his riveting story of having someone die in his place, not once, but twice.*

Steve is a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve and a First Officer for American Airlines, with over 12,000 flying hours in the P-3 Orion and the Boeing 757 and 767.





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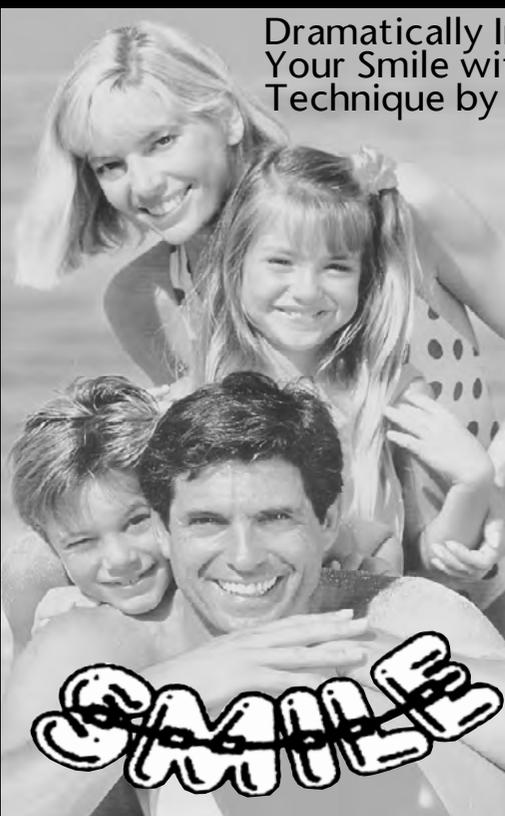
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## NHCCC Sailors commemorate 9/11 attacks during group reenlistment



Senior Chief Hull Technician (SW/AW) Michael Richardson, Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF) Gideon Kain, Chief Electrician's Mate (SW) Joseph Sloan, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Fremmy Cuadra, Hospital Corpsmen 2nd Class (FMF) Jonathan Duhart, Romnick Sotto, and Janelle Mattern; and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Demetreus Cooley raise their right hands as Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley, NHCCC commanding officer, administered the oath of enlistment during a ceremony at the Coastal Bend State Veteran's Cemetery to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Story & photo by Bill W. Love, NHCCC PAO

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi commemorated the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks with eight Sailors affirming their oath of enlistment during a ceremony at the Coastal Bend State Veteran's Cemetery.

Senior Chief Hull Technician (SW/AW) Michael Richardson, Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF) Gideon Kain, Chief Electrician's Mate (SW) Joseph Sloan, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Fremmy Cuadra, Hospital Corpsmen 2nd Class (FMF) Jonathan Duhart, Romnick Sotto, and Janelle Mattern; and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Demetreus Cooley stood at attention as Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley, commanding officer, administered the oath.

The event marked the first and eighth reenlistment respectively for junior Sailor Cooley and Richardson, the most senior in the group. New obligated service for all eight totals 31 years.

In welcoming remarks, Bradley spoke about their devotion.

"Today these Sailors chose to dedicate their reenlistment to those who lost their lives on that dreadful and awful day twelve years ago," he said, referring to the hijacked jetliners that crashed into the World Trade Center (WTC), the Pentagon, and a Pennsylvania field.

"We share our grief for those innocent lives lost in that senseless act of terrorism. I have not forgotten how I felt that day."

Those events are still vivid for a Pennsylvania native among those reenlisting.

"Sept. 11, 2001 is a day that will forever be in my heart," Mattern said.

"My father is a local firefighter and also on the county hazardous material response

team, which was dispatched to respond to the United Flight 93 plane crash in western Pennsylvania. He is one of my heroes, not only because he is my dad, but because of his involvement on Sept. 11 and for his American patriotism."

Bradley proposed lasting appreciation for the courageous that day.

"Let us express our gratitude for the heroes of 9/11, those who bravely went down in that Pennsylvania field, those who were standing freedom's watch at the Pentagon, and those who were in New York who risked and lost their lives for the victims," he said.

Following the pledge to "protect and defend" Richardson led a solemn bell tolling ceremony.

"Today's tolling of the bell is done to remember and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice," he said.

One of the witnesses to what then President George W. Bush entered into his journal, as "the Pearl Harbor of the 21st century," also reenlisted.

As a 16-year-old on his way to English Second Language class in West New York, New Jersey, Cuadra now says, "That day changed my life forever!"

The 28-year-old preventive medicine technician, whose high school is in New Jersey across the New York skyline along the Hudson River, said, "I saw the second plane hit the towers and little after that I saw them collapse.

"I knew in that moment that I wanted to join the military. A lot of my friends' relatives were actually in the towers when it all happened so I enlisted to take the fight to the enemy."

## 9/11 continued from page 1

killed at the opening battle of what is now collectively known as 'The War on Terrorism.'

"Since that day our brothers and sisters in the Armed Forces have continued the fight and as of Sept. 10, 2013, 6,756 have made the ultimate sacrifice, demonstrating the same level of commitment and bravery that we saw 12 years ago today."

Empty boots, helmet and firefighting gear stood as stark memorial to the 343 firefighters who died that day, attempting to save others.



## CNATRA continued from page 1

"And the Air Boss, Adm. Buss, took what I think was the prudent step to make sure we were well-funded, because he saw after discussions the potential impact to the 'seed corn' as we'll call it of Naval Aviation if we start messing around with our production here."

His biggest disappointment was shutting down the Blue Angels.

"It was probably more beyond my control, but I wish the Blue Angels could have flown this year," he said.

"Bringing the face of the Navy where they don't normally see the Navy – and I think the Blue Angels are excellent spokesmen for the United States Navy."

Unlike the drawdown of the early '90s, the Navy so far has been able to keep bringing in new student pilots at the rate needed.

"We're still planning roughly 1,100 students in FY 14, plus or minus a few," Leavitt said.

"Manpower wise, officer wise, I think the Navy has done a fairly good job of managing the aviation manpower pool right now. In the future, if the airlines start hiring again, it will be interesting to see if we see a lot of pilots transition to the civilian world."

But Leavitt said he warns today's pilots not to expect the big payoffs of years ago, because the civilian commercial aviation industry has changed since the days a single paycheck could buy a new car.

Leavitt knows it well; he is a Selected Reservist, one who drills – on leave from his civilian job with UPS.

Like most of the military, CNATRA faces a somewhat uncertain future, funding wise, since it's not clear what the FY 14 Defense budget will look like.

"I have put the direction out that we will continue to plan on training and running at high capacity until we are directed by higher authority to (reduce training)," he said.

"Having said that, we're not an ostrich with our head in the sand, knowing that if

*CNATRA continued on page 11*

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## Arlan Andrews retires from NAS Corpus Christi Public Works

by Earl Bittner, NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs



Arlan Andrews, NASCC Public Works Environmental Director, receives a plaque honoring his service from Public Works Director Cmdr. Amanda Brooks at his Aug. 23 retirement ceremony. NAVFAC Southeast photo.

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Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast Public Works Department Corpus Christi employee Arlan Andrews, Sr. retired Aug. 23 after dedicating more than 10 years of contractor and federal civil service to the U.S. Navy.

Andrews was the Installation Environmental Program Manager at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. He said good bye to many of his co-workers and friends at a retirement ceremony held in his honor at the new Consolidated Club August 21.

"Thank you for coming and thank you for assisting me during my 11 years here," Andrews said to his friends, co-workers, and colleagues at PWD Corpus Christi.

"It's been one heck of a ride since I started my civil service career way back in July 1958 at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, as a GS-2 Student-Trainee Mechanical Engineer."

During the ceremony, Andrews' friends presented him with a Texas-shaped plaque which holds a dozen commemorative coins from many tenant commands at NAS CC.

Andrews began his Civil Service career in New Mexico, as a GS-2 Student-Trainee Mechanical Engineer.

Over the next five and a half years, he worked six months a year as a missile tracking telescope operator and technician, and attended college the other six months.

He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering at New Mexico State

University and later a Master's and Doctorate in Engineering.

After a long career at AT&T Bell Labs and Sandia National Labs, including a stint in the White House Science Office, Andrews began working at NASCC as a Contract Engineer in January 2002.

He re-entered Civil Service in October 2004 as an Environmental Engineer, working for Corpus Christi Army Depot as their Environmental Coordinator.

He returned to the Navy in September 2005 and was promoted to the Environmental Director position in the Public Works Environmental Division in August 2007.

"One of my proudest achievements here includes the establishment of the Hazardous Waste Commodity Branch," Andrews said.

"The HWCB was the brainchild of Ross Ybarra, Reynaldo Aleman and myself. We promoted the concept and after five years, it became a reality."

This was a significant accomplishment because it allows the Navy to control all hazardous waste storage and disposal, and has prevented the recurrence of Notices of Violation.

"Arlan has been an excellent leader in our Environmental division and his expertise will be greatly missed," said NASCC Public Works Officer Cmdr. Amanda Brooks.

"NAVFAC Southeast, Public Works Department Corpus Christi and NAS Corpus Christi are losing an extremely valuable employee and team member."



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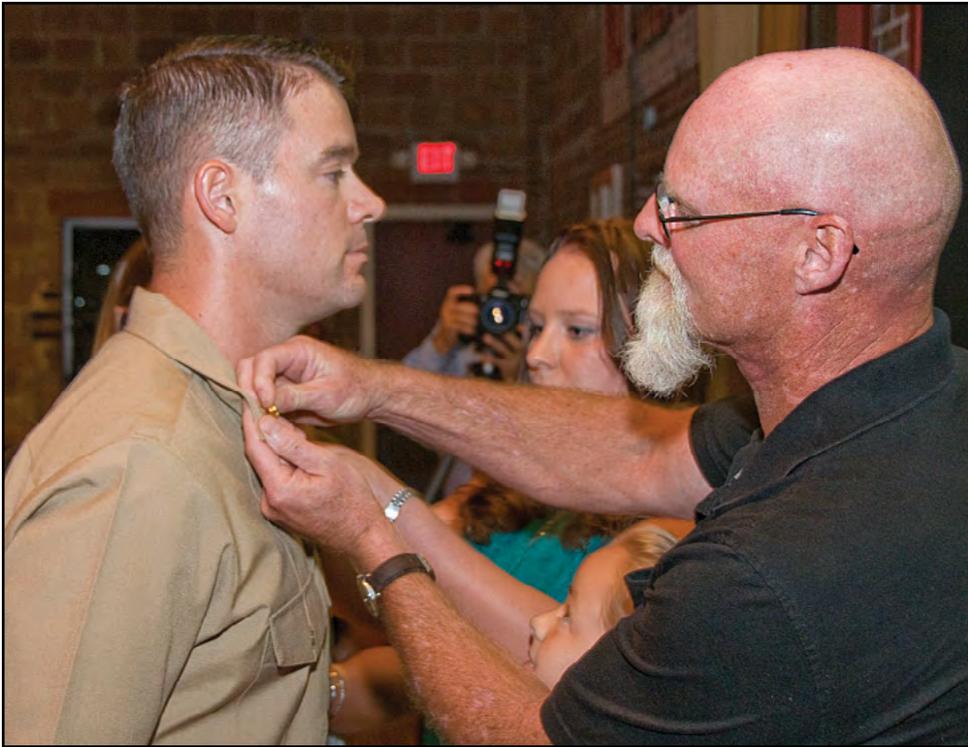
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# Bravo Zulu New Chiefs



South Texas got seven new Chief Petty officers on Sept. 13, representing Active and Reserve organizations. The new Chiefs received their Anchors from friends and families in the Wings Auditorium – and their new covers by their sponsoring Chiefs, followed by a reception at the Fouled Anchor. The newest Chiefs are: ITC(AW/SW) Joe Garcia; HMC(FM/SCW) Trevor Wolfe; OSC(IDW) Sergio Carranza; MAC Gaudencio Saucedo; AOC(AW) Jeffrey Fitzpatrick; ENC(SW) Bobby Solsbery; and YNC(IDW) Tara Sewell.

Photos by MC1 Maria Garza, Richard Stewart, Bill Love and Rod Hafemeister



# Awards and Achievements

## Winging — September 13



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

**Winging officials, from left: Alex Harris, Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce; Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain; Lt. Cmdr. Brian Eckley, USCG, FITU Officer-in-Charge, Training Air Wing Four; Cmdr. Jason L. Wood, Executive Officer, VT-35; Cmdr. Todd Copeland, Commanding Officer, VT-31; Col. David Krebs, USMC, Commanding Officer, MATSG-22; Capt. Richard Heimerle, USN, Ret.; Capt. Rex Curtin, Commodore, Training Air Wing Four.**

**Wingees, in alphabetical order: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nicholas Patrick Adams, USMC; Lt. j.g. Mahmood Daniel Alaverdi; Lt. j.g. Donald Patrick Anthony; Lt. j.g. Robert James Bellissimo; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kevin Matthew Berger, USMC; Lt. Kevin Patrick Carmichael, USCG; Ensign Paul Jared Dacus; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Graham Thomas Denniston, USMC; Capt. Richard Owen Earley, USMC; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Edward Alexander Fagan, USMC; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Lucas Henry Fields, USMC; Ensign Matthew Scott Fields; Lt. j.g. Andrew Michael Fitzsimmons; Lt. John David Inman; Ensign Slade Christian Marlow; Ensign Ryan Allen Mills; Lt. j.g. David Manuel Perez; Lt. j.g. Edward Ross Rostetter; Lt. j.g. James Michael Royals; Lt. Gregory Bowen Snow, USCG; Ensign Adam David Suwinski; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Seth Aaron Woodhull, USMC; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Michael Yim, USMC.**

### *CNATRA continued from page 7*

force structure cuts come – a decision that will be made at the Secretary level – we’ll see a reduction in our production requirements.

“If we get down to eight carriers or nine carriers and the associated air wings, it will require less pilots. So that would probably require that we slow down training, which would reduce production.”

How to do it would be a tough decision by Navy leaders – slow accession and production or possibly remove some personnel from aviation training.

Leavitt says he would like to see those already in the training pipeline to be able to continue, even if their training cycle is extended, because students are dedicated and smart.

“I’m glad I’m not going through flight school right now – because they’re a lot smarter, I think probably have better organizational skills,” he said.

“They are much more technologically adaptable because of the generation they’ve grown up with – they don’t know life without an iPhone or a computer or a tablet. And our airplanes now have gotten much more technology.”

Leavitt has been a geo-bachelor while CNATRA, although his wife and two teenagers have been frequent visitors to Corpus Christi.

“The kids love it; you can drive on the beach,” he said.

“And the support from the community, from the political leadership to the ordinary folks, has been wonderful; they do a tremendous job of welcoming the military.

“I’m actually sad to leave South Texas.”  
Leavitt turns over the command on Sept. 26, then heads back to San Diego – and back to heading up the Reserve Component of Naval Air Forces.

Any success he had, he credits to the total force of military, Reserve, civilians and contractors that make CNATRA and its five wings run – flying roughly 1,000 hours a day.

“I inherited a terrific command from Adm. Sizemore,” he said.

“I hopefully have left in at least as good a shape and I think I’ve made some improvements along the way.

“Being a Reserve Component officer and given the opportunity to take over command of an active component of about 700 airplanes and 9,000 people, I think I’ve done a pretty good job of keeping the production machine running, of continuing the traditions of Naval Aviation and the leadership that goes along with an organization of this size.

“Certainly as a flag officer, I couldn’t have asked for a better assignment.”



**Rear Adm. Mark Leavitt will render his final salute at Chief of Naval Air Training during a change of command ceremony Sept. 26 on board the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay.**  
Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA PA



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## What's Happening

**Saturday, September 28, 2013/ 7:00 p.m.**  
**YWCA gears up for its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual night run fundraiser Glo & Go Night Run** promises fun, glow in the dark paint and more! **Where:** Water Gardens, 1900 N. Shoreline Blvd. **Cost:** Adult \$25; Adult \$10 before September 7; Adult \$30; Child \$15 after September 7<sup>th</sup> **Information:** Linda 857-5661 X 17 OR [www.ywca.org/corpuschristi](http://www.ywca.org/corpuschristi)

**St. Patrick Catholic Church** will celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi with a **Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 9 a.m. and ending promptly at 10 a.m. in the backyard of the rectory office at 3350 South Alameda, (under the covered gym if raining). **ALL ARE WELCOME** and there is **NO CHARGE**. Refreshments will be provided for both man and beast. Please bring dogs on leashes and small animals in carriers. Call 855-7391 FMI.

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2727 Airline Road - Saturday Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM** [www.stmarkscscc.com](http://www.stmarkscscc.com) Please join us in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures by bringing your much loved pets for a special blessing. Feel free to bring your camera's to remember the day. We will have a drawing for a \$50 Petco gift card!

**ROCKPORT SEAFAIR HOSTS SOUTH TEXAS TEXACO COUNTRY SHOWDOWN - The Rockport-Fulton Seafair** in Rockport, TX will host the **South Texas State Final Competition of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Texaco Country Showdown**, America's largest country music talent search. **Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm** at the Seafair

**Big Tent.** Seafair ow in its 39<sup>th</sup> year Designed with families in mind, the three-day festival features an old-fashioned parade, Stand-Up Paddleboard races, and the wildly popular crab races. It also includes arts and crafts vendors, as well as gumbo, dessert and salsa cook-offs. Experts are on-hand to provide education about the Gulf Coast, and throughout the weekend, live entertainment delights dance and music fans! Admission: Adults Fri. - \$5, after 7pm \$10 Sat. - \$7, After 7pm \$10 Sun. \$5. Ages 6-12 are \$2 every day, Ages 5 and under are free. Weekend pass wristband: \$15 for all 3 days. For additional information call (361) 729 - 6445 or visit [www.rockportseafair.com](http://www.rockportseafair.com).

**Join the fight to end breast cancer forever.** Register NOW for the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer® 5K walk on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at Corpus Christi Water Gardens. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.; walk starts at 9 a.m. By participating in this inspiring event, you not only honor and celebrate those impacted by breast cancer, but every step you take and every dollar raised helps save lives. When more walkers raise money to fight breast cancer, there will be more survivors able to celebrate more birthdays. To register, or for more information, visit [makingstridescorpuschristi.org](http://makingstridescorpuschristi.org), call 361-857-0136, or email [Kayla.hanson@cancer.org](mailto:Kayla.hanson@cancer.org).

**Mark Your Calendar for Birdies on the Bay 2<sup>nd</sup> annual golf classic supports Special Olympics Texas athletes** Make plans to swing, chip and putt fore Special Olympics Texas at the Birdies on the Bay Golf Classic, **October 18**, at the Corpus Christi Country Club. Lunch is at 12:00 p.m. and tee off is at 1:00 p.m.,

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immediately followed by an awards ceremony and refreshments. Participants will also have a chance to win fantastic prizes, including golf bags, an ice chest and a barbecue pit. Registration is \$125 per player and \$500 per four-person team. Proceeds support more than 1,500 Special Olympics Texas athletes in the South Texas area. For a registration form or more information, contact Alice Fulton-Garza (agarza@sotx.org) at 361.857.5679.

**iCaliente! A Night In Old Buenos Aires - YOU** are Invited to Join us for the Art Center of Corpus Christi's annual fundraising event, iCaliente! on Thursday, November 7th from 6-9pm. iCaliente! A Night in Old Buenos Aires, will feature live music, live art demonstrations, an iron pour with guest participation, Raku demonstrations, a photo booth, a caricature artist, tango dancers, live music, tile painting, food from the finest caterers in town, an open air themed Art Market, and so much more! VIP tickets are available for advanced purchase online for \$75 and includes a private reception from 5-6pm, a free raffle ticket, a drink at the bar, one "Artist in Action" token to use towards an activity of your choosing, first pick of silent auction items, and a rose corsage. Tickets are available for advanced purchase online at [www.artcentercc.org/events/caliente](http://www.artcentercc.org/events/caliente) The Art Center of Corpus Christi, 100 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX 78401

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**H-E-B Tennis Center to Offer Three Tennis Youth Classes During Fall 2013** Registration offered now through December 23, 2013

The Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department's H-E-B Tennis Center is offering three classes for youth this Fall season. These

See Happening, Page 14



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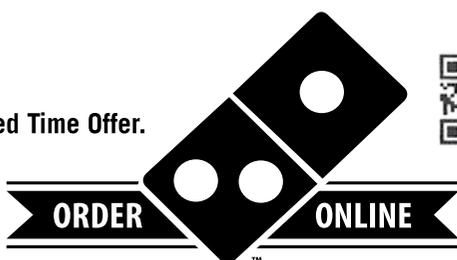
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### Happening, from Page 13

are excellent introduction classes to the sport or if your child wants to take it to the next level.

**The Quick Start Youth Tennis Class** is held on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:45pm-4:30pm**. The class will introduce youths ages 5 and older to the sport of tennis. Eye-hand coordination and motor skills will be emphasized in a fun and friendly atmosphere on smaller courts and with slower balls. The registration fee is \$35 for a 5-lesson pass; or \$60 for a 10-lesson pass. You pick your days. Tennis rackets will be provided.

**The 10 and Under Tennis Class** is held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30pm-5:30pm**. This is an introduction-to-tennis class for youths ages 10 and under. Groundstrokes and volleys will be emphasized as well as introduction to the serve and lots of fun games. The registration fee is \$45 for a 5-lesson pass; or \$80 for a 10-lesson pass. You pick your days. Tennis rackets will be provided.

**The Junior Team Tennis Class** is held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30pm-6:30pm**. The class is for young aspiring tennis players who want to learn to play the game. It will teach the basics of tennis in a fun atmosphere with games. The registration fee is \$45 for a 5-lesson pass; or \$80 for a 10-lesson pass. You pick your days. Tennis rackets will be provided, if needed.

**REGISTRATION** for all these classes is open now through December 23, 2013 at H-E-B Tennis Center, 1520 Shely St. For more information, please call 361-834-2231 or 361-882-6013.

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**American Red Cross Launches New App to Recruit Volunteers** - Once users download the app, they create an account. Then they learn about different jobs, such as working in a warehouse, handing out supplies or assisting with feeding. When the Red Cross has a need for volunteers, the Team Red Cross App will notify users based on their location. Potential volunteers can instantly accept or decline the volunteer opportunity. The Red Cross is encouraging the public to download the app before a disaster strikes the Texas Coast so volunteers can help immediately. The app is free and designed for iPhone and Android smart phones and tablets. Additional features include:

- A quick orientation right on the mobile device.
- Ability for people to share notifications for volunteers with their social network.
- Earn digital "badges" by completing a job test, accepting a job, sharing the app, recruiting volunteers, etc. The "badges" can then be shared with their social network.
- Allows people to donate money to the Red Cross and sign up to donate blood.
- Offers emergency response information that people can share with their friends at the touch of a button.

The Team Red Cross App can be found in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store by searching for American Red Cross or by going to [redcross.org/mobileapps](http://redcross.org/mobileapps).

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**For more information, call 549-6048 or search online for Revelaires Dance Club.**

# CNRSE recognizes Ombudsmen

Story & photo by MC1 Greg Johnson, NRSE PA



Rear Adm. Rick Williamson signs a proclamation in support of the Navy Family Ombudsman Program (NFOP) on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville Sept. 9. The proclamation signing commemorated the 43rd anniversary of the NFOP and declared Sept. 14 as Ombudsman Appreciation Day throughout the region.

Rear Adm. Rick Williamson, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, signed a proclamation in support of the Navy Family Ombudsman Program (NFOP) on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville Sept. 9.

The proclamation signing commemorated the 43rd anniversary of the NFOP and declared Sept. 14 as Ombudsman Appreciation Day throughout the region.

"For more than four decades, the Navy ombudsman program has been an invaluable resource in our efforts to support our warfighters and their families," Williamson said.

"I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our ombudsmen throughout the region for their continued support.

"Our Sailors and their families would face a much more difficult task without you."

The NFOP was launched Sept. 14, 1970, by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt to assist commands in maintaining the morale, health and welfare of Navy families.

Ombudsmen act as liaisons between commanding officers and the families of service members.

They typically provide a variety of resources, such as providing family members

with official information and emergency assistance.

Commander, Navy Installations Command reports that ombudsmen volunteer efforts save the Navy more than \$2 million annually.

According to Dianne Parker, Navy Region Southeast deployment support program manager and ombudsman program coordinator, the proclamation is significant because it acknowledges the efforts of ombudsmen not only throughout the region, but throughout the Navy.

"It's important to recognize the anniversary of the ombudsman program because our ombudsmen are a part of the command support team, they make sure families know what resources are available to them, and help them adjust to the military way of life," she said.

"If it weren't for our Navy ombudsmen, our Sailors would carry a much heavier burden in the face of their military duties."

For more information about the Navy Ombudsman Program, including how to contact your command ombudsman, visit [http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas\\_corpus\\_christi/ffr/support\\_services/military\\_support/ombudsman.html](http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas_corpus_christi/ffr/support_services/military_support/ombudsman.html).

## Skipper continued from page 2

Mechanic Larry Meehan worked untold hours to resurrect an inadequate and undated equipment fleet to functional levels. Maintenance staff, including Daniel Orta, Tyler Schladoer, Melinda LeClair and David Gagnon, took ownership of ensuring a quality course.

In the Pro Shop, Johnny Sanchez and Carlos Moreno promoted the course and

created a professional environment for the patrons.

And the Snack Bar crew, Anacita Calma, Mayyensi Granillo, Jennifer Ramirez and Clara Shorethose, worked to improve the menu and the service.

Thanks to their team effort, and the loyal patrons, the Gulf Winds Golf Course is back on a stable financial footing – and off the Red Flag list.



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## Taking control of student loan debt

by Lt. Michael R. Ellis, JAGC, New Orleans Legal Assistance Office, RLSO SE

If you are like many Americans who've attended college, you probably financed your way through with the help of student loans but without paying much attention to the details.

After all, higher education was for decades considered to be one of the wisest investments around.

Unfortunately, the rising costs of tuition coupled with the recent economic downturn have resulted in many people finding themselves tethered to huge loan balances without the huge incomes they imagined.

If this sounds like you, then the first thing you should do is realize you're not alone.

A recent report from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York estimated that approximately one-third of all student loans not in repayment are more than 90 days past due.

Meanwhile, the average debt load is more than \$28,000 and rising every year.

The next thing you need to do is take charge of your financial future with the three-step method shown below.

### Step 1: Survey the Scene

As a legal assistance attorney advising a client with student loan issues, I always start by diagnosing the problem.

Specifically, you need to determine: what kinds of loans do you have, who owns them, and the status of each loan.

Although simple in theory, it can be difficult in practice.

Many students don't fully understand where their student loan money comes from until after graduation.

It's important to determine whether you have publicly held subsidized or unsubsidized loans, private loans, PLUS loans, or some combination of the above.

Publicly held loans and PLUS loans are backed by the Department of Education and tend to have lower interest rates and more flexible repayment options.

Private loans, on the other hand, tend to have higher interest rates, may frequently be sold to other private companies, and typically have more restrictive repayment options.

Look at the statements you receive in the mail or in your inbox to begin tracking these loans down.

Many loan providers will have websites and online payment options as well.

Once you've tracked the providers down, you must then determine the status of each loan: is it in deference, forbearance, repayment, or default?

Typically loans are deferred while you are still in school and go into repayment a few months after graduation.

Periods of forbearance may be granted for short periods due to hardship, but that is usually up to the lender.

Finally, a loan is in default when you have failed to make a payment during a period of repayment.

In addition to looking at your loan providers' websites or paper statements,



your credit report will contain a wealth of information about type and status of your loans.

### Step 2: Explore All Loan Repayment Options

Now that you've gotten a handle on the big picture, it's time to explore your repayment options.

When it comes to public loans, there are a number of government programs available to help.

For example, the Income Based Repayment ("IBR") program allows you to index your public loan payments to your annual income.

The IBR program is a great option to begin making small but qualifying payments without going into default.

In addition, the IBR program will forgive the remainder of your public loans if you make 120 continuous payments while employed in a government or public service job.

In other words, by making a payment every month on time for 10 years, your entire public loan balance will be forgiven no matter how small the payment or how much is left.

The catch: you must stay in the military or work in a qualifying public service capacity in order to take advantage of the loan forgiveness feature.

As of December 2012, there's another option called Pay As Your Earn ("PAYE") that builds upon the IBR program and provides some additional benefits to qualifying borrowers.

Unlike public loans, private loans do not qualify for the programs described above.

Instead, you typically have to work out a repayment schedule with each individual loan provider.

As military servicemember, however, you have an extra arrow in your quiver via the Service Members Civil Relief Act ("SCRA").

The SCRA allows you to reduce the interest rate on student loans of all types to 6 percent.

This is potentially huge savings over the life of the loan, particularly with regard to expensive private loans.

The SCRA also allows you to place loans

*Loans continued on page 17*

**Loans continued from page 16**

into military deferment during your active duty service.

Although a great option for struggling families that simple can't make qualifying payments, military deferment is not the right choice for everyone.

Loans in military deferment continue to accrue interest even though you are not required to make payments.

The only exceptions are subsidized public loans, which do not accrue interest during military deferment.

Moreover, loans in military deferment are not eligible for the IBR and PAYE programs.

Finally, the interest accrued is "capitalized," meaning the interest is rolled into the principle, which results in the loan growing exponentially faster each and every year of deferment. So be careful.

Finally, all loans can be consolidated, which can provide you with a simplified payment process and an overall lower interest rate.

But be careful. Consolidating public loans with a privately held company can dramatically limit your options, and consolidating pre-service loans will negate your ability to take advantage of the SCRA.

**Step 3: Develop a Plan**

Now that you've determined how to best take advantage of the options available for each of your loans, it's time to develop a plan for the future.

I find that the biggest impediment for most people is simply keeping track.

The maze of websites and the frequency at which student loans change ownership is frustrating and confusing for even seasoned professionals to keep up with.

Luckily, there are a number of cheap solutions to these problems.

I recommend that my clients enlist the help of a money management program such as mint.com, Personal Capital, Quicken, YNAB, or one of the many others available.

Both mint.com and Personal Capital allow you to see the status of all of your financial accounts at once, which can take the hassle out of managing modern finances.

Both are free and have smartphone apps that allow you to view your entire financial situation on the go.

Programs like Quicken and YNAB cost a little more, but also provide powerful budget forecasting options that allow users to project financing and budgeting decisions into the future.

Combining a budgeting tool like Quicken or YNAB with a free tracking program like mint.com or Personal Capital puts users firmly in control of their financial futures.

Finally, Sallie Mae – the biggest servicer of publicly held student loans – recently introduced the Upromise program, which merits an entire article in itself.

In general, Upromise offers a number of options to help chip away at your student loan balances such as special reward credit cards, online savings accounts, and much more. It's worth a look.

**Finally, Seek Assistance**

The bottom line is that no matter how bad the situation you have options, and as a member of the Armed Forces, you have more options than most.

When in doubt, talk with your local military legal assistance provider to learn more about those options and good luck.

## 2013 Youth Soccer League Registration Going on Now



Youth ages 5 - 12 are invited to participate in the 2013 Youth Soccer League. Registration deadline is Sept. 30. The season will start October 9. Cost is \$50 per player.

A free required parents meeting/training will be held on Sept. 14, from 10 am until 11 am.

This training is the Parents Association for Youth Sports (PAYs) and the certificate of training is good for one year.

If you cannot attend the class, the class can be taken online at <http://paysonline.nays.org/>; cost is \$6 per family.

Dependents of active duty military, DoD civilians and contractors working at NAS Corpus Christi are eligible to participate.

Volunteer Coaches are needed, if interested please contact the Youth Activities Center.

A coaches training/meeting will be held on Sept. 10 & 11 from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Youth & Teen Center. Volunteer Coaches must have current CPR & First Aid Certification. A CPR & First Aid certification class will be held on Sept. 18 & 19 from 5 pm until 7 pm.



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Photo by Rod Hafemeister

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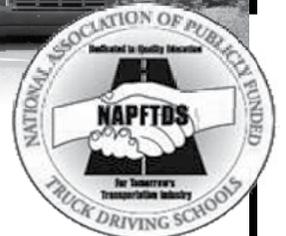
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## Wilcox Furniture's 60th Anniversary Celebration!

We Won't Be Undersold! No Credit? No Problem! Same Day Delivery!



Price Includes: 2pc Sectional and FREE Ottoman

**Popular Fabric Mix!**

**\$646.27**

A super soft cover mixed with a contrasting bicast vinyl base makes this one of our more legendary groups! Sink into comfort and get ready for the evening!



Price Includes: Queen Headboard, Footboard and Rails

**Easy Platform Sleep!**

**\$307.29**

Simple beauty, a padded headboard with a leather look and a bed that's easy to roll into and out of! It's so easy to drop into a great platform bed after a long day of work or play.



**Keep Food Fresh!**

New Samsung Side-by-Side with ice and cold water through the door! You'll love the easy layout, storage and better efficiency!



Price Includes: Table and 4 Side Chairs

**Durable Espresso!**

**\$287**

There is nothing like the durability of a hardwood chair! This dining set features a 36" x 48" table and has all wood matching chairs with a comfort cushioned seat covered in a stain resistant dura-blend fabric!



**\$999**  
**Glider Rocker**

Smooth out the rough spots in your day by enjoying the gentle whisper quiet glider rocker! Sit down, relax and enjoy a good book or your favorite show!

**\$273.93**

5858 SPID @SUNRISE MALL CORPUS CHRISTI 361.991.1120 Mon-Fri 10a-8p; Sat 10a-7p  
9602 Upriver Road CORPUS CHRISTI 361.241.4211 Mon-Fri 10a-7p; Sat 10a-6p  
2021 S. Brahma Near High School Kingsville 361.592.8534 Mon-Fri 10a-7p; Sat 10a-6p

[www.wilcoxfurniture.com](http://www.wilcoxfurniture.com)

