

# WINGSPAN



Vol. 19, No. 26

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

December 26, 2013

## Corpus Christi Army Depot breaks ground for new helicopter painting facility



CCAD commanding officer Col. Billingsley Garner Pogue III (second from left), U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold (third) and various dignitaries break ground for a new Aircraft Corrosion

Control Facility Dec. 9. The \$34.2 million facility, scheduled for completion in 2016, will significantly increase CCAD's painting capacity. Photo by Bob Torres

by Brigitte Rox, Corpus Christi Army Depot Public Affairs

Corpus Christi Army Depot, the core of Army aviation's maintenance, repair and overhaul for helicopters, engines and components, on Dec. 9 broke ground on a new modernized helicopter facility that will house painting operations for Army helicopters.

When complete, this \$34.2 million Aircraft Corrosion Control Facility will meet the painting requirements for the Army's UH-60 Black Hawk, CH-47D Chinook and AH-64 Apache.

It will also improve corrosion control and the working environment.

"The Army and the American taxpayers will get their money's worth out of this facility and, most importantly, will be able to provide even better support for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who get to do their job better because of the

work that's done here," said John Neger, the Executive Deputy to the Commanding General of Army Materiel Command.

Depot artisans have been working in the same paint hangar since 1970. The hangar was only designed to paint the Army's smaller helicopters: the UH-1 Huey and AH-1 Cobra, and the larger Chinook aircraft. The hangar has 57,280 square feet of space and is equipped with four dated down-draft water-wash paint booths.

Over the last two decades, however, CCAD's workload has expanded to include newer and larger weapon systems, most notably the UH-60, its Air Force variant, and the AH-64.

Army aviation's modernization workload requirements are substantially greater now than they had been in the past.

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**New Year's Eve Party  
at Catalina Club**

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**TEXAS VETERANS  
COMMISSION**

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**TSA Expands  
Airport Precheck  
For  
Service Members**

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## Breakfast with Santa



Photos on page 8

## Skipper's Column

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Edgecomb

As we near the end of the year, it's a good time to reflect on 2013.

Two of the biggest events were with MWR: the opening of the Catalina Club in April and the successful turn-around of the Golf Winds Golf Course, which went from losing

money, and possible closure, to actually operating in the green.

The golf course finances improved both because we started irrigating with effluent water from the city, saving thousands of dollars in water costs, and because the MWR employees at the course improved maintenance and service across the board.

The long-awaited Catalina Club replaces the aging Bay Club, which no longer could be kept in a usable condition and will, eventually, be torn down.

We also, finally, were able to remove old, unused senior officer quarters that had become too expensive to return to service and something of a health and safety hazard for the base.

While many of the hanger renovations on the instillation have proved challenging, we have made progress, even with tight budgets, and we completed the first year of T-6B flight operations at OLF Goliad.

One of the less visible successes, but one with serious implications for the future of NAS Corpus Christi, was the development of a Joint Land Use Study with city and county officials. The JLUS contains a number of recommendations that will help build on our strategic partnership with the city in ways that promote compatible development while protecting the Instillation's ability to train.

2013 also came with significant

challenges.

Early on, sequestration meant the cancellation of the planned air show, although we were at least able to hold the annual Navy Regatta.

Those tight budgets also caused pain to our civilian employees, who endured unpaid furloughs and a government shutdown. As I write this, it appears a budget deal will be done that should avoid a shutdown in 2014.

The Air Station also got a visit from Vice Adm. David Buss, the Commander, Naval Air Forces; bid farewell to Rear Adm. Mark Leavitt as he departed as Chief of Naval Air Training and welcomed the new CNATRA, Rear Adm. Roy Kelley.

We watched executive officer Cmdr. Dave Dargan retire and welcomed the new XO, Cmdr. Scott Wilmot.

In other words, it's been another year in the Navy.

I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

See you next year!

## Another Year Gone By

## Chaplain's Message

by Fr. John Vidal

By the time you sit down to read this edition of Wingspan, it's likely that the Holiday season will be winding down with only the New Year's Eve and Day left.

Now we are all beginning to looking forward to 2014 and are starting to think about what goals we might set out to accomplish.

After so many parties and so much eating, the most common resolution is to lose the weight we've gained and redouble our efforts on healthy living.

This, of course is a very important goal.

I would like to suggest to you that another important goal is to redouble our efforts on developing a healthy spiritual life.

According to experts at the University of Maryland Health Center in Baltimore, Md., "Spiritual practices tend to improve coping skills and social support, foster feelings of optimism and hope, promote healthy behavior,

reduce feelings of depression and anxiety, and encourage a sense of relaxation. By alleviating stressful feelings and promoting healing ones, spirituality can positively influence immune, cardiovascular (heart and blood vessels), hormonal, and nervous systems." (Source: Spirituality, University of Maryland Medical Center at [www.umm.edu](http://www.umm.edu))

Many things are happening at the Catholic Chapel to help in this effort and build on our Spiritual lives, regardless of where you stand at the moment.

On Jan. 5 we will start offering a second Mass at 11 a.m.

This Mass will be geared to those who would like a more solemn worship experience and we will be working on adding sacred and choral music.

In between the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses, we will continue to have Christian

Education for the children and a fellowship hour. (We do have fruit and vegetables for those of you working on the first goal mentioned above, or you can go for a donut if you want...)

We hope that the formation of a choir will encourage all to come out and learn about singing sacred music and even some Gregorian and Anglican chanting.

Come on out, you'll be surprised how much fun it is.

*Chaplain continued on page 5*

## New Year's Resolutions

## Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

We'll, we goofed.

Last issue, the Skipper outlined the rules concerning firearms on base.

Towards the end, we talked about firearms in the RVs in the RV park.

The Skipper and I both worked on the piece, we both looked at the same NASCCINST – and we both got it wrong.

After the column came out, Security let

us know that the NASCCINST we referenced is out of date, and conflicts with the one directly concerning the RV park, which was updated earlier this year.

The RV instruction complies with one from Navy Region Southeast (and apparently all the way up the chain of command) and specifically forbids having firearms in the RV park – even if you comply with all the rules applied to people in family housing.

Per Security, "Personnel who arrive on board the installation with the intent of staying in the RV park need to check their firearms into security for storage."

So, the rule is, declare it at the gate when you come in, be escorted to Security, fill out the appropriate paperwork and give the

## Correction: No Guns in RV Park

firearm(s) to Security to store until you are ready to leave the Air Station.

The existing NASCCINST on firearms is being rewritten to bring it into accord with the RV instruction – and with the instructions from higher headquarters.

So if you are in the RV park, are going by the Dec. 12 issue and think you are okay – you may not be.

If you have firearms, get over to Security and get the paperwork straightened out and your weapons secured.

Please don't spoil your visit to NAS Corpus Christi by getting in trouble over our mistake.

And of course... we at the Wingspan wish everyone Very Happy Holidays.

## Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi

"Exceeding Expectations Through Pride In Performance"

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## Worship Services

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Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.

### JEWISH WORSHIP SERVICE

Temple Beth El (4402 Saratoga Blvd.)  
Friday at 7:30 p.m.  
(with dinner to follow)  
For further information call  
Temple Beth El at 857-8181

### ISLAMIC WORSHIP SERVICE

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

# Behavioral Health Staff conduct free screening at Medical Homeport

Story and photo by Bill W. Love, NHCCC PAO

Behavioral Health Clinic staff screened 52 individuals during free anonymous mental health self-assessments at Medical Homeport waiting area Dec. 5.

“We had an amazing turnout,” said Lt. Shannon Hillier, psychiatrist.

“Even the CO and Command Senior Chief showed up to fill out questionnaires and receive our T-shirts!”

Participants included active duty members, retirees, veterans and their family members.

According to Military Pathways online, Military life, especially the stress of deployments or mobilizations, can present challenges to service members and their families that are both unique and difficult.

Some are manageable, some are not. Many times we can successfully deal with them on our own.

In some instances, matters get worse and one problem can trigger other more serious issues.

At such times it is wise to check things out and see what is really happening.

That’s the purpose of anonymous and voluntary mental health testing self-assessments.

But people’s apprehension about sharing their problems with others might not be so easily allayed. That’s where Hillier’s staff comes in.

“Taking stock of your emotions and

seeking help are signs of courage, not weakness,” Hillier said.

“Everyone in the Behavioral Health department works incredibly hard on reducing stigma and raising awareness for behavioral health concerns.”

Hillier also points out that it’s not easy to determine if you have a problem; that’s why the military offers free, confidential self-assessments for people who may be experiencing stress, moodiness, or other unsettling feelings.

“These self-assessments can help you regain your emotional stability,” she said.

For those taking the assessment at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, it was as simple as completing a brief questionnaire.

The questions are designed to review your situation with if you think you are experiencing some of the more common mental health issues including, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, alcohol problems and more.

The screening will not provide a diagnosis. But, it will give you an indication of whether or not you have symptoms that are consistent with a condition or concern that would benefit from further evaluation or treatment by a professional.

According to Hillier, 23 clients received one-on-one interviews with Behavioral Health providers and most of them were able to either get appointments at NHCCC or referrals for



**HM2 (FMF) Corey Volkman completes an anonymous mental health self-assessment form. NHCCC Behavioral Health department staff creates awareness for behavioral health concerns and promote the idea that taking stock of your emotions and seeking help are signs of courage, not weakness.**

network providers.

Are you or a loved one feeling especially stressed or anxious lately?

Hillier suggests that while everyone experiences ups and downs, lingering sadness and feelings of disconnection could be signs of more serious underlying issues.

“Whether you are personally suffering through these feelings or have observed them

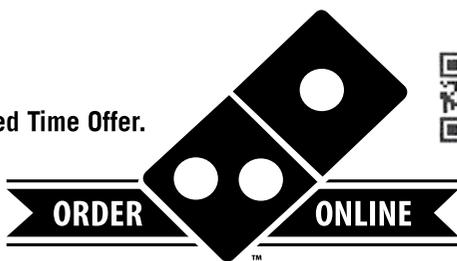
in a friend or family member, it is important for you or your loved one to seek help before the problems become more significant,” she said.

The self-assessments, including one for alcohol use, are available year-round, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, online at [www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org](http://www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org) or by telephoning (877) 877-3647.

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## Coast Guard holds ground breaking for new consolidated facility at Corpus Christi International Airport



U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Samuel Creech, the Sector Corpus Christi Captain of the Port and sector commander (fourth from right) and Corpus Christi Mayor Nelda Martinez, (fifth from right) were joined by other Coast Guardsmen and dignitaries to break ground Dec. 16 for the future Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi building at Corpus Christi International Airport. The new building will provide a large enough space for new aircraft, maintenance equipment, and personnel currently divided between a Coast Guard hanger at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and leased office space downtown. It will also provide faster aircraft response times and reduced maintenance due to corrosion.

U.S, Coast Guard photo



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## Ring in the New Year with MWR at the Catalina Club

Please join MWR for an entertaining New Year's Eve Party to ring in the 2014 New Year at the Catalina Club on Dec. 31, 2013 from 7:30 p.m. until 1 a.m.

There will be a live band featuring Jazz Prodigy!

Price of ticket includes Live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, breakfast, dancing, no cash casino style fun, door prizes and party favors.

We will have a toast at midnight to bring in the New Year!

Breakfast will be served from 12:15 a.m. until 1 a.m.

The cost is \$35 per person or \$60 per couple; tickets can be purchased at the Information, Tickets & Tours (ITT) office located in building 1757 inside the ORAC/Marina Office.

Deadline to purchase tickets is 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31. After 2 p.m., please call the Catalina Club at 961-2541 to see if tickets are still available.



Must be 18 years or older to attend the New Year's Eve Party.

Child care is available through the CYP program for ages 0 to 12.

Spaces are limited. Please register for childcare at ITT when tickets are purchased.

Must have New Year's Eve Party Ticket to be eligible for childcare.

Cost for childcare is \$10 per child.

Pizza and snacks will be provided for the children.

For more information, please call 961-3961 or 961-2541.

**Chaplain continued from page 2**

You don't have to "know how to sing" or be a member of the Chapel congregation if you don't want.

We just want you to come sing with us; we'll teach you what you need to know!

Call me at the Chaplain's office if you are interested or stay tuned for rehearsal times.

We are also planning an evening lecture series on various topics of general interest for our Air Station community. In addition, Bible Studies will also be formed during the day and in the evenings.

Keep your eyes open for the announcement of these programs.

You can learn more by coming to one of our Sunday or Weekday Masses (Mon-Thu 11:30 a.m.).

Of course, I always encourage you to call or stop by the Chaplain's office for a visit with Chaplain Warne or myself and discuss any subject of interest to you.

Wishing you a happy and prosperous 2014, yours in Christ.

**CCAD continued from page 1**

CCAD's existing smaller booths cannot keep pace with the Army's production needs and cannot meet current environmental standards. Without this new facility, CCAD will continue to experience maintenance backlogs due to inadequate, hazardous and substandard facilities.

The ACCF is part of the Military Construction Army program for Fiscal Year 2013. The 77,765 sq. ft. building's six cleaning and paint bays will be large enough to accommodate the U.S. Army's newest and largest helicopters for the next several decades.

Completion is scheduled for 2016.

It will allow the depot to take on additional workload, continue to meet the state's air permit requirements by consolidating paint operations under one roof, and minimize costly downtime associated with aircraft movement.

The Aircraft Corrosion Control Facility will also incorporate environmentally friendly processes.

New environment-conscious equipment will enable the depot to service not only more aircraft, but larger aircraft as well, all while producing fewer pollutants and using less energy.

"A few assignments ago I used to manage military construction for the Army back in the Pentagon, and I know the advanced planning, the environmental assessments, the designs, the continuing articulation of the requirement before various boards up and down the chain, and defending this project and budgets multiple times over multiple years," Neger said.

"Just because this building needed to be built was no guarantee that it would be built. The Army's military construction program budgets are declining and headed to historic lows.

"It really is very appropriate to single out how significant it is for Corpus Christi and the Army to get approval to move forward on this new facility."

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## Counseling services support our Forces

by a Military Spouse

As a military spouse, I have first-hand experience with the unique challenges military families face both in and out of the military community.

We must be prepared to face deployments with a day's notice, geographical changes every few years, and the emotional toll that is a natural consequence of a transient lifestyle.

For families, this can cause a great deal of stress, not only on the children, but also the parents.

For these reasons and many others, programs that offer counseling are essential within the military community.

Although the services are available, speaking from my own experience, many people do not know about these services.

There seems to be a stigma associated with seeking counseling. However, the stress of the military lifestyle can be suffocating.

Moving to new places (and all the meticulous details of doing so) can wear down even the strongest military family.

Preparation through counseling can make transitions and adaptation much easier for all members of a family.

Counselors can offer beneficial information and stress management techniques that not only help families cope with current situations, but also prepare them to deal with future stressors as well.

As a military family, the holidays may increase feelings of homesickness or loneliness.



For families experiencing strife such as unexpected deployment or deployment extensions, these feelings can be overwhelming.

The bottom line is that seeking counseling services is easier now than it has ever been. Even if an individual chooses to go once and never go back, he or she may be better equipped to deal with the mental and emotional stressors than before the session.

As a military family member, were you aware that, on the fifth deck of Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) offers counseling services for individuals, couples, families, and groups?

To schedule an appointment, call centralized scheduling at (866) 293-2776.

The FFSC is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and counseling services are available to active duty service members, activated reservists, and their legal dependents.

Referrals can be given to others who may not meet the eligibility requirements.

## TSA Precheck expands to military members at more than 100 airports

from Transportation Security Agency Public Affairs

As the result of the ongoing partnership with the Department of Defense, the Transportation Security Administration on Dec. 20 officially extended TSA Precheck expedited screening benefits to all U.S. Armed Forces service members.

Service members, including U.S. Coast Guard, Reserves and National Guard will be able to enjoy the benefits of this expedited screening program at more than 100 participating airports when flying on nine major U.S. airlines.

If a service member has entered their DoD identification number correctly in a flight reservation, they will be permitted access to TSA Precheck lanes.

The expedited screening will allow service members to keep their footwear on as well as light outerwear, laptop in its case and their 3-1-1 compliant liquids/gels bag in a carry on in select screening lanes. That ID number will be used as their Known Traveler Number, and enables TSA to expand the program to all airports offering TSA Precheck. Previously, members of the U.S. Armed Forces could utilize TSA Precheck lanes at 10 domestic airports by presenting their Common Access Card (CAC).

More than 30 million passengers have experienced TSA Precheck since it launched in October 2011.

"Expanding the TSA Precheck screening benefits is great news for our service members, and is a tangible sign of this nation's gratitude for the men and women who serve this nation bravely each and every day," said Mary Snavely-Dixon, director, Defense Manpower Data Center.

"We will continue to work with the Transportation Security Administration to help expand this program further."

"TSA is grateful to the brave men and women in uniform who continue to serve our nation with honor and distinction," said TSA Deputy Administrator John W. Halinski, a 25-year Marine Corps veteran.

TSA will always incorporate random and unpredictable security measures throughout the airport. No individual will be guaranteed expedited screening.

Travelers can check the TSA Precheck Participating Airports page for information on locations of active TSA Precheck lanes.

Further information on TSA Precheck for military members can be found at [www.TSA.gov](http://www.TSA.gov) and [www.defensetravel.dod.mil](http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil).

## Texas Veterans Commission opens office on base to help with claims

by Francisco Guerra, TVC Veterans Claims Counselor

We are honored to announce that the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) has established a permanent presence on Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and will be available to represent any Veteran, military retiree, surviving spouse, child, parent, and active-duty service member who may wish to make a claim for Veterans benefits.

TVC wishes to publicly thank the base commanding officer, Capt. Dave Edgecomb, for signing off on this idea early in his tour of duty here and for his invaluable assistance throughout this process.

For the past 85 years, from the Great War to Victory in Europe Day, from the hellish winters of the Korean Peninsula to the sweltering jungles of Viet Nam, from the rough open seas of the globe to the Global War on Terrorism, Veterans in Texas have been represented by the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) in filing and appealing their compensation and pension claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

TVC Claims Counselors initiate claims for service-connected disability compensation, pension, survivor benefits, burial benefits and many other benefits.

How does it work? Simple.

When you are ready to get started on your claim, a TVC Claims Counselor will sit down with you and go over the details of your benefits with you.

We will help you design a plan to help you attain those benefits, track them online, advise you, and assist you with any roadblocks for the life of the claim until you have a decision letter in your hand.

If there are any unfavorable decisions, your counselor will help you appeal, and if your case goes before a decision review officer or a VA law judge, a TVC counselor will be standing alongside you at the hearing – advising you and speaking on your behalf.

Don't worry, any work TVC does on your behalf is treated with complete confidentiality.

The new office on base is private and is located at the Fleet and Family Support Center in the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, room 5114.

The hours of operation will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, on a first-come, first-served basis (with the



exception of the first Wednesday of every month for prescheduled Benefits Delivery at Discharge claims).

The phone number is 361-937-2300.

This field office joins the other field office at the VA Outpatient Clinic, 5283 Old Brownsville Road, in serving this region's Veterans and their family members.

All of the local TVC counselors are Veterans as well and have been through some of the same battles you have faced.

So, if you've been contemplating filing a disability claim because of the bad back you got from all those jumps in jump school, or if you've been putting off your claims because you haven't received the help you need, or if you just want to talk about your options, come by a TVC office near you, sign in and talk with a Veterans Claims Counselor.

Your experience in getting assistance to file your claim no longer has to be a like a battle of attrition – where you feel like you're fighting a losing battle.

We will act as your advocate to the VA.

The Texas Veterans Commission proudly salutes your service and is ready to march with you to fight that good fight together.

For more information on our programs or to find a counselor near you, see our website at [tvc.texas.gov](http://tvc.texas.gov).

## NASCC Front Gate closure - Dec. 28

The Front (Flour Bluff) Gate to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi is scheduled to be closed on Saturday, Dec. 28, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

During that thime, the Back (Ocean Drive) Gate will be open for access to the Air Station.

The closure is necessary to permit repairs to the barrier system at the gate.



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(also located in Calallen & Alice)

# HAPPY

## Breakfast with Santa

MWR Child & Youth Programs and the Navy Exchange hosted their annual Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 7 at the Catalina Club. Activities to included a magic show, holiday music, arts & crafts, face painting, carnival games, family snowman building contest, raffle drawings and a visit with the Jolly Old Elf himself!

Photos by Laurie Garcia, MWR



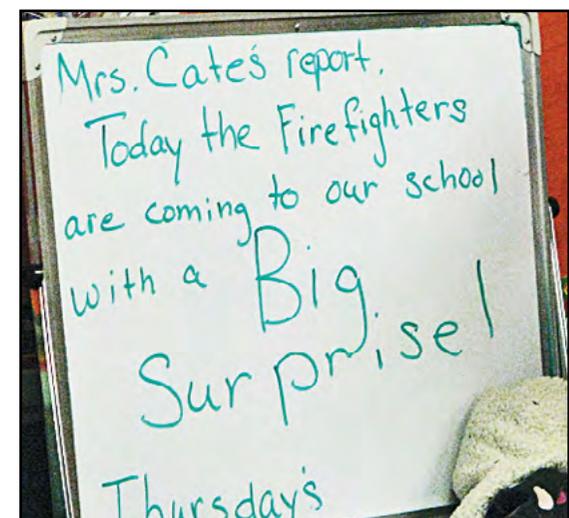
# HOLIDAYS

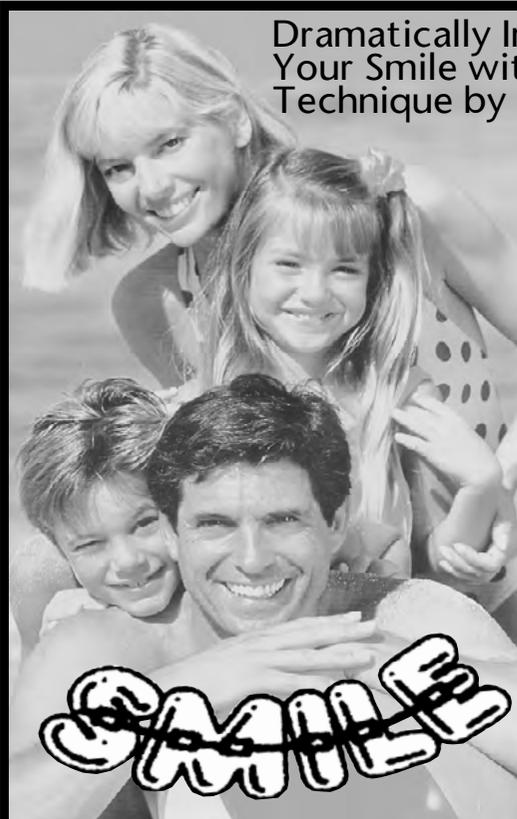


## Santa and 'Little Hornets'

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Fire & Emergency Services made their annual trip to take Santa to visit Flour Bluff preschoolers on Dec. 19. Fire Chief John Morris: 'NASCC Firefighters have poured their heart out for the annual Flour Bluff 'Little Hornets' Christmas Party for at least 10 years running. With the help of many members of the department, local hot rod enthusiasts and motorcycle riders Santa and Sparky made the big visit riding in a bright red hotrod and an entourage of motorcycles, hot rods and NASCC Truck 1031. Judging by the 70 pairs of wide eyes and sparkling smiling faces I think it was a BIG HIT!'

Photos courtesy NASCC F&ES





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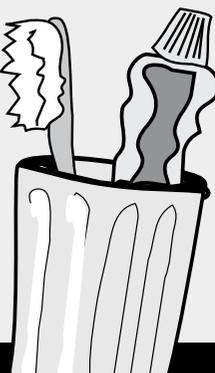
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## Tuition Assistance availability temporarily expanded

by Susan D. Henson, Center for Personal and Professional Development Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – The Center for Personal and Professional Development is temporarily expanding the availability of tuition assistance for Sailors beginning Dec. 17.

CPPD's Virtual Education Center will start authorizing command-approved tuition assistance requests for classes that have a start date in the second quarter of FY-14, which ends March 31, according to Capt. John Newcomer, CPPD's commanding officer.

"We strongly believe that Sailors who take the initiative to develop personally and professionally through Navy voluntary education programs are better equipped with strong analytical skills and the ability to make informed decisions that benefit their command and the Navy," he said.

Tuition assistance requests for the FY-14 second quarter will be approved in the order they are received on a "first come, first served"



### CPPD: Where Mind Meets Mission

Tuition assistance is the Navy's educational financial assistance program available to both Navy officer and enlisted active duty personnel and Navy reservists on continuous active duty.

It funds tuition costs for courses taken in an off-duty status at a college, university or vocational/technical institution, whose regional or national accreditation is recognized by the Department of Education and has a

**The Virtual Education Center started on Dec. 17 to authorize command-approved tuition assistance requests for classes with a start date in the second quarter of FY-14, which ends March 31.**

**Tuition assistance requests will be approved on a "first come, first served" basis for as long as TA funds are available.**

**Visit <https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/> for more information.**

basis for as long as tuition assistance funds are available, Newcomer said.

Tuition assistance requests will be authorized up to a total expenditure cap of approximately \$23 million for the second quarter.

The second quarter of each fiscal year historically has the highest demand for tuition assistance funding, Newcomer said.

Newcomer emphasized that Sailors are responsible to know the status of the tuition assistance request before they begin any class.

"Sailors must ensure their tuition assistance requests are command approved, in the WebTA system, and authorized by the VEC before their class start date. If any of these three criteria aren't met, Sailors should contact the VEC or servicing Navy College Office regarding the status of their tuition assistance request before their class begins."

The VEC is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. (ET) Monday through Friday. Sailors can reach the VEC by phone at 1-877-838-1659 or 757-492-4684, or DSN at 492-4684.

The VEC email address is [VEC@navy.mil](mailto:VEC@navy.mil).

signed Department of Defense Memorandum of Understanding.

CPPD is responsible for providing a wide range of personal and professional development courses and materials, including General Military Training, Navy instructor training, alcohol and drug awareness program training, suicide and sexual assault prevention, bystander intervention, and personal responsibility classes.

CPPD's required leadership training is delivered multiple times throughout a Sailor's career via command-delivered enlisted leadership training material and officer leadership courses in a schoolhouse setting.

CPPD also administers the Navy's voluntary education program, which provides Sailors with the opportunity to earn college degrees. CPPD additionally manages the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program, which offers Sailors the opportunity to earn civilian apprenticeship certifications.

For more information about the Center for Personal and Professional Development (CPPD), visit: <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/cppd>.

## U.S. Naval Academy 2014 Summer STEM Program is looking for students



STEM students participate in a variety of hands-on STEM activities, and have the opportunity to interact with USNA faculty and midshipmen, who serve as role models and mentors for the students. Photo courtesy Jessica Clark

by Lt. Teng K. Ooi, PhD, U.S. Naval Academy

Each year in June, the United States Naval Academy launches a Summer Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program to expose young people to STEM concepts and technologies.

The Naval Academy's 2014 Summer STEM Program is designed to encourage 8th through 11th graders to pursue a course of study in STEM-related subjects throughout high school, college, and beyond.

The aim is to integrate STEM-focused concepts across the curriculum and pave the way for students to succeed academically in mathematics and science and help put them on a path towards successful STEM careers.

An effective and practical way to stimulate student interest in STEM is to show how mathematics and science are applied to create exciting technologies.

The 2014 STEM program will showcase the latest in technological advances in a wide

variety of science and engineering topics to include energy and light, infrastructure, transportation, cybersecurity, environmental challenges, flight and fluids, automation, simulation and modeling, biometrics and robotics.

Students are able to participate in project-based modules using a hands-on, real-world approach to solving design and analysis problems in the Naval Academy's world-class laboratory facilities.

This unique learning environment promotes engineering "habits of mind," such as systems thinking, optimization, innovation, creativity, and team work.

It exposes students to a problem-based environment, outside the traditional classroom.

Our 2014 Summer STEM Program will be a great start to a career in science and engineering.

### 2014 Naval Academy STEM Program

Applications Open January 6, 2014  
[www.usna.edu/admissions/stem](http://www.usna.edu/admissions/stem)

#### 2014 Session Dates

June 2 - June 7, for Rising 8th & 9th Graders  
 June 9 - June 14, for Rising 10th Graders  
 June 16 - June 20, for Rising 11th Graders.

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## CNRSE makes appeal for Combined Federal Campaign

from Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

For more than 50 years, military personnel and government employees have supported their favorite causes through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

In recognition that many CFC events were put on hold or cancelled during the government shutdown, the Acting Director of the Office of Personnel Management extended the CFC solicitation period from Dec. 15, 2013, until Jan. 15, 2014.

RearAdm. Rick Williamson, Commander, Navy Region Southeast recently answered some questions about the status of the CFC in the Southeast Region.



**Williamson**

*Q: What has your goal been for this year's CFC campaign?*

A: Our goal is very simple. We want everyone to at least have the opportunity to contribute to charities of their choice through the CFC.

For more than 50 years, the CFC has given us the opportunity to join together and help those in need, and to bring about dramatic change in the communities that need it most.

The objective remains the same. This year has been different; while we've been faced with unprecedented budget challenges, but our commitment to public service and our community is still there.

Many people say, when times are hard, expect to have a bad campaign. During my 28 years in the Navy, I have found this to be untrue. Each year we've always had good



campaigns.

I see no reason to expect that the trend will be reversed. I think it's a great thing that the campaign has been extended for another month, and with it, I expect that our campaign will be successful.

*Q: Why is the CFC so important to you?*

A: There are a lot of different charities that participate in CFC. If you want to contribute to medical research or disaster relief or programs for the homeless, you can do so through CFC.

I've always been drawn towards charities supporting education because my parents always put a high value on a quality education.

That's the beauty of CFC – the choices are in your hands. You can designate the type of charity you want to support, you can choose how much and you can choose how you want to pay.

And through CFC, you are giving back to your community.

*Q: For service members or government employees who haven't yet had the chance to give, what should they do?*

A: I hope by now everyone has been approached by their CFC keyperson.

The keyperson has the catalogs of charities who participate in CFC and the forms you'll need to designate your contribution. Your keyperson can even help you fill out the paperwork.

Not only do you have the flexibility to decide to which charity you give, you can also make one lump-sum payment or set up a payroll deduction. And don't forget, your donation is tax deductible.

So if you've not heard from your keyperson, ask your supervisor who it is. And do it soon, as the campaign ends on Jan. 15, 2014.

The smallest donation can go a long way towards improving the lives of many. I hope that each of you will consider lending your valued support to this worthwhile campaign.

Together we can continue the success of CFC.

## Coastal Bend Area CFC Update

Although the OPM has extended the 2013 Combined Federal Campaign to Jan. 15, 2014, only some agencies in the Coastal Bend Area are using the extra time, said Shannon Chaves, director of the area CFC.

"We're still collecting and some people are using the extra time," she said. "But others have ended and just have to turn in

their final amounts."

Most military organizations, including Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, have ended their formal campaign.

If you have questions, contact your organizations CFC representatives.

As of Dec. 20, the area CFC had collected 76 percent of its \$1 million goal.

# What's Happening

by Tina Konwerski

**Oysters Every Sunday - Open to the Public** On the half shell \$5 a dozen, Fried or Baked \$5.50 a dozen. Sunday, December 29, 2013, 9pm to 6 pm. American Legion Unit 363, 1701 S. Church, Rockport, TX.

**Now to December 31, 2013 ... The Janet F. Harte Public Library and the Noel McArdle Gallery are featuring an exhibition by local artist, Sam Soles.** Mr. Soles' mixed media exhibit is titled, Coastal Vision Series and Assorted Abstract Works. The Noel McArdle Gallery is open during regular library hours and is located at 2629 Waldron Rd. in Flour Bluff. No Charge to view the exhibit.

**Sparkling City Singles & Pairs Square Dance Club will start beginner Square Dance Lessons @ Lindale Recreation Center** located at 3135 Swantner, Corpus Christi. Lessons will begin on Jan. 6, 2014, @ 6:30- 7:30 PM. Lessons will be Approx. 15 weeks. Cost will be \$4.00 per person per lesson night. Square Dancing is Easy, Inexpensive, & Good Cardio, Fun Exercise. It's also alcohol free, bring a friend. For further info. call John Ivey @ 1-361-758-5318

**IMMIGRATION TIP: If you have lived in the United States for ten (10) years or longer** and have a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) spouse, parent or child, you may qualify for LPR status through Cancellation of Removal for Non-Permanent Residents if you are in deportation proceedings. Find out more at [www.USCIS.gov](http://www.USCIS.gov) or [www.debrarodriguez.com](http://www.debrarodriguez.com), Rodriguez & Moretzsohn, PLLC (361) 883-8900 or email at [RMINFO@debrarodriguez.com](mailto:RMINFO@debrarodriguez.com).

**The Texas Coastal Bend Bellydance Association First Annual Meet & Greet Get-together January 11, 2014** from 5-7pm at Shall We Dance Studio located at 5801 S. Staples (and Burnham). Let your inner diva shine and express itself as we meet new and old friends. Share your ideas and thoughts as we come together to plan for the upcoming year. We have lots of ideas and good news to share with everyone. Join us as we stand united to commit ourselves to making this the best year ever for TCBBA. FMI, contact Rachel Morris at [wrendixie@gmail.com](mailto:wrendixie@gmail.com)

**"NOW"** is a program designed to capture the interest of qualified, prospective Optimist club members. **On Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at the Mirador Retirement Community starting at 6:00 pm and ending at 8:00 pm.** The

Downtown Optimist Club of Corpus Christi will be hosting a NOW (New Optimist Wanted) Event one night only. Wine and Hors d'oeuvre will be served. Dress business casual. Please come join us. RSVP required 361.779.5790.

**KEDT Food & Wine Classic - Thurs. Jan. 30, 2014, 7-10 PM** at The CC Museum of Science & History, 1900 N. Chaparral. This annual fund raising event is for public broadcasting station KEDT. Guests can sample an array of domestic and imported wines from a complimentary Food & Wine Classic wineglass while tasting the culinary creations from South Texas' finest food establishments. Tickets are \$80. 361-855-2213, 1-800-307-5338, [www.kedt.org](http://www.kedt.org); or at KEDT studio 4455 SPID. Dress code is Sunday best or business attire.

**Special Olympics announces partnership with Charity Miles** - Smartphone app encourages fitness and fun, while supporting the movement. Special Olympics is now an official partner of Charity Miles <http://www.charitymiles.org/> a smart phone app that tracks exercise mileage and allows users to raise money for different causes. The app is free and simple to use. Users just launch the app, choose Special Olympics as their preferred charity and either walk, run or cycle. Special Olympics - and Special Olympics Texas - will then earn money for every mile logged. Walkers and runners earn 25¢ per mile; cyclists earn 10¢ per mile. The Charity Miles app, iPhone and Android compatible, is GPS-enabled and easy to use. Users can track their time, mileage and funds raised for their favorite causes.

Bring a friend, relax and enjoy yourself at our **"T-Shirts & Jeans" dinner, Tuesday, January 7th, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM** at Miller's Bar-B-Q, 6601 Weber Rd. Special guest, Lynn Kaylor keeps you "Cozy and Comfortable" in her hand made t-shirt quilts. Guitarists Brian and Diana Hough will be "Jamin' In Jeans". After dinner, inspirational speaker Leslie Kinchen from Waco, shares her testimony "Stretched To The Limit- Trusting God When Family Ties Are Stretched". Please join us! Dinner price \$13.50 per person, inclusive. Door prizes awarded. Reservations appreciated by January 3rd, but walk-ins are always welcomed! For information and dinner reservations, call Linda at 779-5038 or Dr. Yvonne at 854-2440. Sponsored by Christian Business and Professional Women's Club of Corpus Christi.



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Rose

### from Personnel Support Detachment Corpus Christi

The Personnel Support Detachment on board Naval Air Station Corpus Christi bids farewell to two civilian employees this month, losing 70 years of experience in the process.

Carolyn S. Bursey has been a military pay technician with PSD since February 1979; she retires Dec. 31.

In a recent citation, she was recognized for “demonstrated exceptional technical expertise and a determined commitment to excellence while providing exceptional customer service and support to active duty military personnel and their family members assigned to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Naval Air Station Kingsville, former Naval Station Ingleside,

and all Geographical Separated Units under the purview of Personnel Support Detachment Corpus Christi...”

Jane K. Rose began her civil service career in July 1977 and retires effective Dec. 28. Since September 1987, she has worked as a military pay technician with PSD Corpus Christi.

Her citation reads in part, “Demonstrating unparalleled technical proficiency, foresight and resourcefulness in all functions of military pay and personnel processing, her unmatched work ethic was evident on a daily basis by the successful processing of hundreds of pay and personnel related documents annually.”

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## Department of Defense releases 2014 Basic Allowance for Housing rates

The Department of Defense on Dec. 17 released the 2014 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates, which take effect Jan. 1, 2014.

Overall rates will increase an average of 5 percent this year.

On average, BAH rates for members with dependents will increase approximately \$79 per month and \$76 for members without dependents.

A typical mid-grade enlisted member with dependents, for example, will find his/her BAH about \$79 per month higher than last year, while a typical junior officer without dependents will find his/her BAH about \$76 higher than last year.

In areas where rates will decrease, the decrease will only apply to members newly reporting to those locations.

Members are protected by individual rate protection which ensures that those already assigned to a given location will not see their BAH rate decrease, however, they will receive

the increase if the rate goes up.

This assures that members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.

Three components are included in the BAH computation: median current market rent; average utilities (including electricity, heat, and water/sewer) and average renter's insurance.

Total housing costs are calculated for six housing profiles (based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms) in each military housing area.

BAH rates are then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without dependents.

An estimated \$20 billion will be paid to approximately one million service members in 2014.

For more information on BAH, visit <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm>.

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### Christmas Crunch

2 cups white sugar  
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1/2 cup water  
3 tablespoons butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
2 cups crispy rice cereal  
1 cup cashews

Grease one 10x15 inch baking pan. In a large saucepan over medium heat, combine the sugar, corn syrup and water; bring to a boil, stirring constantly until sugar is dissolved. Continue to cook, without stirring until a candy thermometer reads 300 degrees F (150 degrees C). Remove from heat; stir in butter, vanilla and baking soda. Add cereal and cashews; pour into prepared pan and allow to cool. Break into pieces and store in airtight container.

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