



WINGSPAN



NASCC celebrates milestone anniversary, community partnership

How would you celebrate your 75th anniversary? Naval Air Station Corpus Christi celebrated its 75th with several events for installation personnel, community members and people who had formerly been stationed at the base.

The celebration began with sports competitions and a golf tournament and ended with a color fun run. In between, we lived it up with a 1940s-themed gala, an official ceremony, a flyover of vintage and modern aircraft, games and activities for the youngsters, food trucks, static-display aircraft, drill and dance team performances, concerts, fireworks, a non-denominational church service and free brunch. More than 5,000 people enjoyed the festivities held for the air station's diamond anniversary.

The events celebrated the long-standing partnership of the base and the city over the past 75 years.

Officials recommended Corpus Christi as "home" to a new naval air training base in November 1939. Congress later passed a naval appropriations bill authorizing the construction of 12 naval air stations June 11, 1940, with the largest to be built in the Flour Bluff area of Corpus Christi.

Corpus Christi's civic leaders gave the Navy an added incentive to build here – 640 acres of undeveloped city land in addition to what the government would purchase, plus \$2 million to help with the cost of construction.

Construction began later that month of what was to become the largest in the world, eventually covering more than 20,000 acres.

The station was about 70 percent complete when it was dedicated March 12, 1941. The ceremony began at 11 a.m. and was held in front of the two-story administration building, which is now called Building 1, headquarters of Chief of Naval Air Training. There were about 300 guests. On the platform were speakers, ranking naval officers and special guests. *see Anniversary on page 6*



Women pioneers aboard NASCC
-- page 3



Bravo zulu
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Pictured above, Capt. Steve Banta, NASCC commanding officer, presents Corpus Christi Mayor Nelda Martinez with a token of appreciation for the support of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. (Courtesy photo by Debbie Noble) Left, A color run was held last week closing out the 75th anniversary celebration of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. (U.S. Navy Photo by Eric Lobsinger)

Executive Officer's Column



Cmdr. Scott Wilmot
Executive Officer



In a year of anniversaries – Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's 75th anniversary, the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, the 65th anniversary of the start of the Korean War -- April marks the 41st anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, with the fall of Saigon.

A total of 1.842 million Sailors served in Southeast Asia in support of the allied efforts of the Vietnam War. The Navy provided many unique capabilities to the war efforts, including control of the seas. According to the Naval History and Heritage Command, 1,631 Sailors were killed and 4,178 wounded during the course of the war.

April 3, 1975, marked the beginning of what was called "Operation Babylift," the mass evacuation of children from South

Vietnam to the United States and other countries. By the final American flight out of South Vietnam at the end of that month, more than 3,300 infants and children had been evacuated.

On April 23, 1975, President Gerald Ford declared an end to U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam. About 100,000 North Vietnamese soldiers were advancing on Saigon which was overflowing with refugees. By week's end, 30,000 South Vietnamese people were inside the city but leaderless, with NVA firing rockets into downtown civilian areas. There was mass chaos and widespread looting.

The last two U.S. service members killed in Vietnam were Charles McMahon and Darwin Lee Judge. They were serving with the Marine Security Guard Battalion at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and died during a rocket attack of Tan Son Nhut Air Base on April 29.

About 7,000 American civilians and "at-risk" Vietnamese from Saigon were being evacuated by helicopter at that time. The evacuation, called Operation Frequent Wind, began with a radio broadcast of the song, "White Christmas" as a code song.

Frantic civilians began swarming the helicopters at the air base at Tan Son Nhut, so evacuation was shifted to the walled-in American embassy. The scene there also deteriorated as thousands of civilians attempted to get into the compound which was secured by U.S. Marines.

Three U.S. aircraft carriers were off the Vietnam coast standing by to handle the incoming refugees. South Vietnamese pilots were also landing helicopters on the aircraft carriers, but were pushed overboard to make room for more arrivals. Filmed footage of the quarter-of-a-million-dollar helicopters being thrown into the sea became lasting images of the end of the war.

On the morning of April 30, 1975, the last Americans -- 10 Marines from the embassy -- left Saigon, which ended the United States presence in Vietnam. North Vietnamese troops poured into the city encountering little resistance. By 11 a.m., the red and blue Viet Cong flag was flown from the presidential palace. The war ended with an unconditional surrender.

As we continue to commemorate the Vietnam War, we remember those who lost their lives and those POW/MIA still missing.

Chaplain's Message



Resiliency
after
loss

Lt. Kevin Jackson
Command Chaplain

One of the most predictable things in life is its unpredictability. Life simply happens regardless of one's rank, gender or financial status. I never thought that I would be in a position of losing everything due to a massive fire and by default experience homelessness. Tragedy and loss is indiscriminately experienced. As a result of our experiences, my family and I have learned some important lessons about being resilient after a tragic loss.

How many times have you pondered what to do after someone close to you experienced loss? Don't worry! You are not alone in that often cloudy moment of time that blocks all clarity and peace of mind. In a lifetime, each of us will have to navigate providing support for someone we know who has experienced loss due to death, fire or natural disaster.

What are you supposed to do?

Allow me to share at least three things that you can do to support those you care about during their time of loss.

First, empathize with the individual. Acknowledge that the individual's loss is real and do not minimize their loss. Give the individual the time to work through their issues and emotions at a healthy pace. It's okay to share your own personal story about loss if it is similar to the individual's circumstances.

Second, offer assistance. One of the things that my wife and I appreciate about the persons who sought to assist us is they either asked what we needed or told us what they could do for us. Avoid the statement, "If you need anything, just let me know." Take the time and determine what the individual's practical needs are and simply offer those things.

Here are some examples of practical things to offer persons who have experienced some type of loss.

Death of a family member:

- * Give food
- * Provide childcare if children are involved
- * Give financial support for funeral services if necessary
- * Offer to assist in planning the funeral
- * Provide support after the funeral services

Natural disaster or fire:

- * Provide temporary shelter
- * Provide clothing upon request
- * Give gift cards so the individual can purchase what is needed
- * Provide food or meals upon request
- * Offer transportation
- * Provide assistance with paperwork or specific things noted by the individual

Theft and burglary:

- * Provide temporary shelter
- * Stay in contact with the individual
- * Offer financial assistance if necessary

Third, appeal to the individual's spirituality. One of the most reassuring things that helped my family and I was the love and support we received from our faith community.

We were able to be resilient because of their prayers, encouragement through scripture and love. Our faith was strengthened and we were able to "Move Forward" in spite of the loss.

Here are some practical ways to appeal to the person's spirituality.

* Encourage the individual to seek spiritual guidance from their spiritual leader or counselor

* If you share the same faith, engage the individual in those faith practices that nurture resiliency such as prayer, meditation, reading scripture, etc...

* Provide reading material or music that is aligned with the individual's particular faith group

In conclusion, we all know that life will throw some situations our way that we and those we love and care about may not expect. However, if we simply implement the above suggestions; empathize with the individual, offer assistance and appeal to the person's spirituality, we can play a significant role in helping the individual to experience resiliency and begin their road to recovery.

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Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer

Fifi Kieschnick
Public Affairs Officer

Eric Lobsinger
Public Affairs Specialist



This paper is published for people like Dwight "Red" Mount, of Grand Junction, Iowa, who earned his Wings of Gold aboard NAS Corpus Christi on Dec. 6, 1944. Mount, 94, was one of the guests who attended the festivities for the base's 75th anniversary.

March is Women's History Month

Women who served aboard NASCC during early years, exemplify pioneers

By Fifi Kieschnick
NASCC PAO

In 1943, a young 19 year-old girl went to the naval air station in Atlanta, Ga., to get a job.

Mariam Chatham had one year of college under her belt and decided she wanted to join the work force. The Duluth, Minn., native thought she was applying for a clerical position, but ended up in a training program for women who would become Link Trainer instructors for Navy fighter pilots.

She was a Civil Service employee and one of 25 who were the first attending the national all-women Link Instrument Training Instructors' School, according to an article from the Constitution newspaper, in Atlanta, circa early 1940s. Prior to World War II, there were only three women who were Link Trainers.

The "girls" were selected for training based on their mechanical abilities, voice quality, alertness, temperamental adaptability, character and other competencies.

After she graduated from LITIS, Marian was transferred to Corpus Christi to teach primary instrument flying to young men who were training to be pilots. They taught the pilots blind instrument flying, simulating planes under almost all flying conditions, including storms.

Mariam Chatham Davis was able to visit her past with her son-in-law and daughter, "Bubba"

and Joan Roberson, when they recently visited Naval Air Station Corpus Christi during the 75th anniversary celebration weekend. Besides attending all the festivities held, she was able to tour a new T-6 simulator and compare the new technology to the tools she had to train the pilots.

Rene Velazquez, a retired Navy pilot and simulator instructor, was her guide. As they conversed, they found that although the tools to train the pilots have changed, the excuses the students had for why they didn't do well were the same.

"The students blamed us when they got lost," Marian said, or would blame poor performance saying that the trainer "doesn't fly like the airplane."

Rene confirmed that they still use the same excuses.

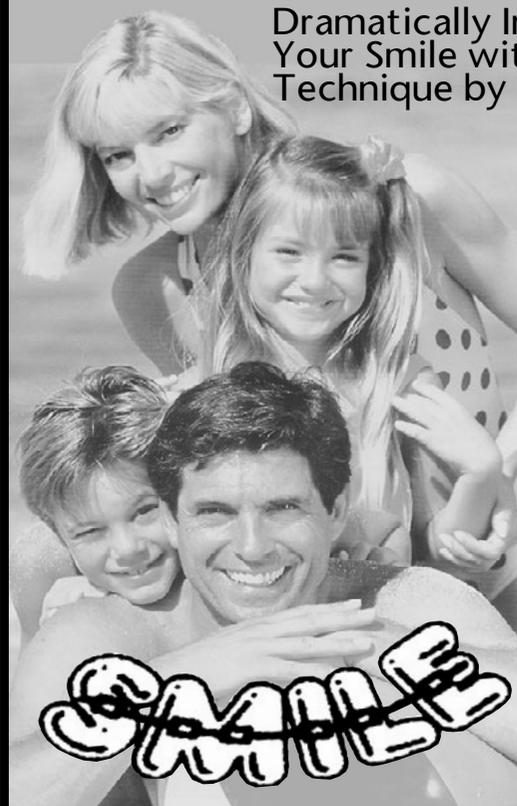
But the training is practice makes perfect – then and now – and the training is designed to save lives.

Marian is just one example of those pioneers being recognized during Women's History Month. The theme, "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government," exemplifies Marian and others who served our country and our military. Through service and leadership, women have been an integral part of both the Navy's history and its future.

see Women on page 8



Mariam Chatham taught primary instrument flying to young men who were training to be pilots in the 1940s. Marian Chatham Davis was one of the special guests who attended the 75th anniversary festivities. (Courtesy photos)



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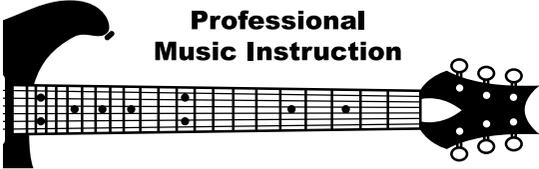
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**Upcoming
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NAMI Family to Family Course

The National Alliance on Mental Illness has formed an affiliate chapter in Corpus Christi and is offering its first education and coping skills program beginning April 2. A NAMI National signature program, the Family to Family course is taught by trained family members and is free to families of a loved one challenged with mental illness. The course is scheduled for 12 weeks on Saturdays from 10 am to noon at Bayview Behavioral HealthCare, Wooldridge Rd. Register quickly at namigreatercorpuschristi@gmail.com, with name, email, and phone number or call Jim and Diane Hall at 361-867-1245. Class size is limited to 20. For more information on NAMI Greater Corpus Christi, visit our website:

www.namitexas.org/nami-greater-corpus-christi/

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Bravo Zulu! Capt. Steven J. Blivin, executive officer, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, presents the Navy Achievement Medal to HM3 Forrest R. Antonio for professional achievement while serving as general duty corpsman, Human Resources department, Directorate for Administration, from February 2014 to March, 2016. Antonio successfully gained, separated, and transferred more than 120 personnel with \$50,000 in travel claims paid. As Family Care Plan coordinator he processed six family care plans resulting in 99 percent command readiness, one of the highest in Navy Medicine East. Accountable for 60,000 sensitive documents, he re-filed records to ensure 100 percent accountability to meet MEDIG standards. (U.S. Navy photo by HM2 (FMF/SCW) Jacob Welch)

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Anniversary from page 1

guard, officers and enlisted members were in parade formation before the building.

Seventy-five years later the anniversary ceremony was held March 12, beginning at 11 a.m. in front of Building 1. There were about 700 guests. On the platform was Corpus Christi Mayor Nelda Martinez, who was the guest speaker; Capt. Steve Banta, NASCC commanding officer; and Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne and Lt. Kevin Jackson, both command chaplains.

“Words cannot express enough the gratitude and pride I feel when I think about all of the hard work that went into the NASCC 75th Anniversary Celebration,” said Capt. Steve Banta, NASCC commanding officer, in an e-mail to all hands.

Photo captions, clockwise beginning bottom left:

Historic and modern aircraft were on display during the anniversary festivities held on the seawall following the ceremony.

Manuel Ayala, center, displays historic WWII memorabilia at the Catalina Club during the Sunday brunch held.

Babe Crouch and his wife Suzy Williams greet Clifford “Red” Stanbrough following the ceremony. Crouch attended boot camp aboard the air station in the early 1940s. Stanbrough was a Sailor in the Boat Division in the 1950s

Lt. Kevin Jackson talks to the youngsters during the nondenominational church service held at the Protestant Chapel March 13.

Thousands of people attended the anniversary. Zumama Fitness held several dance demonstrations including one to the song “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B.”

Mayor Nelda Martinez was the guest speaker for the anniversary ceremony. Pictured here, she welcomes everyone “Bob Barker style.” Barker had been slated to be part of the event.

Barbie Baker, a member of the South Texas Navy Historical Committee, spearheaded the 1940s gala held at the American Bank Center March 11. She also served as the emcee of the event.

Approximately 5,000 people celebrated the naval air station’s 75th anniversary. Turn to page 9 for more photos.



*Courtesy Photos
by
RP1 Michael Clayton
Ervey Martinez
Debbie Noble
Bud Roque
Corrie Williams*

On behalf of the local community, Mayor Nelda Martinez and City Councilman Mark Scott (right) congratulate Capt. Steve Banta, NASCC commanding officer, on the 75th anniversary of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. Martinez was the guest speaker for

the anniversary ceremony, which was held at the same day, time and place as the commissioning ceremony was held in 1941. Seated are Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne (right) and Lt. Kevin Jackson, both command chaplains. Turn to page 9 for more photos.

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Women from page 3

"Women throughout our history have endeavored to serve the flag, not looking for special treatment, prestigious awards or financial wealth, but merely for the opportunity to serve the flag itself and the great nation it represents," said Adm. Michelle Howard, vice chief of naval operations.

Two other visitors to the 75th anniversary celebration also embody this month's observance.

Ginger Daniels and Cidney Engberg were young enlisted women – Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service -- stationed aboard the naval air station in the early 1960s. They enlisted before the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, when WAVES became a permanent component of the Navy. Until that time in the late 1970s women's units were separate from the all-male units.

Ginger and Cidney are members of the WAVES of Corpus Christi who were two of the thousands of guests who enjoyed the anniversary events. They reminisced about their Navy service in comparison to today's practices.

One of the first things they remarked on was that when they were in the service, women wore seamed nylons as part of their uniform.

"The hardest thing in the world was to get those seams straight! Also, in our seabag were two girdles or garter belts," Cidney stated. "They gave us money to buy lingerie, full slips and white shoes.

"We marched everywhere," she added.



Cidney Engberg and Ginger Daniels attended the 75th anniversary festivities held March 12 and 13. They were young enlisted women stationed here in the early 1960s.

"From the WAVE barracks to the chow hall was about a mile and we would march there three times a day."

Ginger added, "We weren't allowed to look around and talk to other people. You couldn't talk to the guys. You had to point to what you wanted.

"The girl who marched us turned to us

and said, 'By the way, you don't talk to trees.' I thought I've never talked to a tree in my life! Then she explained that men were trees and women were shrubs. We were very segregated."

When Cidney and Ginger joined the Navy, the WAVES bootcamp was in Bain-see *Women on page 11*

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Brain injury awareness, what you should know

Every 23 seconds traumatic brain injury (TBI) strikes, claiming 1.4 million American victims each year. It knows no boundaries, and does not discriminate by age, gender, ethnicity or socio-economic status, according to the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA).

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi (NHCCC) is available to provide services to those with concerns about brain injury. Patients may be evaluated by the clinic's TBI screening program after receiving a consultation or referral from the patient's Medical Home Port team or Behavioral Health (BH).

"Early evaluation and treatment, if necessary, is key to prevent further injury and/or prolonged symptoms of traumatic brain injury" said Lt. Mary Cava, PsyD, NHCCC BH department head.

Those suffering from traumatic brain injury can display a wide variety of symptoms based on the severity of the injury. Common signs and symptoms include headache or neck pain; memory loss; slowness in thinking, speaking, acting, or reading; getting lost or easily confused; fatigue and mood changes; blurred vision; and ear ringing.

TBI occurs when an outside force impacts the head with enough force to move the brain within the skull, resulting in a direct injury to the brain. Rapidly accelerating and decelerating the head can also force the brain to move back and forth across the inside of the skull. This stress pulls nerve fibers apart and damages brain tissue and is known as

a "coup-contrecoup" injury. A coup injury occurs under the site of impact with an object, and a contrecoup injury occurs on the side opposite the area that was impacted.

Signs and symptoms of TBI may be subtle and might not appear until days or weeks following the injury, while some symptoms can be missed altogether. Children with a brain injury can have the same symptoms as adults, but it is often harder for them to let others know how they feel.

Most common sources of TBI are motor vehicle crashes, firearms, falls, sports, and physical violence. Active duty and reserve service members are at an increased risk for sustaining a TBI, due to deployment to areas where risks of experiencing blast exposures - such as improvised explosive devices - are high.

Individuals with suspected brain injuries should seek medical care immediately by contacting their Medical Home Port team to schedule an appointment, or if the situation is emergent, go to the emergency room or call 911.

"We have a TBI screening program in Behavioral Health for active duty personnel, but it's a screening program only," said Cava. "If the screening shows possible cognitive deficits then the patient is referred to BAMC for formal neuropsychological testing."

To find out more about the clinic's TBI program call BH at (361) 961-3620. (*Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi public affairs*)



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NEXCOM celebrates 70 years of serving

The Navy Exchange celebrates its 70th year of service to the Navy Family in April.

The NEX aboard NAS Corpus Christi will be providing patrons with several promotions in celebration of the 70 years of service. Festivities will include a fashion show on April 2, as well as special three-day “scratchers, chances to win gift cards and more.

While the Navy Exchange Service Command can trace its roots back to the 1800s when Sailors had to depend on “bumboats” that moored alongside their ships to buy personal items, it wasn’t until April 1, 1946, that Navy leadership officially created a command to handle the necessary retail business within the Navy.

“We’ve come a long way since those early days,” said Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi (Ret), chief executive officer, NEXCOM. “From bumboats and slop chests to a world class retail business, NEXCOM delivers what our Navy families need, wherever they

are stationed.”

Today, 70 years after its official establishment, NEXCOM provides oversight for 100 NEX complexes made up of more than 300 individual stores, 39 Navy Lodges, 134 ships stores, the Navy Clothing Textile and Research Facility, Uniform Program Management Office, and Telecommunications Program Office.

“While our look may have changed over the years, our mission and commitment to premier customer service has not and that is evident each and every day at each and every location,” said Bianchi.

“NEX customers can expect to see us reinforce the important value of their NEX benefit during the month of April, in celebration of 70 years of excellence,” said Rich Honiball, NEXCOM’s Senior Vice President, Chief Merchandising and Marketing Officer. “Our team is working on special events, products, and offers that I think our customers will appreciate.”

Women from page 8

bridge, Md., separate from the men’s. They said the women in the military are different today, because there isn’t the camaraderie that they enjoyed.

“They go to bootcamp with the men and they made friends – platonic friends – with the men. An all-women’s squad is different,” Cidney added.

“Today, the ‘young ones’ are trying to make rank. They get married and have kids. We got out when we got married and had kids.”

Today, women comprise 18 percent of the Navy and are indispensable to the

national security mission. There are more than 59,000 active duty women serving in the Navy and more than 9,000 female Reservists. Thousands of women have served alongside men in Iraq, Afghanistan and at sea, and their record of performance has been nothing less than outstanding, according to the Chief of Naval Personnel.

According to Ralph Waldo Emerson, a sufficient measure of civilization is the influence of good women. Mariam, Cidney and Ginger are just three of those who have made a difference in our Navy.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day April 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Two convenient drop-off locations:

**Naval Health Clinic
Corpus Christi, Bldg H-100
Medical Home Port
Entrance**



Got Drugs?

**Corpus Christi Army Depot
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308 Crecy Street
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Saturday - 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
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8 Foster homes.
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CASA of the Coastal Bend is making an urgent plea for the community to step up and speak up for Children who are victims of abuse and neglect. In 2015 741 children which equates to about 30 classrooms - right here in our local community found themselves in foster care. Why should I step up and speak up? Simple these children are the future of the Coastal Bend and each child deserves a dedicated CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocate who will commit to finding them a safe, permanent and forever home. CASA volunteers get to know the children and speak to everyone involved in the children’s life, including their family members, teachers, doctors, lawyers, social workers, and others. The information the CASA volunteer gathers and their recommendations help the court make informed decisions.

Voices For Children

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**CASA holds 6 trainings a year
call 884-2272 or visit our website
www.casaofthecoastalbend.com
to receive an information packet.**

Next Training Dates:
March 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 9th, 10th - 9:00P to 1:00P (T,W,TH)
May 17th, 18th, 19th, 24th, 25th, 26th - 5:30P to 9:30P (T,W,TH)
July 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st, 22nd - 9:00P to 1:00P (W,TH,F)

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