

WINGSPAN



Vol. 20, No. 2

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

January 23, 2014



February is Black History Month



Region Southeast Creates Sexual Assault Victim's Legal Counsels
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page 6

NHCCC makes history in the 2013 sport competition

by Bill W. Love, NHCCC PAO

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi made history in 2013 by winning the Captain's Cup Trophy, a first since the annual intramural program at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi (NASCC) began in 1999.

Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley, commanding officer at NHCCC, accepted the trophy for the command from Capt. Dave Edgecomb, NASCC commanding officer.

"You guys are good!" Edgecomb said. "I've been told by Ms. (Gail) Marsh (MWR fitness director) that the health clinic won because you entered every single event. Your strategy was perfect!"

NHCCC placed in basketball, 6th and 7th; softball, 7th; soccer, 5th; volleyball, 3rd and 4th; and Football, 5th and 9th.

Marsh said in a written memo, "Their persistence is what earned them the trophy."

The yearly competition promotes physical fitness, wholesome recreation, and unit "esprit de corps" through voluntary participation in competitive sports by active duty personnel, reserve military, retired military, military dependents and eligible DOD/NAF, civilian and full-time contract personnel.

Sports continued on page 7



Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi intramural athletes with Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley, commanding officer (center), Capt. Bill Davidson, executive officer, and Command Senior Chief Mike Richardson following the presentation by Capt. Dave Edgecomb, NASCC commanding officer, of the Captain's Cup Trophy, a first for the clinic since the annual intramural program at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi began in 1999.
Photo by HM2 Jacob L. Welch

184 Eagle Donors help 2013 Combined Federal Campaign



Some of the 184 Eagle Donors honored at the Jan. 15 ceremony closing the 2013 Coastal Bend Area Combined Federal Campaign. An Eagle Donor is someone who pledges at least \$1,000 for the year; he or she is awarded an Eagle statue like the one held in

the center of the photo. Although this year's CFC was the first since 2007 to not reach \$1 million, Capt. Dave Edgecomb, praised the efforts by everyone during difficult fiscal times.
Skipper Column, page 2
Photo by Rod Hafemeister

Skipper's Column

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Edgecomb

We have wrapped up the 2013 Combined Federal Campaign, and I want to thank everyone who donated and especially all those who worked so hard on the campaign.

I won't sugarcoat it – we failed to make our goal of \$1 million.

As of Jan. 17, with some numbers still being crunched, the Coastal Bend Area CFC raised \$862,049 in cash and payroll deduction pledges.

This is the first time since 2007 that the

Coastal Bend Area CFC has failed to raise at least \$1 million.

However, that 86.2 percent of goal appears to be well ahead of what many other CFC regions have been able to do, according to Shannon Chaves, director of our area CFC. Many of them are at 60 or 65 percent of goal, she said.

A recent article in Federal Times said that the National Capital Area CFC, the country's largest, had raised only \$47 million in pledges, down from almost \$62 million last year.

I think everyone understands how hard it was this year to ask people to donate to charities.

Military members are facing uncertain times as the services adjust to winding down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and shifting to a Pacific focus.

Civilian workers have faced sequestration

cuts, furloughs and a government shutdown.

That shutdown forced us to suspend the campaign and extend it into January.

That said, as this year's chairman for the area CFC, I'm incredibly proud of the efforts put in by everyone involved – and told them that at the recent awards ceremony.

Besides a dollar amount, our other goal was to reach 100 percent of federal employees and give them the chance to donate to CFC.

Reports from the various agencies indicate most achieved that.

And some still gave a lot – 184 people qualified as "Eagle Donors," pledging at least \$1,000 each.

So we didn't make our goal in a very tough year.

But we still raised more than \$860,000 that will help numerous local and national charities.

The charities thank you – and so do I.

CFC: Great Work, Tough Year

Chaplain's Message

by Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain

Tax season is just around the corner and those W-2s, 1099s, and the like are starting to arrive in the mail.

Hopefully, among your New Year's resolutions is to get your taxes done early this year.

The fact that tax day, April 15, is a reoccurring date that happens every year is no surprise.

For many, however, the week and even days preceding are filled with a blur of activity trying to find the receipts for those big purchases, digging through the junk mail drawer in search of statements, and organizing the dining room table with a plethora of various piles of receipts, documents, statements, and "miscellaneous" categories.

Don't sweat it! Or maybe I should say,

don't wait until the last minute.

I realize that taxes are of little concern for many people in January, but with a little early preparation, you will save a lot of perspiration.

Try this: Designate a shoe box or cleaned-out drawer for your taxes and put every 2013 tax related document you can find in it.

Make a list of everything you will need in order to file. (Refer to last year's taxes for ideas.)

If you anticipate a refund, make a list of spending priorities and financial goals. Since making this list should be a positive experience, it might help motivate you to filing your taxes earlier.

Finally, set specific date goals on when you will accomplish necessary preparations.

Tax Season: Preparation or Perspiration

I am not a tax expert by any means, so please read my article realizing that I am in the same boat as you.

With a teenage driver hoping for that first car, a front yard that needs much attention, and many demands on my financial resources, I could definitely use my refund sooner rather than later.

Let's get it done!



Warne

Editor's Corner Finally Some Improvement - Maybe

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

It was also the day Uncle Sam told me to come back to work.

I was in college, and spent the evening watching CNN in the Student Union with my military history professor and a number of fellow students, including one I would eventually marry.

When I got home, there was an envelope

Dates are funny things, at least for me. Some I retain really well; others, not so much.

One that remains strong is Jan. 17, 1991 – the day Desert Shield became Desert Storm, with the start of the air war against Iraq.

from the Army Reserve – orders to report for active duty in a little over a week.

I'd stayed in the Individual Ready Reserve; they'd after Iraq invaded Kuwait, checking if they had the correct contact info. They'd asked a few times if I would volunteer for various support jobs.

I said, "No thanks. Call me when you have an infantry slot."

So they did.

Most of the senior NCOs called up with me ended up in the Gulf. I however ended up at Fort Lewis, spending six months training troops.

I escaped the mysterious Gulf War illnesses that plagued so many Desert Storm veterans.

But as a reporter, I got interested when some local reservists talked to me about the strange illnesses they had. Maybe there was a bit of "that could have been me" in my reaction; I dug in rather hard and deep.

I made some enemies in the Pentagon but also had my articles cited in the eventual Gulf War Illness report.

I moved on, but wondered if the vets would ever get the attention they deserved.

In the last few months, I've regained hope. Two recent studies from the Institute of Medicine have definitively linked Chronic Multisymptom Illness to service in Desert Storm and made a number of recommendations for both research into the causes and treatment of the illnesses.

And while traumatic brain injuries have been a major medical issue from the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – and should be – the IOM also has found evidence that newer veterans are suffering from the same kinds of CMI and Desert Storm vets.

That's a much bigger group of vets - with more political clout.

Maybe finally we'll get some answers... and some treatments that work.

Wingspan

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Commanding Officer

Capt. D.M. Edgecomb

Public Affairs Officer

Robert D. Torres
Robert.Torres1@navy.mil

Editor

Rod Hafemeister
rodney.hafemeister@navy.mil

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Flight student becomes TV focus for a day

U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Meagan O'Connor, a Training Wing Four student, is interviewed by Nick Dermody of Channel 3 News, for a story about a flight student going through flight training here at the Naval Air Station as part of their Military Matters series. O'Connor, a former enlisted person, was selected to fly aircraft for the Coast Guard.

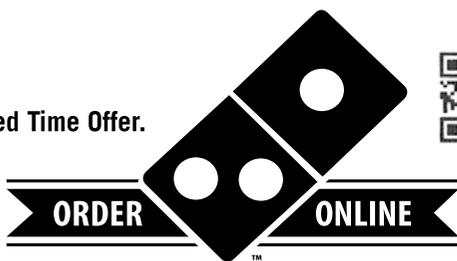
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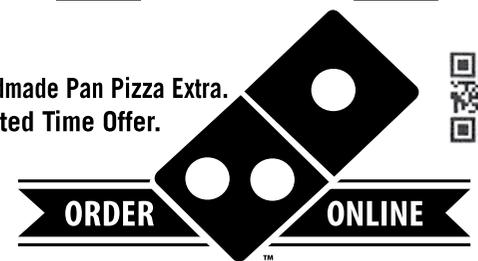
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Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

from Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute Public Affairs

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a United States federal holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, around the time of King's birthday, Jan. 15. This year, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service was recognized on Jan. 20.

King was the chief spokesman for nonviolent activism in the civil rights movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law.

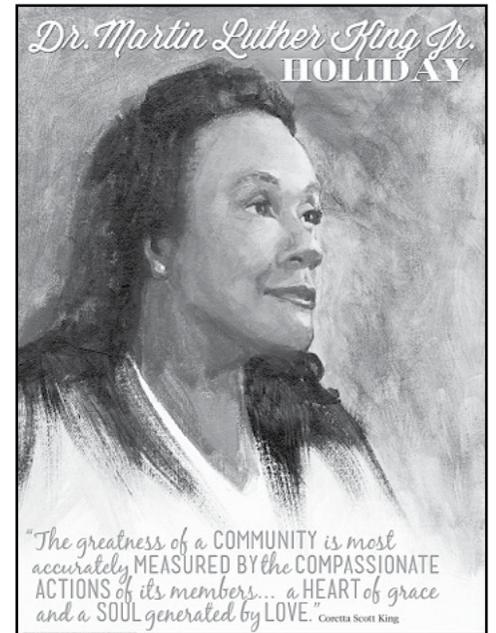
He was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tenn.

President Clinton signed the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday and Service Act August 23, 1994, expanding the mission of the holiday as a day of community service, interracial cooperation and youth anti-violence initiatives.

This year, Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday poster features a painting of Coretta Scott King, Dr. King's wife.

The couple was married on June 18, 1953, in a ceremony conducted by the groom's father, the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr.

Coretta Scott King was preparing for a career as a singer when she met the young preacher. As he became a leader in the growing civil rights movement, Mrs. King was often at her husband's side in civil rights marches and demonstrations, and she often was alone with their four children as King traveled for the cause.



Widowed when he was assassinated in 1968, Coretta Scott King took up the mantle of his civil rights non-violent activism and worked to keep his dream and memory alive until her passing in 2006 at the age of 78. She remains an inspirational figure to men and women around the world.

The national recurring theme of this holiday is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On...Not A Day Off."

It calls upon the American people to engage in public service and promote nonviolent social change. Dr. King's unfinished movement toward equality can be achieved by our united, enduring efforts.



Members of the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Multicultural Diversity Committee set up a display at the base commissary honoring Martin Luther King Jr. for MLK Day. From left, CS2 Pierre Bowden, BM2 Kenneth Midland and BM2 Mike Pickle.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

VT-27 Civilian of the Year



Ruth Patterson, squadron secretary, was named Civilian of the Year for VT-27.

Photo by Richard Stewart

Get ready for 2014 elections

This year, the entire US House of Representatives, a third of the US Senate and 36 State Governors will be elected.

To ensure your absentee ballots are sent to you, it's important to submit a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) — even if you just voted in November.

Visit FVAP.gov to use the online FPCA assistant to help you complete the form, and find more information about the voting process and your State's requirements and deadlines.

The FPCA is a registration and absentee ballot request form. State laws vary greatly in regard to how long your FPCA is valid.

To be sure you qualify to vote in this year's elections, we recommend you complete and submit a new one now.

As part of a highly mobile group, it's important for you and your family members to notify your election office of updates with every change of address — including deployments and subsequent returns — to ensure they know where to send your ballot.

You can use the FPCA to update your mailing address and other contact information (you can submit as many FPCAs as you need to each year).

The FPCA and instructions on how to submit it for all States and Territories are available at FVAP.gov.

Select your State under "Voters Start Here" on the left side of the homepage, then follow the instructions to register and request an absentee ballot.

Some States allow you to submit the FPCA by email or fax in addition to regular mail.

Don't forget to sign your printed form before submitting it.

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Lineup nearly complete for 'Wings Over South Texas' Air Show

by Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The line-up for the 2014 "Wings Over South Texas" air show is nearly complete as the countdown to the March 29-30 show continues.

All the aviation acts are in place, with the exception of a jump team, which is still being pursued.

The Blue Angels will headline the 2014 show – and their 2014 team brings close ties to South Texas.

The squadron commanding officer, Cmdr. Tom Frosch, is a graduate of the Naval Academy, where he also lettered in football. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in engineering and was commissioned in 1992.

Frosch completed primary flight training in the T-34C Turbo Mentor at NAS Corpus Christi and undergraduate flight training in the T-45 Goshawk at NAS Kingsville in March 1995. He assumed command of the Blue Angels in November 2012.

Marine Capt. Brandon Cordill, who flies slot in Blue Angel #4, is a graduate of Parks College of Saint Louis University where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in aeronautical science in 2002. Cordill received his commission after completion of Officer Candidate School and reported to The Basic School (TBS), at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico, Va., in January 2004.

Cordill completed primary flight training in the T-34C Turbo Mentor at NAS Whiting Field, Fla., and transferred to NAS Kingsville for advanced flight training. He earned his wings of gold in June 2006.

Lt. Mark Tedrow is a Naval Academy graduate, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in history and earning his commission in 2004.

Tedrow completed primary flight training in the T-34C Turbo Mentor at NASCC and transferred to NAS Kingsville for advanced flight training. He received his wings of gold in August 2006.

The other three members of the demonstration team, Lt. Cmdr. Dave Tickle, lead solo and Blue Angel #5, Lt. Cmdr. Nate Barton, left wing and Blue Angel #3, and Lt. Cmdr. John Hiltz, right wing and Blue Angel #2, all earned their wings of gold at NAS Meridian, Miss.

All three C-130 pilots are Marine Naval Flight Officers who earned their wings of gold with VT-31 at NASCC.

Capt. Mike Van Wyk earned his wings in 2005, while Capt. A.J. Harrell and Capt. Dusty Cook, a native of East Bernard, Texas, earned their wings in 2006.

The feature civilian act is world aerobatic champion Rob Holland and his custom built MXC/RH aircraft.

Holland defended his US National Unlimited Aerobatic title in September at Denton, Texas, earning his third straight US championship.

Competing against the very best aerobatic pilots in the country, Rob won all three of the



Rob Holland and his custom built MXC/RH aircraft flying with the Blue Angels

determining flights to bring home the gold medal.

In addition to dominating the "classic" portion of the competition which is very structured and scored under tight guidelines, Rob also won the "four-minute freestyle" flight which allows each competitor to be more creative, include tumbling maneuvers, use smoke, and fly their routine to choreographed music.

Just two weeks after bringing home gold at the nationals, Rob won the Four-Minute Freestyle Title at the World Championships, also held in Texas this year. Some 60 competitors from around the globe gathered for the competition which also resulted in a Team Silver Medal for Team USA.

Holland participated in the 2010 and 2012 Wings Over South Texas air shows.

Other aerial performers include Texas native Randy Ball and his Russian-made MiG 17; Gregory Colyer of Acemaker Air Shows and his T-33 Shooting Star; The Trojan Horsemen, six ship team of T-28 Trojans; Dallas native Jan Collmer and his Fina 300 XL; former King Ranch pilot Paul Fiala and his Great Lakes Biplane; Andrew Wright flying his ultra-fast high-tech carbon fiber G202 aircraft; and the Disabled American Veterans flight team and their historic B-25 Mitchell Bomber.

Another new act this year is Circus Maximus from Tiger Air Shows. This act features pilots Mark Sorenson and Buck Roetman teaming up in two identical Tiger Yak 55's, for an aerial demonstration of precision – including circling the opening ceremonies flag jump, and their popular Salute to Veterans act.

Heating up the 2014 show will be the popular SHOCKWAVE Jet Truck from Darnell Racing Enterprises, Inc. SHOCKWAVE holds the Guinness Book® world record for fastest Jet Truck in the world.

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For updated information on the air show, visit the air show web site at: <http://www/wost2014.com> or our Facebook page at <http://www.Facebook.com/wost2014>.



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Sports continued from page 1

As many as 16 different sports may be scheduled throughout the calendar year with points being awarded in major and minor events.

For example, the major events include football and basketball, and teams placing 1st through 9th during the regular season win points in descending amounts, as do teams placing 1st through 4th in the playoffs.

Minor events like racquetball, tennis and runs have a different point-awarding system in which only 1st through 4th win descending points.

Marsh said that the highest number of combined unit's major and minor sports points determines the end of the year bragging rights champion who gets keep the Captain's Cup Trophy at their command for one year.

The top four contestants during the 2013 competition with their respective points were NHCCC, 1,340; United States Coast Guard (USCG), 1,285; Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD), 1,055; and Marine Aviation Training Support Group Twenty -Two (MATSG-22), 725.

Past winners include CCAD (2012, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2001, 2000); Training Squadron Thirty-One (VT-31) (2010, 2009, 2003); USCG (2011); Helicopter Maintenance Fifteen (HM-15) (2004), Naval Air Station Corpus Christi (2002); and VT-28 (1999).

"Winning the Captain's Cup Trophy makes me feel good to know that our hard work paid off in the end," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Mike Edwards, a basketball team captain for NHCCC.

"All of the after-hours work that we put into the preparations and practices wasn't just for fun. We had a goal to win the trophy for our command for the first time."

The clinic ended the 2011 and 2012 competitions both times placing 5th.

"Overall, I really appreciate how you play as a whole," Edgcomb said during the presentation at the clinic.

"You participate in everything on base, and your unit is very visible, so it's a real pleasure to finally present this trophy to a Navy unit.

"Congratulations!"



Capt. Dave Edgcomb, (right) NASCC commanding officer, presents the 2013 Captain's Cup Trophy to the clinic CO, Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley, while Kass Varner, MWR deputy director, looks on. Photo by HM2 Jacob L. Welch

2014 Captain's Cup Softball League

Register now for the 2014 Captain's Cup Softball League at the E-Street Gym, building 102, by Jan. 29.

League will start play on Feb. 4.

Games will be played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

A players pool is available.

A mandatory coach's meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 5 p.m. at the E-Street Gym.

Single players may sign up and will be added to the player pool.

Youth Basketball League registration at Youth & Teen Center

Youth ages 5 - 12 are invited to participate in the 2014 Youth Basketball League. Register until Jan. at the Youth & Teen Center in building 1756. The season starts Feb.22. Cost is \$50 per player and includes: uniform, six weeks of play and a medal at the end of season.

Birth Certificate is required at time of registration. Registration will not be processed until payment has been received and birth certificate has been submitted. A free required parents meeting/training taken online at <http://paysonline.nays.org/> is due by Feb. 21, 2014.

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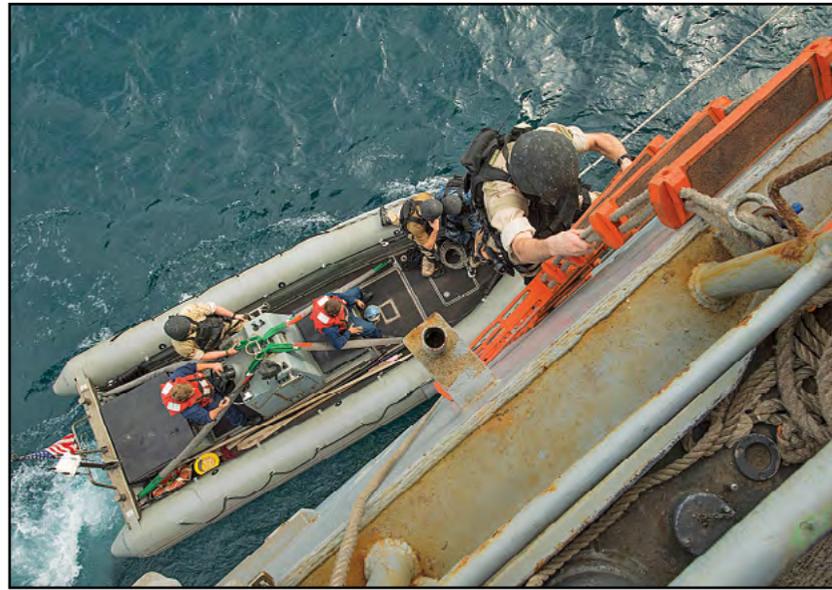
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Around the Navy



Clockwise, from top left: An MH-53E Sea Dragon, assigned to the 'Blackhawks' of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15, launches from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75). (Photo by MCSN Blagoj B. Petkovski) Sailors, assigned to the visit, board, search, and seizure team from the amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49), climb down to a small boat from the boat deck of Harpers Ferry. (Photo by MC3 Mark El-Rayes) Sailors man a hose during a general quarters drill in the hangar bay of the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman. (Photo by MC3 Karl Anderson) MA1 Renault Nwokeuku, right, instructs AZ3 Amber Mahaffey, left, and CSSN Deantae Kirkwood how to conduct a proper take down maneuver aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman. (Photo by MCSN Emily M. Blair) An F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the Sunliners of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 81 taxis onto a catapult prior to launching from the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). (Photo by MC2 John Phillip Wagner, Jr.)



Awards and Achievements

Winging — January 10



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Winging officials, from left: Sharon Kollaja, Chairman, Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce; Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain; Cmdr. Todd Copeland, Commanding Officer, VT-31; Cmdr. R. Scott Kramarik, Commanding Officer, VT-35; Col. David Krebs, USMC, Commanding Officer, MATSG-22; Capt. John Winkler, Deputy Commander, Reserve Component Command; Capt. Rex Curtin, Commodore, Training Air Wing Four.

Wingees, in alphabetical order: 1st Lt. Jacob John Billups, USMC; Ensign Jordan Aallison Broadrick; 1st Lt. Taylor Rush Carlisle, USMC; Ensign Kristen Jean Gurekovich; Ensign Rex Clifford Jones; Ensign Nicholas Robert MacDonald; Lt. j.g. Katrina Sheehan Nietsch; Ensign Eric Maurice Palmer; Ensign James Travis Perkins; 1st Lt. Michael William Schmaling, USMC; Lt. j.g. Sean Thomas Taylor; Ensign Ryan Matthew Volk; Ensign Stephen Coryell Williams; Ensign Shane Alexander Woodard.

Pena recognized for years of service



Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. Roy Kelley presents Ruben Pena his certificate for 35 years of service during an awards ceremony held at CNATRA on Jan. 17.

Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA PA

Achievement Medal for HM2 Avila



Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley, commanding officer, presents the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2nd Award) to Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (Fleet Marine Force) Gabriel Avila for professional achievement while serving as manpower clerk, Human Resources Department, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi from January 2011 to January 2014.

Photo by Bill Love, NHCCC PAO

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Naval Academy summer seminar program seeks student applicants



Students participate in a variety of hands-on, real-world approaches to solving design and analysis problems utilizing the Naval Academy's world-class laboratories, and have the opportunity to interact with the faculty and midshipmen, who serve as role models and mentors for the students. *Photo courtesy of Lt. Teng Ooi*

by Lt. Teng K. Ooi, PhD, U.S. Naval Academy and Capt. Linda J. Beltra, MD, Medical Corps

The United States Naval Academy's 2014 Summer Seminar Program invites a select group of young men and women to attend the Naval Academy Summer Seminar (NASS).

This fast-paced, six-day experience is designed to introduce the Naval Academy to rising high school seniors.

At the core of the NASS is the academic program involving 90-minute workshops designed to promote problem-solving skills using critical thinking, optimization, innovation, creativity, and team work.

Students choose eight workshops from a wide range of subjects to include: Information Technology, Naval Architecture, Mechanical Engineering, Ocean Engineering, Aerospace Flight Testing, Systems Engineering, Microcomputer Design, Ethics and Character Development, Oceanography, Mathematics, History, Meteorology, Literature, Chemistry, Political Science, Language Studies, Martial Arts, and Economics.

Students participate in project-based modules applying hands-on, real-world approaches to solving design and analysis problems utilizing the Naval Academy's world-class laboratory facilities.

These facilities provide a unique learning environment outside the traditional classroom.

The NASS teaches prospective applicants about the life of midshipmen at the Naval Academy, where academics, athletics, and professional training are key elements in developing our nation's leaders.

Students live in the dormitory, eat in the dining hall and participate in academic and leadership workshops.

They also participate in daily physical training including group runs and conditioning exercises.

Seamanship and navigation classes culminate in a cruise aboard a Navy Yard Patrol Craft.

The program helps educate, motivate and prepare selected students who are considering application for appointment to the Naval Academy.

If you think that you may be interested in pursuing an appointment to the Naval Academy and serving your country as an officer, you should seriously consider attending the Naval Academy's 2014 Summer Seminar.

Applications open Jan. 16 at www.usna.edu/admissions/nass.

Session dates include:

May 31-June 5, June 7-12 and June 14-19.

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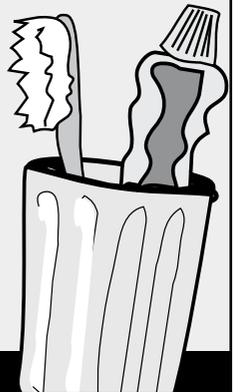
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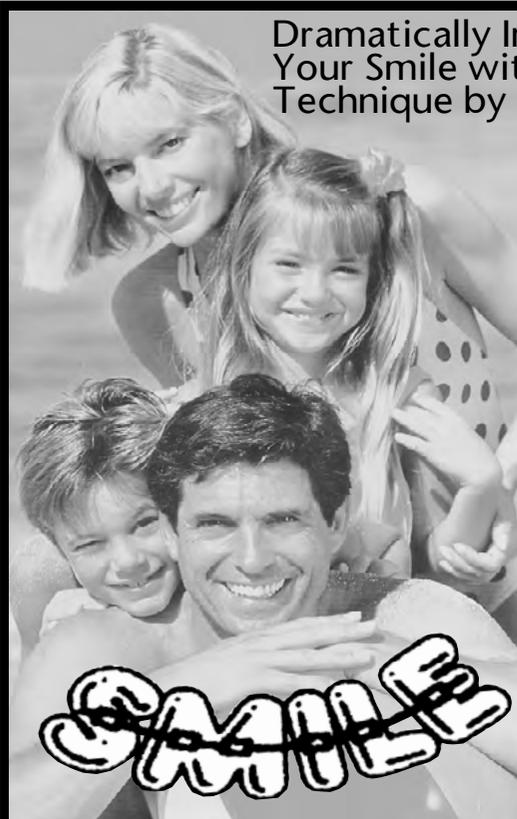
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Child custody across state lines

by Thomas E. Wallace, Esq.

Child custody and visitation issues can be a major personal crisis for service members and their children.

The stress of these situations can distract the service member from his or her duties and negatively impact children.

The complexity of a child custody and visitation plan is increased with distance.

The parents may find it hard enough to coordinate parental decision making when living in the same town, let alone in different states.

Most states will direct that both parents participate together in the major decisions affecting their children unless allowing such contact is harmful to the children. This is typically referred to as "shared parental responsibility."

A growing number of states require the establishment of a detailed parenting plan meant to encourage parental collaboration to better develop a workable plan which is deemed to be in the children's best interest.

There are several key points to remember to ensure that visitation between parent and child happens smoothly and hopefully without crisis.

Logistics of Long Distance Visitation and Custody

Here are some of the key things to remember when establishing a long distance visitation or custody plan:

Establish and maintain reliable means of communication between the parents and with your children. Most jurisdictions in custody orders specify the means of communication to be used by the parents and the frequency of communication between the parents and between the parents and the children. Electronic means of communication, such as Skype, email, and cellular phone usage are typical means for allowing such communication. The parties must focus on which method of communication best works for them.

Regularly provide up to date contact information to the other parent to better enable regular communication. Most state courts and state statutes regulating child custody and visitation issues will require parents to immediately advise the court and all parties about an address change.

Make sure that the plan you establish is affordable. Long distance visitation will require travel to comply with the parenting plan.

A complete parenting plan will often apportion travel costs between the parents. Make sure that you can realistically afford the plan. Extreme long distance relationships often require the purchase of airline tickets which can be expensive and the expense of achieving the parenting plan can limit how often visitation can be exercised if a parent's budget limit is reached.

Think through the logistics of the plan in advance. Often the parenting plan will require designating times for the physical transfer of the children and the establishment of drop off and pick-up points for the transfer to

occur. Make sure that the times are realistic, reasonable and not at unworkable times such as during a time when the other parent is not available because of work or some other obligation. Make sure the drop off and pick-up locations are in a safe place.

Make sure that the plan is realistic. If the parents move into different states, more frequent visitation, such as every week, is impossible to achieve because of the above listed reasons.

The non-custodial parent will have to get used to the idea that he or she will have to see their children less and that visitation will probably happen during summer or holiday vacations at times that do not interfere with the children's life events, such as school and extracurricular activities.

Remember to update your Navy Family Care Plan in accordance with OPNAVINST 1740.4D.

Always keep the best interests of the child in mind.

Problems of Relocation

The custodial parent's proposed relocation with the children can also pose a challenge.

Many states specify that the custodial parent must consult the non-custodial parent for permission to relocate with the children.

If the non-custodial parent does not grant permission, the custodial parent will need to bring a lawsuit to obtain court approval of the relocation of the children.

If the relocation is approved, the custody and visitation plan may need to be modified by the court because of the relocation of the children.

Members should be aware that contested relocation plans, as they affect the visitation of the non-custodial parent, are not always approved a court.

In such cases the military family may have to confront a significant obstacle to relocation.

Challenges of Jurisdiction

Frustrated parents are often tempted to take matters into their own hands and remove their children or steal their children without the permission of the other parent or the permission of the supervising court.

Such actions are universally condemned as not being in the children's welfare and can have significant consequences, including but not limited to stiff sanctions and loss of custody or visitation privileges.

The Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA), the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA), and the Hague Convention on Civil Aspects on International Child Abduction provide legal authority for determining what jurisdiction has control over a child custody determination, providing for emergency orders to return a child to the proper jurisdiction, and allowing for stiff penalties when parents violate such laws.

The application of these various legal authorities can be complex and it is recommended that you consult a lawyer to

Custody continued on page 13

Sexual assault victims have legal counsel in Navy Region Southeast

from Navy Region Southeast Victims' Legal Counsel

The Navy Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC) Program is fully operational in Navy Region Southeast.

The Navy is implementing the VLC Program to provide a military attorney free of charge to eligible victims of sexual assault.

VLCs can assist eligible victims with a decision to make a restricted or an unrestricted report of sexual assault; advocate on their behalf to investigators, commanders, and prosecutors; advance and protect victim rights and interests during the court-martial process; and, provide other legal advice and assistance connected to the sexual assault.

It is never too early or too late for an eligible victim to seek the assistance of a VLC.

All communications between eligible victims and VLCs are confidential.

Navy judge advocate attorneys assigned to VLC Program offices at NAS Jacksonville, NS Mayport, NAS Pensacola, NCBC Gulfport, and Joint Base San Antonio will provide these legal services throughout Navy

Region Southeast.

Capt. Karen Fischer-Anderson, JAGC, USN, Chief of Staff for the VLC Program, reports the program is off to a fantastic start.

"Our VLCs are operational across the globe and are actively promoting and protecting their client's rights and interests as crime victims," she said.

"On a daily basis, VLCs are making sure our clients understand the legal process, make informed legal decisions, and are treated with respect and dignity."

Active duty Sailors, adult dependents, and certain reservists are eligible for the program.

Victims of sexual assault are encouraged to contact the local Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) or assigned Victim Advocate for a referral to the nearest VLC Program office.

You may also contact the VLC Program directly. A list of VLC Program offices and more information can be found at www.jag.navy.mil.

NAS Corpus Christi/NAS Kingsville military personnel and family members who are 18-years-old and over, can contact the local Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) at: Pat Kapitan, SARC; Fleet and Family Support Center; Fifth floor, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi; (361) 961-1670 or (361) 523-3580 or e-mail: pat.kapitan@navy.mil.

Navy creates Victims' Legal Counsel

from Defense Media Activity-Navy

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (NNS) -- The Navy in August announced the establishment of the Navy's newest Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) initiative, the Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC) Program, which will provide legal advice and advocacy for eligible victims of sexual assault.

The Victims' Legal Counsel will help victims understand the investigation and military justice process, advocate their legal rights and interests and, when appropriate, appear in court on their behalf.

"The Navy is committed to protecting the rights and interests of victims of sexual assault and ensuring the administration of a fair, transparent and efficient military justice system that guarantees due process for the accused and promotes good order and discipline," said Vice Adm. Nanette M. DeRenzi, Judge Advocate General of the Navy.

"The Navy's Victims' Legal Counsel program complements the Navy's broader efforts to care for victims of sexual assault by providing them with legal advice and assistance throughout the military justice

process."

Initially, the VLC Program will consist of 29 specially-trained, independent judge advocates assigned regionally to maximize availability of counsel across the Fleet.

Navy VLCs will serve every geographic region, including the United States, Europe, the Pacific, and the Middle East.

The program's attorneys will not be in the victim's or the accused's chain of command and will not be involved in case prosecution or defense.

"Through increased training and bystander intervention we are confronting sexual assault fleet wide, while ensuring that we provide needed care and support to victims," said Rear Adm. Sean Buck, director, 21st Century Sailor Office (N17).

"This program further adds to that support."

For more information and resources to combat sexual assault visit www.sapr.navy.mil. Sexual assault affects Navy readiness, and the Navy is committed to preventing sexual assault.

Join the Navy's conversation about sexual assault on social media and help raise awareness by using #NavySAPR.

Legal Service Office Southeast to discuss these issues.

Please visit us at http://www.jag.navy.mil/legal_services/rloso/rloso_southeast.htm for more information or to find the legal assistance office closest to you.

Custody continued from page 12

determine how these legal authorities apply in your specific case.

If you have long distance custody and visitation issues that cross state lines, you can meet with an attorney at the Region



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What's Happening by Tina Konwerski

Kids' "Feed the Birds" Story and Craft Program at Janet F. Harte Public Library! A fun program for children ages 5 and up on Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. Kids, come have fun listening to a story and making a simple bird feeder craft. For ages 5 and up, free, and open to the public. The library is located at 2629 Waldron Rd. in Flour Bluff. For more information call 937-6579.

Stranger Ranger Classes offered by the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department. These are anti-kidnapping and child-defense programs developed by incorporating proven life-saving techniques and different martial arts moves that are safe and effective for children. The "Stranger Ranger" curriculum is designed to teach children skills to help them avoid abduction, how to get away, and how to get help. These are on-going programs set-up on a martial arts belt advancing system. The curriculum also includes games, role playing, tests, and fun competitions. Professional instruction is provided by the Primetime-Kidsafe Company. Cost is \$40 per month, plus a \$10 seasonal registration fee. FMI call 826-PLAY (7529). Register at www.ccparkandrec.com. Oso Recreation Center, 1111 Bernice Dr. Tuesdays from 6:15-7pm for ages 5-12. Classes start Feb. 4, 2014. Lindale Recreation Center, 3133 Swantner Dr. Thursdays from 6:15-7pm

for ages 5-12. Classes start Feb. 6, 2014. **Ethel Eyerly Senior Center**, 654 Graham Rd. Mondays from 6:15-7pm for ages 5-12. Classes start Feb. 3, 2014.

Are you waiting for an Organ Transplant? Have you received a Transplant? If so, The Transplant Support Group of South Texas, serving the Coastal Bend's Transplant Community for 21 years, would be happy to have you join us at our meeting- **first Tuesday of EVERY Month:** Potluck at 6:30PM in the Dr. Spohn conference room at Shoreline Hospital - 2d floor, follow the signs toward the Chapel - FMI or to meet privately call 361-882-6053; "A Friend to help in time of Need"

The members of **FIRST FRIDAY** invite you to an inter-faith Prayer Service to honor, remember and pray for friends and family members who have been touched by Breast Cancer. This service is **Friday, February 7, 2014**, in the sanctuary of Corpus Christi First United Methodist Church (900 South Shoreline) at 7:30 a.m. This year's event theme is "quilting" and breast-cancer survivors will share their inspirational stories about "Piecing Our Lives Together After Breast Cancer". A complimentary breakfast will immediately follow the service in the church fellowship hall. FMI about **FIRST FRIDAY** or the free mammogram services, visit www.firstfridaycc.org.



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