

WINGSPAN



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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

June 26, 2014



**Independence Day
July 4**



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to rise to Captain,
Retires**

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Chief for
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Capt. Edgecomb relinquishing command of NASCC

by Rod Hafemeister

As Capt. Dave Edgecomb prepared to relinquish command of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, he looked back on what is likely his last job as a commanding officer.

Edgecomb, who has commanded the Air Station since July 2011, will be relieved by Capt. Steve Banta in a ceremony at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 26, at the Catalina Club.

"One of the most difficult things in command is evaluating yourself," Edgecomb said.

He said that, as a squadron commander, there were metrics that could help him evaluate how the command was doing – mission readiness, etc.

For an installation command, though, it's difficult to have a "standard" to compare against, since each base has its unique challenges.

And that leads to a lot of self-analysis, Edgecomb said.

"You can't be the commander of a unit and not constantly assess where there is work to be done," he said.

"There were two weeks in three years where I thought, 'Wow, I got everything done.' And at the end of those two weeks I was like, 'Oh my God, I can't believe I didn't see that coming!'"

"There has been no breathing room."

Which is not to say Edgecomb has not enjoyed the command, or is not proud of what it has accomplished.

He detailed some of the success during a television interview, including improvements to MWR programs, especially transition to effluent watering for the Gulf Winds Golf Course.

"For the first time, it's actually making money instead of losing it," he said.

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Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Rahe assumes command of MATSG-22



(left) Col. David Krebs, commanding officer of Marine Aviation Training Squadron Group 22, passes the organizational colors to Col. John A Rahe Jr. signifying the transfer of command during MATSG-22's change of command ceremony June 20. (above) Krebs addresses the Group's Marines and guests for a final time.

Photos by Richard Stewart, CNATRA PA

Skipper's Column

Goodbye and Thanks to All

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Edgecomb

By the time you read this, NAS Corpus Christi will have had its 49th Change of Command and Capt. Steve Banta will have the privilege of leading some of the finest Civilian and Military professionals I have ever had the pleasure to work

with.

It is hard to believe that three years have come and gone since I took command July 14, 2011. It is difficult to describe the experience of command.

One of the most interesting aspects, from my perspective, is that three years was simultaneously a very long time ago and yet they seem to have passed in a blink of an eye.

We have faced a tremendous number of challenges in those three years, from struggling with ancient infrastructure and facilities like the base pool to dealing with sequestration.

But in dealing with those challenges, we have had some tremendous successes – not the least of which are rescuing and transforming the golf course, building a new club and boat marina, restoring and refurbishing four of our six Navy hangers, and opening the Navy's newest outlying air field in Goliad. We have done all of this while transitioning to the T-6B Texan II, the Navy's newest primary flight trainer.

It has been a real pleasure to work with and support all of our tenants on the installation. First and foremost we train the future of Naval Aviation here at NAS Corpus Christi, and I have enjoyed being a part of supporting that mission.

But the missions of CCAD, Customs and Boarder Protection, USCG Sector Corpus Christi and the Defense Logistics Agency also have national and in many instances

international impact and I enjoyed having a small part supporting all of you as well.

I would also like to make special mention of the men and woman who support all of us through the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi. You all deliver the best Navy health care I have ever experienced and you do it with a smile. You remain an indispensable part of everything we do on the installation.

I cannot say enough good things about the support we receive from the local community every day. I have never seen a community more supportive of the military and I have enjoyed and learned a great deal working with your county, city, state, and federal representatives.

While I am looking forward to my next assignment working as the Chief of Staff for the Chief of Naval Air Training and having an even bigger role in the mission of training Naval Aviation's future warriors, the fact that we will be staying in Corpus Christi played a prominent part in Kim and my decision to continue to serve.

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Chaplain's Message

by Fr. John Vidal

If on July 6 you walk into any Church or Synagogue (and probably congregations of all religious faiths) in the United States, you will most likely find some recognition of Independence Day.

While I believe that the State should have no influence over the religious beliefs of any of its citizens, I am adamant that the religious belief of citizens should not only influence but also drive the activities of Government.

The first amendment to the Constitution of the United States directs that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Unfortunately, I believe, the Supreme

Court has concluded that the mere recognition by government that a citizen's religious expression is valid, is the same as the endorsement of the same.

The result is that it is becoming impossible for people to express their religious beliefs in a way that they can influence their Government or even society.

I think this is a tragic development in our history because it makes it less and less possible for communities to establish societal rules that reflect their religiously informed values.

Please don't get me wrong; I'm not suggesting that a community with a majority represented by one faith group should be able

to impose their religious beliefs on others.

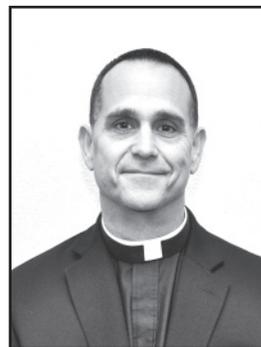
After all, that is the current problem in the Middle East.

At the same time, I am suggesting that it is good and healthy that the religiously informed

values of citizens in a community (or

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July 4 & Freedom of Religion



Vidal

Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

personal fireworks...with the encouragement of fire departments and safety officials everywhere.

I haven't seen any burn bans loudly proclaimed on television, but I suspect they

Well, the Fourth of July is fast approaching – and among other things, in South Texas that means the annual conflict between those who buy fireworks during the short sales season and the officials who try to stop people from using

may be out by the time you read this.

It's not like we've had much relief from the long drought – and burn bans are one of the easiest ways to clamp down on private fireworks.

The City of Corpus Christi flat forbids possession and sale in the city limits. But where I live, on the edge of town, the fireworks stands set up in the unincorporated county areas – often less than 100 yards outside the city limits.

Then the game begins of police watching from inside the city, ready to stop any purchaser who returns to the city.

Now, I like fireworks at least as much as the next person. And in my misspent youth, I dabbled not only with the kinds of things you can still legally buy, but some fairly large stuff that was outlawed years ago.

Leave Fireworks to the Pros

We won't even get into the creative uses of model rockets, although I assume the statute of limitations has long expired.

But as a Dad, I have a different perspective.

Besides being illegal, that stuff is dangerous!

Even if you don't hurt yourself, you can hurt someone else – or start a fire you cannot control.

Between 8,000 and 10,000 people each year end up in the emergency room because of fireworks accidents - and a few end up dead.

Annually, fireworks cause an estimated 15,500 reported fires, including 1,100 total structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, and 14,100 outside and other fires.

So leave the fireworks to the professionals and go enjoy the show.

CCAD and DLA Distribution offload helicopter, components from C-17

Story & photo from DLA Distribution Corpus Christi

Members of the DLA Distribution Corpus Christi Airlift Crew joined with CCAD personnel to execute a cargo and AH-64 Apache offload from an Air Mobility Command C-17 on the afternoon of June 20.

The cargo included containerized helicopter blades along with other common rotary wing major assemblies that are in unserviceable condition.

Ultimately, CCAD will repair both the helicopter and the blades and assemblies, all of which will return to the field as fully serviceable.

CCAD personnel from the Aircraft Delivery Branch were overall in control of the operation and ensured that the cargo as well as the aircraft were safely and successfully offloaded and transported to their final destinations.

Offloading an Apache from a C-17 requires a manually constructed grade transition between the cargo plane's tail ramp and the airfield tarmac; otherwise, the Apache's low ground clearance will result in the bottom of the helicopter scraping against the bottom of the C-17 as it exits the aircraft.

Although DLA personnel have not performed an Apache offload in at least a year, the experience and skill required to build the transition was still resident in the team members.

This process involves layering predominately 12" x 12" wooden tiles as

well as some larger pieces of lumber with precision.

"Every download evolution is different," said Gary Stacy, DLA Airlift Crew chief.

"The first step I take is to contact and communicate with the Aircraft Loadmaster to evaluate the situation and explain the procedures that we will use to offload aircraft and cargo. I explain how we will build the ramp as to not damage the aircraft's cargo when it gets offloaded.

"The years of experience of both crews are the major reason that evolutions such as this come off without any hitches; these personnel are extraordinary in what they do. I thoroughly enjoy being the supervisor during these evolutions and I know that the cargo needs to be repaired and returned to the warfighter as soon as possible."

The individual helicopter blade containers were transported by the C-17 on a "pallet train," whereby four 463L USAF pallets were hooked together to serve as a platform to accommodate the length of the containers.

This pallet train was pushed onto a vehicle called a K-Loader, a piece of equipment designed specifically for this mission.

The K-Loader has a 40,000 lb. capacity and is 23 years old; however, intense testing by supervisors and great contracted maintenance support keep it up and running despite its age.

"I really enjoy driving the K-Loader," said operator Charity Gwartney.



A joint team from DLA Distribution Corpus Christi and Corpus Christi Army Depot work to offload a damaged AH-64 Apache helicopter from a C-17 cargo plane on June 20.

"We maintain it for just these specific reasons. The support that we give to the warfighter is of the utmost importance to all of us.

"These teams you see out here are some

of the hardest working people you will ever meet and I am delighted to be chosen as the driver of the K-Loader.

"I know that my job is value-added when I am involved in an evolution such as this."

Enlisted as an immigrant, rose to Captain's rank

Captain Silvester Del Rosario retires after 38 years of service

by Tom Bily and Lt. Brynn Olson, CNATRA

Silvester R. Del Rosario entered the U.S. Navy in 1976 as a young immigrant from the Dominican Republic.

On June 13, Del Rosario retired, after 38 years in uniform – as the first Hispanic Aviation Limited Duty Officer to rise through the enlisted ranks all the way Captain.

“I’ve been very proud of my naval career,” he said.

“If I had to do it all over again, without hesitation, I would do it all over again exactly the same way.”

His retirement on board the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay marked an historic journey for a kid born and raised in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Del Rosario immigrated to the United States at 17, when his family moved to Queens, New York. A few years later – Oct. 14, 1976 – he enlisted in the Navy.

Del Rosario quickly worked his way through the enlisted ranks to Chief Petty Officer, and after only 10 years, transitioned to become an officer when he was commissioned through the Limited Duty Officer Program in September 1986.

It was one of his proudest moments.

“These two are at the top of the list: the day I received my US citizenship and the day I found out that I was selected for a commission

as a Limited Duty Officer,” he said.

“It was not handed to me; I had to work very hard to achieve both of these milestones.

“I believe that dedication and perseverance have been the cornerstones of my naval career.”

On July 1, 2008, he became the first Hispanic Aviation LDO in the Navy to achieve the Rank of Captain; a week later, on July 8, his promotion achievement was entered in the log of the United States Congress as an official entry for historical data.

At the time of his retirement, he was the most senior Naval Officer of Dominican American descent on active duty.

Del Rosario has spent his entire adult life mentoring young men and women both in the Navy and the community at large. He is a stalwart role model and a staunch supporter of both his adopted home country, the United States, and that of his birth, the Dominican Republic.

His accomplishments were recognized early in his career when he was selected as the Maintenance Officer of the Year in 1990 by the Association of Naval Aviation.

During his next fleet assignment he was awarded the LTJG Clint Neidecken Award for Leadership, and selected by Strike Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, as the 1993

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Capt. Silvester Del Rosario (left) receives the Legion of Merit from Rear Adm. Roy Kelley, CNATRA, at his June 13 retirement. Photos by Richard Stewart, CNATRA PA

New CMC emphasizes family, highlights customer service at NHCCC

Story and photo by Bill W. Love, NHCCC PAO

Master Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/FMF) Rikki L. Brown, of Conroe, Texas, was appointed Command Master Chief (CMC), Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi (NHCCC), in a ceremonial morning formation June 12.

Commanding Officer, Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley presented a letter designating Brown “to a position of leadership and authority” in which he urged her “continued dedication to the support of [the] mission.”

The CMC is the most senior enlisted Sailor at NHCCC.

As the primary liaison between 54 commissioned officers and 241 enlisted Sailors, Brown will be an important resource for Bradley as his senior enlisted advisor, and will be called upon often to gauge morale and battle readiness.

During the designation ceremony, Senior Chief Hull Technician Mike Richardson, command senior chief (CSC) since June 2011, pinned Brown’s chief petty officer (CPO) command identification badge.

Richardson steps down following Brown’s promotion to master chief petty officer May 2, and he took advantage of the opportunity to reflect on the most memorable aspect of serving as NHCCC CSC.

“The best part of the job was the ability to assist in making everyone around me prosper

both personally and professionally, because with this position you get the opportunity to make decisions that have far reaching effects on the lives of all staff,” he said.

“I was always concerned if I was doing my best to support the commanding officer in taking care of the staff!

“But I guess things turned out well for the ‘HT...Honorary Health Tech’ as I have been so graciously accepted by the medical staff.”

Until Richardson departs with orders to USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) in October, he will serve as senior enlisted leader (SEL) for the director of Branch Clinics at NHCCC.

The Command’s branch clinics are located in Kingsville and Fort Worth, Texas, including the NHCCC San Antonio Detachment that serves Navy students at the Medical Education and Training Command at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

Brown’s first day on the job was demanding, but it wasn’t too hectic for her to express appreciation for Richardson.

“He will leave a legacy, and that’s truly what leadership is all about,” she said, indicating that she can’t imagine taking over from anyone else.

“Our Sailors will remember him. And the chief petty officers he has mentored respect him and value his opinions - that will

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Senior Chief Hull Technician Mike Richardson, command senior chief (CSC) since June 2011, pins Master Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/FMF) Rikki L. Brown's chief petty officer (CPO) command identification badge.

Commissaries support 'Feds Feed Families'

by Jessica Rouse, DeCA public affairs specialist

FORT LEE, Va. – Commissary employees and customers are working together again this year to collect donations for the Feds Feed Families campaign.

The campaign, which runs through the end of August, collects much-needed items for local food banks.

Customers and employees can donate nonperishable food and personal hygiene items using marked bins located at the entries or exits of participating commissaries.

“Contributing to the communities that surround our stores is important to the commissaries,” said Vicki Archileti, DeCA’s executive director of infrastructure support.

“Times are still tough for a lot of families, and with commissaries and our patrons working together we hope to lessen that burden.”

Last year, commissaries collected almost 740,000 pounds, or 39 percent of the Department of Defense’s total, of items for local food banks.

In 2013, DOD collected over 1.9 million pounds, and donations from the entire federal government totaled 9 million pounds.

Commissaries will again serve as collection points for the campaign and deliver them to a local food bank.

The most-needed items for donations include:

- Canned vegetables – low sodium, no salt
- Canned fruits – in light syrup or its own juices
- Canned proteins – tuna, salmon, chicken, peanut butter and beans
- Soups – beef stew, chili, chicken noodle, turkey or rice
- Condiments – tomato-based sauces, light soy sauce, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing or oils
- Snacks – individually packed snacks, crackers, trail mix, dried fruit, granola and cereal bars, pretzels and sandwich crackers
- Multigrain cereal
- 100 percent juice – all sizes, including juice boxes
- Grains – brown and white rice, oatmeal, bulgar, quinoa, couscous, pasta, and macaroni and cheese
- Paper products and household items – paper towels, napkins, cleaning supplies
- Hygiene items – diapers, deodorants (men and women), feminine products, toilet paper, tissues, soap, toothpaste and shampoo

Although no goals have been established for the 2014 campaign, the commissaries are confident that with the help of its patrons and employees the 2013 totals will be exceeded.

“For the last three years our patrons and employees have never failed to make this campaign a success,” said Archileti.

“We are looking forward to another great campaign year.”

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never change, no matter where he goes. He has invited us to reach out to him when he transfers, and don't think that we won't.

"Thank you so much for all you have done for our Sailors, Mike."

Prior to being selected as the CMC, Brown served as the SEL of NHCCC's Director for Health Services (DHS), a directorate that encompasses Medical Home Port, Operational Medicine, General Dentistry, Optometry and Audiology, and Behavioral Health.

She reported to NHCCC in December 2013, after serving for three years aboard USS New Orleans (LPD 18), a San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock where she mentored 284 enlisted Sailors and junior officers.

In her new role as CMC Brown's initial message to the staff reinforces unification and underscores customer service.

"We are a family.

"We rely on each other, and we help each other just like we would any of our own immediate family members," said Brown.

"I want you to enjoy what you do, and I want you to reflect our pride in the service to our country and to our patients when you meet and care for those who serve and those who have served."

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state or nation) should be welcomed and encouraged because they generally build open and diverse communities that are open to all.

I fear that a dangerous trend is creeping into our society where minorities, sometimes of one, use the so-called "separation of church and state" to impose their values on the community.

This dangerous trend has been magnified by recent developments where one or all three of the branches of the US Government have used "common good" arguments to restrict the exercise of religion by well-established and historically recognized faith groups like the Catholic Church, the Southern Baptist Convention and the Mormon Church.

In a political environment where the citizenry is sharply divided it is easy to disregard someone's beliefs in order to advance a particular political agenda.

The problem is that eventually the pendulum will swing to the opposing political agenda and those pushing that opposing political agenda will threaten a whole new set of religious freedoms.

If this is allowed to happen, we will essentially have negated the independence we claimed on July 4, 1776.

As we come into the mid-term elections, I encourage each and every one of us to consider where we stand on this issue and carefully deliberate how we should vote.

Whether you agree with my position or are on of an opposing opinion, I pray you will exercise your vote in such a way that you help protect everybody's religious rights.

Navy Nurses host breakfast for Hospital Corpsmen, celebrate 116th Birthday

Story and photo by Bill W. Love, NHCCC PAO



Senior Nurse Executive Capt. Dawn M. Cavallario dishes up fresh fruit salad to a Navy corpsman in the Crew's Lounge, June 20 in observance of the Hospital Corps' 116th birthday.

Navy nurses at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi hosted breakfast for their corpsmen in the Crew's Lounge on June 20 in observance of the Hospital Corps' 116th birthday.

Senior Nurse Executive Capt. Dawn M. Cavallario manned the serving line alongside her nurses and neatly described her obligation towards corpsmen.

"My number one mission as a Navy nurse is to guide and take care of our Navy corpsmen. We couldn't do our jobs without them," Cavallario said.

Hospital corpsmen (HMs) perform duties as assistants in the prevention and treatment of disease and injury and assist health care professionals in providing medical care to Sailors and their families. They may function as clinical or specialty technicians, medical administrative personnel and health care providers at medical treatment facilities.

Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley, NHCCC commanding officer, enlisted in the Navy in 1976 and served as a Hospital Corpsman (HM) until he was commissioned an ensign in the Medical Service Corps in 1987.

In welcoming remarks, Bradley reiterated the prestige his Sailors share, making them unique among their enlisted counterparts from other services.

"Being a former corpsman, I can say that there is not a better job in the Navy," he said. "Although the Army and the Air Force have medics, you will never hear them say, 'Corpsman up!' You have a big job, and more

times than not you are the first ones that our patients see. I'm very proud of each of you, and I wish you a Happy Birthday!"

Established June 17, 1898, the Hospital Corps provides health care to Sailors, Marines, and those entrusted to their care on the battlefield, at sea, under the sea, and in military treatment facilities worldwide.

Qualified HMs may be assigned the responsibility of independent duty aboard ships and submarines, Fleet Marine Force, SEAL and Seabee units, and at isolated duty stations where no medical officer is available.

They also serve as battlefield corpsmen with the Marine Corps, rendering emergency medical treatment to include initial treatment in a combat environment.

The colloquial form of address for an HM is 'Doc', generally used as a sign of respect in the United States Marine Corps.

Loblolly Boy, Bayman, Doc ... the name may have changed several times, but the pride and professionalism have remained constant.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Malachi Brandish, from Corpus Christi, Texas, says he is proud to be a Navy corpsman. He has been assigned to NHCCC Medical Home Port since October 2012, and he has high praise for the Navy nurses.

"This is the second year that I have enjoyed the breakfast that they have put on," Brandish said.

"I think it's awesome going out of their way to cook for us. They're very generous and the food is delicious!"

Farewell, Capt. Edgecomb

Edgecomb continued from page 1

He also praised the Air Station Fire Department, which was named best in Navy Region Southeast two of the last three years.

And then there was the opening of the NOLF Goliad.

“To bring online a completely new airfield has been a unique experience, because you really don’t do that, that often,” he said.

On top of that, the Air Station is out front in achieving the Navy energy reduction goal of, by 2015, reducing energy consumption by 30 percent compared to a 2003 baseline.

“We already reduced it by 48 percent in 2013,” Edgecomb said.

Another plus has been the relationship with all the people on the base and with the community and local civic leaders, he said.

“It’s been great. I would tell the people of NAS Corpus Christi that this tour has been a fantastic tour for me,” he said.

One success has been working with civic leaders on a Joint Land Use Study and other measures to avoid development that could reduce the Air Station’s ability to support its flying mission.

There were other challenges, including sequestration budget cuts, the cancellation of the 2013 Air Show, and a government shutdown.

As for what he still wishes he could have done, Edgecomb said it’s not something he can just point a finger at.

“It would be about the command itself – could I have brought it a little further, could

I have taught somebody something that they didn’t know yet, could we have fixed an issue in this part of the command or that part of the command?”

“Because command is never perfect; it’s a work in progress all the time. There certainly are areas in the command that I wish were more perfect than they are.

“That’s not to say that I’m unhappy with anybody; I think it’s a great bunch of people and they’ve done phenomenal things.

“But there’s always an area where we can improve – I had a list when I got here and I have a different list now.

“I wish it was zero, that everything was perfect.

“And that’s silly, because nothing is perfect. I’m certainly not perfect.”

Although he had been looking at retirement post-command, the opportunity came up to serve another tour here in Corpus Christi.

Edgecomb will be moving across the base to the Chief of Naval Air Training, where he will become the chief of staff.

“I’m kind of excited to go to that job,” he said.

And he said he doesn’t really have any advice for Banta.

“He’s going to have his own adventure,” Edgecomb said.

“He’ll probably take the base in a new direction – and that’s a good thing.

“Command is always a unique thing.”



(above & below) As NASCC commanding officer, Capt. Dave Edgecomb often briefed political leaders as well as Navy leadership on the issues facing the Air Station. (left) But he also made time for his son, Ben.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister and Bob Torres



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As I mention at the start of this article I have worked with some the finest professionals the Navy has to offer during this tour. It has been through their hard work and in many instances sacrifice that we have accomplish all that we have over the last three year. You all do amazing things every day and I could not be more proud of what you have accomplished over the last three years.

Finally, I would like to welcome my relief

Capt. Steve Banta and his wife Sarah back to Corpus Christi. Steve and Sarah have family here and are excited to again be part of the local community.

I met Steve while attending the National War College in DC four years ago. Steve is smart, enthusiastic, and highly competent. I know NAS Corpus Christi is in good hands and I look forward to working with “Slash” in the future.

Welcome, Capt. Banta

Captain Stephen E. Banta

Capt. Banta was born at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California, and is a 1991 graduate of the United States Naval Academy where he earned a bachelor's degree in General Engineering.

He completed primary naval aviation training with the VT-27 Boomers at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, and was designated a Naval Aviator on 18 March, 1994.

Capt. Banta's first operational squadron was Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) FOUR FOUR (HSL-44) in Mayport, FL.

He completed deployments to the Mediterranean, Arabian Gulf, and Caribbean theaters with Detachments ONE and FOUR embarked on various cruisers, destroyers, and frigates, and also served as the squadron's Assistant Operations Officer.

During his time as the Maintenance Officer with Det FOUR, they were the first fleet unit to deploy with Armed Helo and fire the Hellfire missile.

Capt. Banta was next assigned as a flight instructor at HSL-40, where he served as the Tactics Phase Officer, Assistant Operations Officer, and Deck Landing Qualification Officer.

He left HSL-40 in September 2000 and reported to Commander, Carrier Group THREE (CCG3) for duty as the Assistant Air Operations Officer where he coordinated all aspects of the CARL VINSON Battle Group's helicopter assets.

While on deployment with CCG3 on September, 11, 2001, he was assigned as the Helicopter Element Coordinator for Combined Task Force-50, and during the first four months of Operation Enduring Freedom

(OEF) he coordinated the daily schedules for over 40 helicopters in 16 different aviation units.

He detached in May 2002 after serving his last 5 months as the CCG3 Flag Lieutenant.

Capt. Banta's next assignment was to HSL-46 for his Department Head/Officer-in-Charge (OIC) tour.

He served as the OIC of Det FIVE embarked USS OBANNON (DD-987) on a UNITAS/Counter-Narcotics deployment, and later as the squadron Maintenance Officer.

He detached from HSL-46 in October 2004 and was assigned to the Pentagon where he served on the OPNAV staff conducting analysis for the Navy's role in OEF.

Capt. Banta was selected for command and served as the Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of the World Famous HSL-48 Vipers.

During his tenure, HSL-48 earned the Commander HSL Atlantic Wing Arleigh Burke award, the Arnold J. Isbell Trophy for tactical excellence, and multiple Retention Excellence Awards.

After completing a year at the National War College and earning a master's degree in National Security Strategy, he was assigned to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency where he served as the lead Country Program Director for Afghanistan.

Capt. Banta is authorized to wear the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and several unit awards.

His wife, Sarah, is from Corpus Christi and they have one son, Nathan.



2014 Captain's Cup Soccer Winners



The US Coast Guard Team won the 2014 Captain's Cup Soccer Tournament. Pictured, from left: First Place team USCG-BLUE; second place, Sikorsky; and third place NHCCC-DOCS

Photos by Noel Westerkom

RP1 Tilton honored for achievements



Capt. Dave Edgecomb, NASCC commanding officer, presents RP1 LaNeisha Tilton the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal on June 17 as she prepares to depart for a new assignment.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

Tech reporter 'flies' the T-6B Texan II



Daniel Terdiman, a senior writer at CNET News, tests the T-6B Texan II simulator during a visit to NASCC on June 23. Terdiman is on his annual 'Road Trip' to visit interesting tech and other sites and report on them for cnet.com. See his coverage at <http://www.cnet.com/road-trip/>

Photo by Rod Hafemeister



June 30th - July 7th is Armed Forces and Overseas Citizens Voters Week.

With the November 4th general election right around the corner, now is the time to register to vote.

Voting is one of the fundamental rights enjoyed by U.S. citizens and a freedom that we defend.

Sailors, their family members, and citizens overseas who want to register to vote absentee can complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) online at FVAP.gov.

Voters who require assistance can contact their command Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) or visit an Installation Voter Assistance Office.

NASCC Installation Voting Assistance Office is located in the Chaplain's office on the 5th deck on NHCCC.

2013 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT



Naval Air Station Corpus Christi
11001 D Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78419



The annual Drinking Water Quality Report for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi has been released and is available online at http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas_corpus_christi/om/environmental_support/drinking_water.html.

Fixing the Flagpole at the POW/MIA Memorial



Members of the First Lieutenant Division replaced the broken flag pole at the POW/MIA Memorial in the NASCC Aircraft Park on June 18. The work crew included GSEC Santa Cruz (LCPO), EN1 Aube (LPO), GSE1 Borthick and EO2 Horner.

Photo by GSEC Santa Cruz

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Maintenance Officer of the Year and 1994 Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, Capt Charles J. Nechvatal Aviation Maintenance Officer of the Year.

“There are so many favorite memories in my naval career that it is difficult to choose just one,” Del Rosario said.

“But as I reflect back, it has to be during a VFA-105 change of command when the outgoing commanding officer (Capt. Robert ‘Brick’ Nelson) asked me to join him on the stage to present me with a leadership award and referred to me as a ‘Great American.’

“This was the first time somebody had referred to me as an American.”

On Dec. 5, 2008, Del Rosario was awarded the 2008 Guanin Outstanding Leadership Award by the Dominican American National Roundtable during their 2008 Annual National Conference.

On Dec. 17, 2008, during the Defining Trends Magazine Seventh Annual Latino Trendsetter Award Gala held at the United Nations, Del Rosario was chosen as one of the top 20 Latino Trendsetters in the United States.

On May 15, 2009, he was honored by the President of the Dominican Republic in a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace. His selection was based on his outstanding achievements, contributions, leadership and service to the Hispanic community and larger society.

In 2011, Del Rosario was awarded the Medalla de Oro Award by the Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists, Inc. (MAES).

This award is presented to individuals for their outstanding achievement and contributions in science and engineering as well as service to the Mexican American community.

For his contributions to the Hispanic youth, and dedicated service to this country as the most senior Naval Officer of Dominican American descent, Del Rosario was selected to receive the honor of inclusion to the DANR Dominican list of noteworthy individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to the United States in 2012.

Del Rosario had a number of memorable tours, including assignment with the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron “Blue

Angels” at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida.

Other tours included Maintenance Officer (CVW-3 CAGMO), on the Staff of Commander, Carrier Air Wing THREE; and his command tour at the Naval Air Maintenance Training Unit (NAMTRAU) in Norfolk, Virginia.

Under his leadership, NAMTRAU Norfolk won the 2002 Chief of Naval Operations Bronze Hammer Award, the 2002 Naval Education Training Command (NETC) Training Excellence Award, the 2002 NETC Retention Award, and in 2003 his command was recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a nationally accredited institution.

Del Rosario’s final assignment was as the Chief of Naval Air Training Aircraft Maintenance and Contract Logistics Officer, where he oversaw 18 contracts valued in excess of \$350 million dollars per year for a fleet of 780 aircraft.

Capt. Del Rosario's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (5), Navy Commendation Medal (5), Navy Achievement Medals (4), Navy Good Conduct Medal (3), Navy Rifle and Pistol Expert Medals, and various service campaign and unit decorations. CAPT Del Rosario graduated from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and earned a Bachelor’s degree in Aeronautical Science. He is a member of the Acquisition Professional Community.

Throughout his career, Del Rosario has never forgotten the mentoring received as a junior enlisted service member and has been paying it forward ever since as a mentor to the Hispanic men and women throughout the armed services and local community.

His advice to Sailors is simple and direct.

“Get involved, become the expert at your job, reach for the maximum even when others tell you it is impossible to achieve, and always follow rules and regulations,” he said.

“I do believe that sacrifice pays off.

“My advice to Officers and Chiefs is to lead by example. Never be afraid to lead and make spot decisions.

“Take care of our Sailors, get involved in their careers, and remember that our Sailors’ success is your success and our Navy's success.”



Del Rosario and wife ‘piped ashore’ for the final time.



NEXCOM Gives \$51.9 Million to MWR

The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) released its fiscal year 2013 audited financial report which showed a \$51.9 million contribution to Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR).

“In addition to providing our customers with quality goods and services at a savings, NEXCOM’s mission is also to support Navy quality of life programs by contributing 70 percent of our profits each year,” said Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, (Ret), Chief Executive Officer, NEXCOM.

“This year, we gave Navy MWR \$51.9 million from our 2013 sales. So, in addition to saving our customers money when they shop at the NEX, the money they spend also ultimately supports their own quality of life.”

Navy MWR uses the dividends from the NEX in a variety of ways. Installations receive part of the funds for specific installation level MWR efforts. The remaining funds are

used for MWR capital projects to improve facilities.

“Navy MWR provides world-class programs for Sailors as well as all other service members and their family members, whether stationed ashore or deployed. We are able to construct and repair many of our golf, bowling, youth, and food & beverage facilities because of the significant contribution provided by the annual NEX dividend. These Sailor-generated dollars allow us to build and operate outstanding recreation facilities throughout the Navy and thereby enhance the common thread of ‘Service to the Fleet’ from MWR in partnership with NEX,” said Edward J. Cannon, Director, Commander, Navy Installations Command, Fleet and Family Readiness.

NEXCOM operates on the retail fiscal year calendar, which in 2013 was February 2, 2013 – February 1, 2014.

