



Happy 228th birthday U.S. Navy!

Oct. 13, 2003 marks the 228th birthday of the U.S. Navy. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) has stated that the Navy Birthday is one of the two Navy wide dates to be celebrated annually.

The U.S. Navy traces its origins to the Continental Navy, which the Continental Congress established on Oct. 13, 1775 by authorizing the procurement, fitting out, manning, and dispatch of two armed vessels to cruise in search of munitions ships supplying the British Army in America. The legislation also established a Naval Committee to supervise the work. All together, the Continental Navy numbered some 50 ships over the course of the war, with approximately 20 warships active at its maximum strength.

After the American War for Independence, Congress sold the surviving ships of the Continental Navy and released the seamen and officers. The Constitution

of the United States, ratified in 1789, empowered Congress "to provide and maintain a navy." Acting on this authority, Congress ordered the construction and manning of six frigates in 1794, and the War Department administered naval affairs from that year until Congress established the Department of the Navy on April 30, 1798.

Not to be confused with the Navy Birthday or the founding of the Navy Department is Navy Day. The Navy League sponsored the first national observance of Navy Day in 1922 designed to give recognition to the naval service. The Navy League of New York proposed that the official observance be on October 27, in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt, who had been born on that day.

In 1972, then-CNO Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized recognition of October 13 as the Navy's birthday. In contrast to



Navy Day, the Navy Birthday is intended as an internal activity for members of the active forces and reserves, as well as retirees and dependents. Since 1972 each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration

of this occasion "to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence towards pride and professionalism in the naval service." Happy Birthday U.S. Navy!

Former Prisoner of War recounts experiences during POW/MIA Day

by Bob Torres



Leo Westerholm unveils a photo of an American serviceman from the Korean War during the POW/MIA commemoration day held at the Protestant Chapel on Sept. 19.

There was reverent quiet in the Protestant Chapel as a group gathered to honor POW/MIA Day on Sept. 19.

The ceremony, hosted by the Chaplain's Corps, included a gentleman in a red jacket and odd-looking hat who sat quietly until Cmdr. Al Alabata, NASCC Executive Officer, introduced him. Then slowly, with what could have been pain, the older gentleman strode forward and took the stage.

One of the first things he did was turn to Lt. Robert Christian, one of the chaplains seated behind the pulpit, and say, "Thank you, preacher man, for inviting me here."

Then Leo Westerholm spoke about World War II. "I assisted in Europe, acting like what you might think of as 'corpsman's duties,'" he began. "And one day in the fighting I watched as a couple of guys were carrying someone to the hospital tent. It was Cpl. Clapper, and he'd been wounded in the stomach with his entrails hanging out. Well, I hit him with a shot of morphine right here and here (pointing to each of his shoulders) and then I stood over him and spoke the Lord's Prayer in Danish," he continued. "I knew that he wouldn't make it."

There was absolute silence as he paused, then continued. "I didn't know you know that Latin stuff," Cpl. Clapper said to me as he held his hands over his stomach. I smiled

and gave him another shot of morphine in the side of his neck. It only took a little while and he passed on."

As he turned and walked back onto a raised platform, silence again filled the chapel. Westerholm took off his cover and pointed to a silver star, similar to that found on an admiral's collar. "This was given to me back then and I still have it," he said with pride. He didn't say why he was awarded that star, but as he placed the cover back on his head it shined brightly and proudly from the front of his head.

He then went on to relay stories and episodes of his life since then. One portion of his talk was about the "Death March of Bataan," in the Philippines. He spoke about Americans and other people: Filipinos, Australians and of those from other nations, captured by the Japanese, who were forced to walk a distance relative from Corpus Christi to Kansas City in the tropical heat and humidity. How it was easy for those who survived to drop almost half their body weight by the time they reached their destination.

"If you see photos of people starving in something like a National Geographic magazine, then you know what I'm talking

Former Prisoner of War continued on page 4

From the Skipper

Environmental Management Systems

by Capt. Paula Hinger



Hinger

In my last column, I introduced you to our ongoing efforts to implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) for NAS Corpus Christi. In this issue, I promised to explain why EMS is so important, where we are in the implementation process, and where we are going in the next few months.

Aside from obvious reasons such as the boss says so (Presidential Order) and it's the right thing to do, an EMS program will have real, measurable benefits for both NAS Corpus Christi and our unique environment. We are constantly asked to do more with less - less people, less financial resources. You name it and it is in short supply including our time. It's no secret that funding is scarce and there is competition for every single dollar in our budgets. At times like this, the last thing we want to do is waste time or money on environmental incidents. We want to preserve resources for our important missions like flight training and aircraft refurbishment. The risk management approach to identifying potential problems and putting controls in place to prevent these problems is exactly

what we need and exactly what EMS will provide.

A case in point: Last year we had a nitric acid spill that cost us over \$60,000 to clean up, and this was only the cost of disposal! We lost a workday at Corpus Christi Army Depot and a lot of flight training in each of the squadrons. Through EMS, we will actively seek out these potential problem areas in a process called Aspect Analysis and then we will put procedures in place to prevent or mitigate their effect. If you can't get excited about the potential benefits to our environment, look at it practically and you'll see EMS just makes good business sense.

So where are we in the EMS process? Last week we held a briefing for the senior leadership on base. In the briefing we outlined the program and asked for their commitment to EMS. All readily agreed, and we have established a Steering Group comprised of senior leadership to help guide our implementation efforts. We have also drafted our Environmental Policy and will soon be publishing this. The policy carries our commitment to preventing pollution, complying with environmental laws, and continual improvement. It also establishes basic principles from which we will create environmental objectives and goals. An example of this would be communicating

our efforts on behalf of the environment to all members of the NAS Corpus Christi family, much like I'm doing with this article. Activities around base are also busy conducting a Gap Analysis, which compares environmental programs we have in place now with the requirements of the EMS standard. From this analysis, we will be able to identify areas where we are lacking, or Gaps, and establish a realistic roadmap for implementation that address these specific areas.

Over the next couple of months our Environmental staff will be finalizing a written plan for implementation; developing procedures to address specific requirements from the EMS standard and initiating the all important Aspect Analysis. I mentioned this earlier in my column and I'll tell you this will be both the most difficult part of implementing EMS, and the part with the most potential benefit for everyone who lives or works on board NAS Corpus Christi. In my last column, I challenged you to think about something you do and the impact it may have on the environment. In my next column, I'll tie this together with more on Aspect Analysis and invite you to participate by communicating areas where you think we could improve our environmental oversight.

Chaplain's Corner

Love others

by Chaplain Alan Snyder



Snyder

Time is the prison in which we all sit. My birthday was last month, and I have come to notice that they seem to come with more frequency. I no longer think that a year is a long time or that far-off days will never get here. Weeks are a blur and my days are so full that they rush by me. I have to make lists of things that I have to do. I have a bill schedule and they seem to come more often than not. This life has so many worries, so many problems, and it seems to me, is so much more fleeting than it used to be. I no longer consider myself indestructible; if I feel a weird twinge or pain I go to the doctor rather than hope it goes away. I find myself in bed at a regular time, and it is not late by anyone's standards. Each one of us has a date in the future that will mark the end of our life on earth.

While we have a birthday and a death day, they are not so important as how we conduct ourselves while we are here. In the Christian faith tradition, of which I am a minister, Jesus Christ states that we are to love the Lord our God with all our mind, body, soul and spirit, and to love

our neighbor as ourselves. While we all have certain things in life that we do - we are born, pay taxes, and pass on - there are other things that can make a huge difference in someone's life. We can show kindness to them at a time of need. We can grant mercy and forgiveness when someone asks. We can listen to them when they need someone to hear.

Loving our neighbor as ourselves is what is termed a "transcendental truth." Basically, that means that it makes so much sense that no one can refute it. It can be and has been called the "golden rule." The problem comes when we realize that it sure is hard to love the people that do not love us. People can do many various and stupid things that tend to make it harder to love them. It is hard also to realize that it does not relieve us of our responsibility to love them. We think that we should treat others the way they treat us; that has caused the downward spiral that we see in today's society.

There are so many times we pass on the opportunity to help another one of God's children. Too many for us to keep count, but we can help the next one and the one after that, and change our pattern of behavior so that we influence others around us to change their behavior and maybe, just maybe, have real peace on earth.

Editor's Note

And the beat goes on...

by JOC Rita Chadrick

The newspaper beat, that is!

But before anything else, I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself to you: I'm JOC Rita Chadrick, and I'm now the editor/writer for Wingspan. I have 20 years of military experience, so rest assured that Wingspan will continue to be a publication of the highest caliber.

Let me also take this opportunity to wish our former editor, Bob Torres, fair winds and following seas. It's been a pleasure working with you these past 10 months. Best of luck to you on your future endeavors!

Although editorship of this publication has changed hands, the content and dedication to quality still remains the same. Remember that Wingspan is for you and about you: the enlisted, officers, civilians and family members on board NAS Corpus Christi.

I heartily encourage submissions, both military and civilian, to Wingspan. If you would like to submit an article, photographs or award/achievement for publication, or if you have a story idea, please contact me via e-mail at: rita.chadrick @nrs.navy.mil; or call me at (361) 961-3420/3188.

I look forward to hearing from you. Together, let's make Wingspan better than ever!

Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi
"Exceeding Expectations Through Pride
In Performance"

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NASCC observes Fire Prevention Month

By Asst. Fire Chief Amado Gonzales

NASCC Fire Dept.

"When fire strikes, get out...and stay out!"

That's the slogan that the National Fire Prevention Association has adopted for this year's fire prevention week, Oct. 5-11, 2003. It's also the slogan that children, as well as adults, should learn in case of a house fire. If your house is on fire and you have escaped, never return to the fire to try to save a person, a pet or personal property. In other words, there isn't a good enough reason for you to go back inside once you have escaped. The best thing you can do for your loved ones, pets or property is to have someone, perhaps a neighbor or a passing motorist, call 1-9-1-1 immediately to contact the fire department. The fire station is less than five minutes from anywhere on this base.

"The base firefighters are totally prepared and trained to do the rescue," said Asst. Fire Chief Amado Gonzales, "and in my 32 years of service with this fire department, we have never lost a life to a house fire. That's definitely an assuring statistic for the base inhabitants!"

Capt. Paula Hinger, base commanding officer, ensures that the firemen are well equipped with fire gear and trucks, continuously trained, and certified in all areas of fire and rescue.

"These guys don't see themselves as heroes," she said. "They just know how much our military and civilian populace alike trust them with their lives. No matter what emergency arises, the men and women of the fire service are the first responders. Whether it is a house fire, an aircraft crash, high angle/confined space, swift water rescue, Haz-Mat spill or medical emergency, they are our insurance."

NAS Corpus Christi Fire Dept. has taken Fire Prevention Week a step further by proclaiming the entire month of October Fire Prevention Month. The firefighters will put on public demonstrations of fire training and rescue, conduct fire drills, and will also hold an open house at the fire station. Show your support...drop by to meet and say hello to your base firefighters!



PHOTO BY JOC RITA CHADRICK

Capt. Paula Hinger, base commanding officer, and firefighters from NASCC's Fire Dept. do their part to promote Fire Prevention Month.

In 32 years this fire department has not lost a life to a house fire!

2003 newspaper deadline and publication schedule

Deadline Date

- October 10
- October 24
- November 7
- November 21
- December 5
- December 19

Issue Date

- October 23
- November 6
- November 20
- December 4
- December 18
- December 31

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If you would like to submit an article, photographs or award/achievement for publication, or if you have a story idea, please contact the editor, JOC Rita Chadrick, via e-mail at: rita.chadrick @nrs.navy.mil; or phone (361) 961-3420/3188.

MWR News and Events

Gonzalez Liberty Program

Halloween on Sixth Street, October 31: The Liberty Program is traveling to Austin to celebrate Halloween on Sixth Street. This will be a Halloween that you will never forget! Don't miss out on this awesome fun-filled trip! Sign up today at the Gonzalez Liberty Center to ensure your spot. Deadline for registration is October 17th. All NASCC personnel 18 years or older are invited to participate in this event. The cost for this trip is \$25 which includes transportation on a chartered bus and 1 night hotel accommodations (4 per room). There will be a "Dillo" shuttle going to 6th Street and back to the hotel every 15 minutes.

Corpus Christi Bay Club

Pizza Sub Pub now open: Stop by and visit the new Pizza Sub Pub, located across from the Navy Exchange. Hours of operation are Monday thru Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; closed Sundays. Pizza Sub Pub offers an array of delicious menu items including breakfast items, pizzas, subs, Italian specialties, flavored coffees, soft drinks, desserts and much more! Deliveries will be available on base. Call 961-2249 for more information. **Catering:** Don't forget our catering department is available for all your holiday parties that are just around the corner. Deliveries for home and office are available on base and full catering at the club and the Gulf Stream Recreation Center. For more information, please call the Corpus Christi Bay Club at 961-2541. **Reminders:** Regretfully, due to lack of business, as of Oct. 1 the main dining room is CLOSED for dinner on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The lounge will continue to operate and provide a bar menu. The Shrimp-A-Peel buffet will be offered on the first Friday of the month and the Mongolian BBQ on the last Friday of the month. **October 13:** The club will be CLOSED in observance of Columbus Day.

MWR facilities/New hours of operation

Please make note of the changes in hours of operation at the following MWR facilities.

Fitness Express: Monday-Friday 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday noon to 6 p.m.; holidays noon to 6 p.m.

Lighthouse Lanes Bowling Center: Monday-Thursday 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday & Saturday noon to 11 p.m.; Sunday noon to 8 p.m.

Outdoor Recreation & Adventure Center: Thursday-Monday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday & Wednesday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Oasis Pool: Open for lap swim thru November 1, 2003; Sunday & Monday CLOSED; Tuesday-Friday 6 a.m. to 8 a.m., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bayside Pool: Closed for the season until May 22, 2004.

Corpus Christi Bay Club: Beginning Oct. 1, the main dining room will be CLOSED for dinner on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The lounge will continue to operate and provide a bar menu. The Shrimp-A-Peel buffet will be offered on the first Friday and the Mongolian BBQ on the last Friday of each month.

E-Street Gym

Fall Racquetball League (Non-Captain's Cup):

Register at the Fitness Center before Oct. 10. The league will start the last week in October. Entry fee will be \$10. Advanced and intermediate divisions will be available. Participants completing the league will receive an event T-shirt. Eye protection must be worn when playing.

ITT-Information, Ticket and Tours

You can purchase tickets at the ITT office for the following concerts being held at the Concrete Amphitheater. Just take a look at all the hot groups coming your way this month.

October 10: Cross Canadian Ragweed

October 17: Nickleback with Trapt and 3 Days Grace

October 25: Godsmack & Adema

October 26: C.C. Blues Festival with B.B. King

*Doors open at 8:00 p.m.

Please keep the following information in mind when purchasing tickets to these concerts.

- No refunds
- No cameras
- No video cameras
- No food or drinks
- Bring your own chairs
- All concerts are general admission

For more information on these or any other ITT ticket sales, call 961-3961 Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CNO stresses opportunity for all

by Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The Chief of Naval Operations did not mince words on his vision for Sailors who will lead the future Navy, saying we need to "create a sense for everyone that the Navy is committed to their personal growth and development from the moment they begin naval service."

Adm. Vern Clark made his comments Sept. 22 to a team of more than 40 Sailors and civilians, officer and enlisted, who make up a working group focused on diversity in the Navy. The group's mission is to provide fleet perspective on the Navy's diversity definition, vision and mission. It does this by calling on everyone's experiences and backgrounds to hash out the need to focus on diversity and communicate that need.

"We are moving toward the future to create the 21st century Navy and 21st century human resources system for that Navy," said Clark. "This Navy will rely on one of our unique asymmetric advantages - the genius of our people."

Members of the team Clark addressed include representatives from Commanders of the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets, as well as various other commands from around the world.

Master Chief Fire Controlman (SW) Bobby Maddox, equal opportunity advisor for Afloat Training Group Pacific, said, "The fleet is mission ready now, but I wonder how much more ready we could be if we expand the talent pool of our Sailors.

"What everyone brings in to the Navy based on their own experiences and education - their personal tool box - is what we'll need to use against the enemy of tomorrow."

CNO emphasized the importance of education in creating the 21st century Navy, saying, "The force of the future will be much more highly educated."

Explaining the need for a more educated force, Clark said, "The DD(X) we'll employ in the future will have closer to 100 Sailors than the 300 Sailors we have on destroyers today. These 100 or so Sailors will have to be the best, most talented Sailors we've ever seen."

Clark addressed the question of why the Navy is focused on a strategic diversity agenda, and issued a call to action by saying, "We live in a world, like it or not, where we're judged. If others don't see something happening, they assume you're not working."

In the short term, this explains the Navy's commitment to diversity, but for the long term it's insufficient, said Clark. "We can't have the Navy of the future without a strategic focus. This strategic focus on diversity - much more than the visual of someone's race and sex - is about giving everyone a chance to make a difference."

Responding to the CNO's challenge, the working group is broken down into four distinct teams, each tasked with specific goals and objectives. The four groups are recruiting, development and training, organizational alignment and communications. These groups match the organizational pillars of the Navy's strategic diversity initiative, which are designed to achieve the vision Clark described.

The Recruiting team will work on ways to ensure recruiters have the tools necessary to bring in the broadest talent pool available across the country. The Development and Training team will work to ensure every Sailor and civilian working in the Department of the Navy not only understands how having a diverse workforce helps make the Navy more combat capable, but experiences the vision Clark described. The Organizational

Alignment group is chartered to make sure the work supports CNO's Sea Power 21 plan. And the Communications team is tasked with increasing general diversity awareness, why it's important to the Navy of the future, and how it will help preserve opportunity for Sailors and civilians.

"Your work is important to the institution," said Clark to the group. "While it's wonderful that we're winning the battle for people, we should all be proud of the highest retention we've ever seen, and manning and readiness have never been better. There is no better time than now to spotlight diversity."

NAS Corpus Christi October Weather Outlook

by AG2 Merody A. Hulsey

NTMOD

October is the first full month of the autumn season. As high pressure begins to retreat south and east, cold fronts push south through the local area. October temperatures are cooler than in September, with an average maximum of 83 degrees Fahrenheit and an average minimum of 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Southeast winds averaging 10 knots are the norm; however, northerly winds begin to increase in frequency toward the end of the month.

Rain occurs approximately six days during the month with an average accumulation of 3.52 inches. Thunderstorms occur on an average of three days during the month as cooler, drier air from the central U.S. clashes with the warm, moist tropical air over the area.

Tropical storm and hurricane formation is still possible in the Caribbean; however, the tropical cyclone threat to the Texas coast is less this month than during September. Point your browsers to <https://www.ntmof.navy.mil> for the latest tropical updates as well as plenty of other useful weather information. For current weather conditions that are updated hourly, please call 961-4500.

POW/MIA continued from page 1

about," he said. "And those were the ones who made it. It didn't take much to have one of the Japanese pull you out of the line and beat you or stab you with a bayonet. You meant nothing to them as a person. You WERE a slave."

There were many stories of hardship and pain, death and despicable acts done to prisoners. But there were also signs of a soldiers' indomitable will in wartime. Toward the end of his presentation, Westerholm walked back to a covered photo near the stage. He began talking about Korea, and how cold was a factor in combat. How many Americans could not fight because they didn't have the proper clothing and how frostbite disabled more fighting men than were wounded during the war.

And finally, he uncovered the framed artwork of a soldier in Korea. The photo was brown and was of a painting that seemed to have been drawn with brown ink. Westerholm explained how the etching was done on what might have been a handkerchief. Someone drew it in the field, and this picture was of another soldier trying to stay warm. The hooded cap and the wrinkles on the man's face clearly depicted the hardships of war.

"There are a lot of men that have died so that we can remain free," concluded the native of Port Lavaca, Texas. "We should never forget them, and we will press our nation to bring back the remains of those who were left behind. We must never forget our fighting men and women."



Cmdr. Lisa Barfield, commanding officer of PSD Great Lakes, Ill., presented the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation award (fifth award) to Lt. Kevin Hayden during the PSD change of charge ceremony on Sept.15.

PSD leadership changes hands

Story and photo by PSD Corpus Christi PAO

Lt. John Lanzone relieved Lt. Kevin Hayden as Officer in Charge (OIC) of Personnel Support Activity Detachment Corpus Christi, Texas, during a ceremony held Sept. 15. The brief ceremony was attended primarily by the detachment's 60 military and civilian employees. Cmdr. Lisa Barfield, commanding officer of PSD Great Lakes, Ill., presided over the ceremony that was held outdoors in the detachment's courtyard.

Lt. Lanzone enlisted in the Navy in May 1981 and was commissioned an ensign under the Limited Duty Officer program in June 1996. He is returning to South Texas following a tour on board USS Bataan (LHD 5), homeported in Norfolk, Va., where he served as the Administrative Officer.

Lt. Hayden, a native of Coos Bay, Ore., enlisted in the Navy in December 1982 and was commissioned an ensign under the Limited Duty Officer program in October 1997. He served as the Administrative Officer onboard USS Inchon (MCS 12) prior to taking the helm of PSD in March 2000. During his tenure as OIC he assisted in planning and executing the regionalization of pay and personnel support services in South Texas. Lt. Hayden's next assignment will be at Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn

Safety is an issue...anytime, any day

by NASCC Safety Dept.

Occupational Safety and Health covers not just the workplace, but can be applied to any place where work is being done. For example, a safe and healthful work place could be your home, car, business, friends home, yards, childcare centers and even the places you shop and eat. Safety and health do not just cover the tools you work with or the processes you go through while at work, trying to get that job done. It also covers the materials you have stored in your garage, the things you keep in your car, maintenance on your lawn mower and items you have around the home while small children are present. It even applies to your favorite department store. Keeping safety in mind, Occupational Risk Management (ORM) and attention to detail can be applied anywhere you go and to almost everything you do. Here are some examples:

A group of friends were out for a football game, although it could have been any sport. They had been playing for some time when one of the players ran down the field backwards to catch the ball as it flew through the air. He would have caught the ball, too, if he had not fallen onto a stationary object that was sitting too close to the field. Just think, if only they had thought to move the object, played the game elsewhere, or simply warned the players to be cautious, the now injured person most likely would not have fallen over the object in the first place.

Let's explore for a moment people who listen to music while driving in their cars. They pull up next to you at the stoplight and although their windows are rolled up entirely, you can still hear, and feel, the "thump-thump" of their car stereo. Most of us are aware that loud noises, especially continuous ones radiating from speakers at that decibel level, can cause and most likely will cause significant hearing loss. So turn it down, keep it at a minimum, and save your hearing.

Last but not least, even the smallest tasks, the ones you perform everyday, can cause injury if you're not paying attention. It is true that people can trip over their own feet or an object in their path while walking. Didn't see that last step? It happens all the time; walking up the stairs you missed a step and fell. Your mind must have been on something else, perhaps on that movie you saw last night. Bending over can also cause injuries; that is, if you're not aware of what is above your head when you stand upright again. Think before you act. Don't carry too much in your hands, while walking and most of all pay attention!

Your safety and health and the safety and health of those around you should be the most important things in your life. Paying attention to the details, practicing ORM and using a little common sense could save you and others from the pain of injury, illness or even death. Whether at work or during play, remember to do it safe, stay well and stay alive.

Base stray animal policy

Stray/nuisance animals loose aboard NAS Corpus Christi should be reported to the Security Dept. at 961-2480. Security will contact Public Works, who bears responsibility for capturing these animals. Dogs and cats not microchipped or wearing a current rabies tag will be relinquished to the City of Corpus Christi, Animal Control Section. Their address and phone number is as follows: 1111 Navigation Blvd, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78407; phone (361) 882-6082. Once taken to Animal Control, owners have three working days to claim their animal before it becomes the property of the city. To claim an animal, owners must provide proof of current vaccinations. If a cat or dog remains unclaimed after three working days, Animal Control has the authority to place the animal for adoption or euthanize it.

Animals with a microchip or current rabies tag found roaming aboard NAS Corpus Christi will be captured and the owner will be contacted by base security. First time offenders will receive a Pet Regulation Violation Notice from security and the housing office as a courtesy. On the second offense, the pet owner will report to Security (Bldg. 104) to receive a Pet Regulation Violation Notice and counseling statement on the proper control of pets. Further violations will result in a Letter of Removal from the base Executive Officer, and the pet will be surrendered to Animal Control.

Cutest Pet Contest

Do you think you have the cutest pet? Then enter your Fluffy or Fido in Corpus Christi Veterinary Clinic's "Cutest Pet Contest."

The clinic will be accepting entries between Oct. 15 and Nov. 30, 2003. The cost is \$1 per entry. To enter, submit a picture of your pet to the front desk of the Veterinary Clinic, with the following information printed on the back of the picture: owner's name, phone number and pet's name. Pictures will not be returned, so make sure you're willing to part with the picture.

Winners will receive a one-year supply of flea and heartworm preventive of their choice. One winner will be chosen from each category (dogs and cats). Winners will be announced on Dec. 1.

Only active duty and retired military and their dependents are eligible to enter the contest.

Only one entry per species (i.e.: cats and dogs) per household allowed. Please call the Veterinary Clinic at 961-3952 for more information.



Texas Veterinary Association Announcement

The Texas Veterinary Association and Nueces County are now offering state-wide low cost spay and neuter programs for dogs and cats. These are available through the Texas Veterinary Association and Nueces County. To qualify, a Nueces County low-income resident must show proof of income through their Medicaid card. Six pets allowed per household. Costs will be as follows:

Dogs: \$20 Cats: \$10
Spayed or Neutered

The Following Clinics will be participating:

Animal Hospital of Padre Island	949-8200
Corpus Christi Animal Clinic	852-7319
Holcomb & Beltcher Animal Hospital	991-2998
Nueces Veterinary Hospital	242-3337
Prewitt Hospital for Animals	852-7331
Animal Medical & Surgical Clinic	993-6752
Doddridge Animal Clinic	852-9638
Oso Creek Animal Hospital	994-1145
South Staples Animal Hospital	991-3801
Windsor Park Animal Hospital	992-9731
Tejas Animal Hospital	381-9999
Wooldridge Creek Animal Hospital	991-5522
Mobile Pet Care Clinic (In Port Aransas)	749-4134

*This program is funded by the Maddie's Fund, a California-based pet rescue foundation designed to provide low cost spay and neuter services through participating veterinarians.

News Briefs

NAVSUP Announces 2003 Holiday Season Mailing Dates

The Naval Supply Systems Command's Postal Policy Division, in cooperation with the U.S. Postal Service and military postal officials from all of the services, notes that it's not too early to mail 2003 Christmas cards, letters, and packages to and from military addresses overseas. In fact, everyone is encouraged to beat the last minute rush and bring holiday mail and packages to the nearest U.S. Post Office or APO/FPO military post office by the suggested dates listed below:

For military mail addressed to APO and FPO addresses, the mailing dates are:

Parcel post — Nov. 13

Space available — Nov. 28

Parcel airlift — Dec. 4

Priority mail, first class cards and letters — Dec. 11

For military mail from APO and FPO addresses, the mailing dates are:

Space available — Nov. 20

Parcel airlift — Dec. 4

Priority mail, first class cards and letters — Dec. 11

SSN No Longer Needed With Checks at NEX

Navy Exchange customers in the continental United States, Guam, Hawaii and Keflavik, Iceland, no longer need to write their social security numbers on their personal checks when making a purchase. A change to the computer software now gives NEX cashiers the ability to input social security numbers directly into the cash register. "We were aware of the security concerns our customers have had with writing their social security numbers on the face of their personal checks," said Dick Garza, chief information officer at the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM). "We responded to their concerns by making a change to our computer software that will allow us to eliminate that requirement. Even though there has been no known case of identity theft connected to writing the social security number on checks payable to the Navy Exchange, this change will give our customers an added peace of mind." When a customer makes a purchase, his or her social security number will be electronically captured in the cash register, so the store can tie the sale to the check in the event the check bounces.

"We need to have a way to find the customer in case there is a question about the check," said Garza. "Even though the social security number is put into the cash register, it will not appear on any printed paperwork." In addition, social security numbers will no longer be needed for layaways, special orders or refunds. The customer's last name and phone number will be used instead. Social security numbers will also not be printed on any receipts. Navy Exchanges in Europe and Japan expect to implement this new policy by the end of 2003.

Navy Names New Amphibious Assault Ship Makin Island

The U.S. Navy has selected the name Makin Island for its next amphibious assault ship, which honors the daring raid carried out by Marine Corps Companies A and B, Second Raider Battalion, on Japanese-held Makin Island, in the Gilbert Islands, Aug. 17-18, 1942. The raid was launched from the submarines USS Nautilus and USS Argonaut, and succeeded in routing the enemy forces based there, gaining valuable intelligence.

The raid's leader, Marine Corps Lt. Col. Evan Carlson, was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions, while Marine Corps Sgt. Clyde Thompson was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism and was the first enlisted Marine to be so honored during World War II.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael Hagee, cited the transformational nature of the engagement in a letter to Secretary of the Navy Hansford T. Johnson and noted that many considered the raid the Marine Corps' first action in the realm of special operations.

In 2001, the bodies of 19 Marine Corps raiders who died during the operation or were executed after being captured were recovered on the island of Kwajalein and returned to the United States for burial.

An amphibious warship is uniquely designed to support assault from the sea against defended positions ashore. The 844-foot ship weighs more than 40,500 tons and carries a crew of approximately 1,000 Sailors and 1,900 Marines. Aircraft normally carried by this class of ships include a mix of Marine Corps helicopters and the

Harrier attack aircraft.

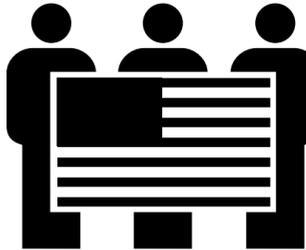
The United States maintains the largest and most capable amphibious force in the world, and the Wasp-class ships are the largest amphibious ships in the world.

The Makin Island will be built at Northrop-Grumman Ship Systems in Pascagoula, Miss., and is expected to be christened in 2006.

New System Integrates Military Pay, Personnel Systems

by Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service



software company based in Pleasanton, Calif. The license to use the software is at \$48 million.

"This is a big deal," David Chu, defense undersecretary for personnel and readiness, said. "I'm told this is the largest application of PeopleSoft suite in the world. We're pioneers here. Its functionality is very important to the department's long-term success."

Chu said that although the drive for the system preceded the current administration, it is very much in the spirit of transformation promulgated by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. The system will absorb the 79 "legacy" systems into one Web-based system accessible to all who need to view those records, including the service members themselves.

The system will provide better, more accurate and more timely information for service members and warfighters, officials said. The system will allow combatant commanders "to have much better visibility over what is ultimately the most important resource they have: their people," Chu said. Accurate, timely information also is important to service members. "There have been press stories in the past about service men and women who get lost in the system, who don't receive timely and accurate pay and benefits and who can't document where they were in military operations so they can get benefits for service-related medical conditions," Norma J. St. Claire said. "DIMHRS will truly transform military personnel and pay management for the department." St. Claire is the director of DoD's Joint Requirements and Integration Office.

Military personnel management is far more complex and far-reaching than personnel management in the private sector, she said. "We have the responsibility of following our service members from the moment they enter the military essentially for the rest of their lives," she said. What complicates military records is that service members transfer between the active and reserve components, and, today, that also often means reserve mobilization with concurrent duty overseas.

The system will create a single record of service for each service member that will follow the service member. The records also will be used by the Department of Veterans Affairs after the service member leaves the military, officials said. It should simplify life for military members. One example St. Claire used was a service member's promotion. Today, a personnel specialist puts that record into the personnel system and then a pay specialist has to put the pertinent information into the pay system. With the new system, this is done once.

"Service members today very often spend a lot of their time baby-sitting their records," St. Claire said. "The ones who know enough about how personnel systems work, know enough to keep their own personal copies of everything, then they have to go around to make sure the systems reflect what they've got in it."

The records will be online and will have security protection. Service members will be able to access their records online, and if they see errors will be able to report those immediately.

Navy Capt. Valerie E. Carpenter, the joint program manager for the system, said the new system will make it much easier for service members to see what's in -- or not in -- their records. "They won't have to request a microfiche, or a hard copy," she said.

The Army will be the first user, with an initial operations capability set for November 2005. "The services will be doing what we call data-cleansing; they will bring in the data they currently have, and it will go into the common database," Carpenter said. The system is the result of a recommendation the Defense Science Board made in the mid-1990s. Most companies had integrated their pay and personnel systems, and the board felt the military should also. Officials said they expect some savings from eliminating duplicative systems.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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For Sale: 5 piece bedroom set. Dresser, mirror, headboard and 2 night stands with mattress and box springs. \$160. Also, dresser \$25. For more information please call 937-6467.

For Sale: 1980 El Camino project car, driven daily. V-6 auto trans, no dents. Asking \$1,500 OBO. Call 961-3313 work or after 4 pm 994-6526. Ask for Ed.

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Washer & Dryer set \$75. 46" RCA large screen \$150. 1 set table lamps, \$50. Call 937-6942.

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Awards & Achievements



PHOTOS BY SK1 BILL SAMUELS
 Pictured from left to right: Ensign Patrick O'Connor, Ensign Tyler Tennille and Ensign Jason Duffie, flanked by Commodore Gabriel Salazar and Cmdr. Will Moore, VT-28 executive officer, received recognition for making the Commodore's List on Sept. 18.



PHOTO BY BOB TORRES
 MS2 Leonard, pictured with his wife Mari, and Cmdr. Al Alabata, NASCC executive officer, was frocked to the rank of MS1 on Sept. 18.



PHOTO BY BOB TORRES
 MS2 Banks, pictured with his wife Loleta, daughter Nilsa, and Cmdr. Al Alabata, NASCC executive officer, was advanced to the rank of MS1 on Sept. 18.



PHOTO BY SK1 BILL SAMUELS
 Ensign Blaine Felloney, flanked by Commodore Gabriel Salazar and Cmdr. Will Moore, VT-28 executive officer, received recognition for making the Commodore's List with Distinction on Sept. 18.



PHOTO BY BOB TORRES
 Cmdr. Al Alabata, NASCC executive officer, presented Ms. Billie Harvey, Bachelor Housing Director, with her Certification as a Hospitality Supervisor from the American Hotel and Lodging Association on Sept. 18.



PHOTO BY SK1 BILL SAMUELS

Congratulations new aviators!

The following individuals received their "wings," designating them aviators, during a winging ceremony at the Bay Club on Sept. 26. In alphabetical order: 1st Lt. Pierre-Paul Alvarado, USAF; 2nd Lt. Lamont Anderson, USAF; 2nd Lt. Jesse Caldwell, USAF; 1st Lt. Hector Collazo, III, USAF; 2nd Lt. William DeWalt, USAF; Ensign Nicole Frey; Capt. Ryan Hendrickson, USAF; Ensign Gary Lewis; 1st Lt. Roger Mekiassen, foreign; 1st Lt. David Pfeiffer, USAF; 2nd Lt. Nathan Powell, USAF; 1st Lt. Gerardo Sanchez, USAF; 2nd Lt. Erik Smistad, foreign; Capt. Jacob Thompson, USAF; 2nd Lt. Kevin Wuebker, USAF.



PHOTO BY SK1 BILL SAMUELS

Commodore Gabriel Salazar and Cmdr. Anthony Chatham, VT-31 executive officer, presented 2nd Lt. Erik Smistad with a certificate in his selection to the Commodore's List with Distinction during the winging ceremony on Sept. 26.



PHOTO BY SK1 BILL SAMUELS

Commodore Gabriel Salazar and Cmdr. Jerry Nyberg, VT-35 commanding officer, presented Capt. Jacob Thompson with a certificate in his selection to the Commodore's List with Distinction during the winging ceremony on Sept. 26.



PHOTO BY BOB TORRES

Cmdr. Al Alabata, NASCC executive officer, presented an end of tour Letter of Commendation to BM2 J.J. Moss on Sept. 18.



PHOTO BY BOB TORRES

Cmdr. Al Alabata, NASCC executive officer, presented a Letter of Appreciation to EN1 Joel Hernandez for his participation in the Navy-Marine Corps Relief drive on Sept. 18.