

Wingspan

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Final aviators of 2003



Photo by SK1 Bill Samuels

Congratulations to the following individuals who received their "wings," designating them aviators, during a winging ceremony at the Bay Club on Dec. 12. This is the final group of aviators to be winged in 2003. In alphabetical order: Ensign Robert Andrea, USN; 2nd Lt. Joshua Chrison, USMC; Lt. j.g. Lorenzo Coletta, foreign; Lt. j.g. Federico DellAgnolo, foreign; Capt. Robert Fenrick, USAF; Ensign David Flowers, USN; Ensign Jeremiah Franz, USN; 1st Lt. Timothy Greenler, USMC; 2nd Lt. Peter LaBarbera, USAF; 2nd Lt. Ross Levay, USAF; 2nd Lt. Eric Mann, USAF; Ensign Kerri Merklin, USCG; 2nd Lt. John Morgan, USAF; 2nd Lt. Iveta Muravyeva, USAF; 1st Lt. Jeff Musser, USAF; Lt. j.g. Danilo Panti, foreign; Ensign Benjamin Petermann, USN; Lt. j.g. Andrea Pingitore, foreign; 2nd Lt. Jonathan Proves, USAF; 2nd Lt. Adam Smith, USAF.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Celebrating a Century of Service

The Navy Relief Society traces its roots to the 1903 football battle between the U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen and the Cadets from West Point. Although the score was one-sided (the Mids lost 40-5), the Navy and Marine Corps were also winners because President Theodore Roosevelt gave the Navy one-third of the gate receipts (\$9,000), providing initial funding for our organization. President Roosevelt must have been thinking about the Society a few months earlier when he told a California audience, "There is not a man of us who does not at times need a helping hand to be stretched out to him; and then shame upon him who will not stretch out a helping hand to his brother." On Jan. 23, 1904, 19 Volunteers signed the Certificate of Incorporation in Washington, DC, and the Navy Relief Society was born. Although we have rendered financial assistance to Sailors and Marines and their families since that date, our name wasn't officially changed to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society until 1991.

Early assistance from this non-profit, charity organization was focused on widows and orphans. The volume and diversity of the Society's programs and services have grown



dramatically throughout the decades. What has remained a constant has been the prompt, enthusiastic, effective, and compassionate response our clients receive when they experience an unexpected financial emergency. Through our first 100 years of service, our staff has provided more than \$1 billion in interest-free loans and grants to more than three million active-duty and retired Sailors, Marines, and their families. Continually fueled by the commitment and professionalism of more than 3,000 volunteers, this premier military aid society helps with a broad spectrum of needs. These include emergency transportation, first-time insurance premiums, food, shelter and utilities, college scholarships and loans, medical bills, automobile repairs, and more. Not all of the Society's business involves the disbursement of loans and grants. Tens of thousands of Sailors and Marines call or visit our 250 offices ashore and on board ships around the world to learn how to prepare a budget, set up home visits by one of the Society's visiting nurses, or apply for a layette or junior sea bag. The Society gives out more than 8,000 junior sea bags annually for new additions to sea-service families, and

each one includes hand-knitted or crocheted baby blankets, sweaters, booties, and more – all produced by Society volunteers.

Natural disasters like Hurricane Isabel and the California forest fires, and tragedies like the terrorist attack on the USS Cole and the Pentagon, bring the value of the Navy-Marine

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From the Skipper

Holiday cheer

By Capt. Paula Hinger



Hinger

Everyone knows the mantra: Don't drink and drive! But no matter how many times you've heard it, there are people who just don't get it. In fact, every 30 minutes someone in this country dies in an alcohol-related crash. Every 30 minutes! And last year alone more than one million people were injured in alcohol-related traffic crashes.

Let's take a closer look at this issue. The more a person drinks, the more their ability to make crucial driving decisions becomes impaired. After just one drink, a driver can begin to lose their ability

to perform the tasks necessary to drive a car: braking, steering, changing lanes, and using judgment to adjust to changing road conditions. After a couple of drinks, a person could become legally intoxicated and can be arrested for attempting to operate a motor vehicle.

You can protect yourself from drivers who are intoxicated by keeping a safe distance from erratic drivers. If you suspect a drunk driver, pull over and use your cell phone (if you have one) to call law enforcement officials and give them the license plate number and description of the vehicle and the direction in which it was traveling. Never ride in a car with someone who has been drinking, and ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEATBELT! During this holiday season there will be lots of holiday joy and spirits, but be a responsible host. If you're going to serve alcohol make sure to serve food along with it, and also have non-alcoholic beverages available. Most importantly, never serve alcohol to someone under the age of 21!

It's up to each and every one of us to

look after our fellow shipmates. Stepping in and stopping a friend who's impaired from driving is a true sign of friendship. If one of your friends has been drinking and shouldn't drive, please don't let them. They could hurt themselves or others, and maybe just a little persuasion from you could mean the difference between life and death. Have yourself or another sober friend drive your alcohol-impaired friend home. Always make sure to have a designated driver! If you have a party at your house, suggest that your alcohol-impaired friend(s) stay overnight in your home. Make sleepover preparations ahead of time for instances such as this. Call a cab for your friend and pay for the ride yourself. It's hard to object to a free ride!

Whatever you do, don't give in. Friends don't let friends drive drunk. Your friend may be angry with you for intervening, but at least you'll know that he'll live to see another day. And who knows? He may even thank you for it.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!

Chaplain's Corner

It's not about me

By Chaplain Bob Christian

As a child I could hardly wait for Christmas morning, the best day of the year, to arrive so that I could open my presents. Back then I understood Christmas day to be about me and opening my presents, but Mom and Dad were wise to make me slow down and hear the Christmas story before rushing off to the living room to spy the new toys. We would sit in a circle and take turns going around the room opening individual presents. Each would watch the others as they unwrapped their gifts.

I can still remember those feelings of impatience, almost like it was yesterday (maybe because I still get impatient). As a child my parents tried to instill the noble thought that, "It's not about me." That lesson was to be applied each and every day, but the lesson has taken a while to nestle into the recesses of my heart and mind.

Christ himself is the supreme example of living a life not devoted to self. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus wrestled with this same concept as he faced the reality of the crucifixion soon to come. His conclusion: this life is not about me but about everyone else. And the rest is His-story.

So as you open presents, think of the person giving the gift and what it cost them in time and money. When you watch others open their gifts, observe the smile and the "oohs" and "aahs" they emit. Strive with me to live a life where we constantly remind ourselves, "It's not about me."



Chaplain Christian

Healthwatch



Ruttig

Keeping the skies safe

By Lt. Nate Ruttig

Much of the overall health and safety of the entire base is dependent on the young men and women of Air Traffic Control (ATC), and believe me these folks stay busy! Last year, ATC performed roughly 450,000 flight operations without

any collisions or incursions. ATC is directly responsible for the controlling of aircraft movements while on the ground and in the air, which is why it's notoriously considered a highly stressful job. A mistake on the job could quickly result in the loss of aircraft and the pilots who fly them.

The control tower and radar services are the two central parts of ATC. The tower has many responsibilities: make sure aircraft moving on the ground, or taxiing, do not collide with one another, and also make sure that aircraft on the ground do not taxi across runways where planes are landing. Additionally, the tower's main responsibility is making sure that planes can safely land on their appropriate runways and monitoring those planes while in the traffic pattern. When something goes wrong with an aircraft in-flight, the tower is critical in providing information to the pilot in distress.

Radar services ensure that aircraft in-flight do not collide. Aircraft that are flying

through poor weather, where visibility is low, and aircraft that are involved in training maneuvers are particularly dependent on the guidance of radar services. The area covered by primary radar services here at NAS Corpus Christi is circular with a radius of 60 miles. The secondary area of coverage is even larger with a radius of 200 miles.

Reader's Digest recently listed being an air traffic controller as the number one job in America not requiring a college degree, with an average civilian salary of about \$80,000 to start. There may not be a college degree involved, but there certainly is a lot to know. To become an air traffic controller (AC) in the Navy, you must be at least 18 years old and have received high scores on ASVAB. Once accepted, AC candidates attend 16 weeks of Navy "A" school. Here, students learn only about 10 percent of what they need to know. The rest of their knowledge comes from working

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Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi
"Exceeding Expectations Through
Pride In Performance"

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Station Spotlight



Cathy Osborne

Management assistant, Public Works

Originally from Ennis, Texas, Osborne has been working on board NASCC since December 1987. She would like to promote in the management field and eventually retire here in Corpus Christi.

"I like working with people; I'm involved with all of the people here," she said. Osborne has kept pictures of all the past and present employees at Public Works.

"I have pictures of annual picnics, going away parties, Halloween and Christmas parties," she noted. Osborne has one grown son."



MS2 Ralph Rodriguez

Central cashier, Combined Bachelor Housing

A native of El Paso, Texas, Rodriguez has been in the Navy for nine years and has been on board NASCC for two years. His past duty stations include the USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) and USS Gettysburg (CG 64).

Rodriguez enjoys his job because "I get to move around the base, go to different buildings and pick up and drop off paperwork and money."

A sports enthusiast who favors softball, basketball and soccer, he plans to get out of the Navy when his enlistment ends in six months and go into law enforcement or the computer field. He is married and has two daughters, ages 2 and 5.

Posting of tax statements on MyPAY

The end of the calendar year is quickly approaching and that means only one thing in the tax world: tax statements (W2, 1099R, 1042S). The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has compiled a schedule of dates when service members, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through MyPAY.

MyPAY provides a secure method for users to manage their pay account information. Available around the clock, customers can conveniently make changes online, avoiding the hassles of an office visit. Military members and Department of Defense civilian employees will once again have access to view, save and print their tax statements from MyPAY at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

DFAS is projecting the tax statements will be posted on MyPAY during the following periods.

No earlier than: No later than:

Military Annuitants	12/13/2003	12/18/2003
DoD civilians	12/24/2003	12/29/2003
Army, Air Force, Navy Reserve, and National Guard	12/26/2003	01/01/2004
Military Retirees	01/01/2004	01/05/2004
Marine Corps Active and Reserve	01/13/2004	01/21/2004
Army, Air Force, Navy Active	01/16/2004	01/26/2004

Navy Medicine launches new web site in the New Year

By Doris M. Ryan, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

Naval Medicine will welcome the new year with Naval Medicine Online (NMO), a central source of medical and business information for the Navy and Marine Corps community. "NMO is Naval Medicine," said Lt. Cmdr. Michael Whitecar, NMO's director and program manager. "Naval Medicine is a global operation beginning with the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in the nation's capital and expanding around the world, to include military treatment facilities, clinics and fleet hospitals, to operationally deployed medical expeditionary units, corpsmen on the ground with the Marines, and uniformed researchers in the jungles and deserts of the world." NMO offers a variety of services, each designed to provide information to medical providers and administrators, active-duty and retired Sailors, Marines and their families, and Naval Medicine's business partners.

These services span a broad spectrum of information and include current Naval Medicine news, instant access to military directives, a search engine to locate a medical facility - which includes maps and driving directions, and navigational tools to link users to TRICARE Online, Navy Knowledge Online and other military sites. With the ToolKit function, users can group favorite services for easy access. "We are not trying to make people come to NMO, we want to take NMO to individual desktops through Outlook Today," said Whitecar. "Users can subscribe to get the directives, news and other information delivered directly to their workstations so it is available in real time. NMO will be operating in the background."

MWR News and Events



E-Street Gym:

Attention all sports fan! The E-Street Gym is taking registration for the Captain's Cup Racquetball Tournament. The registration deadline is Jan. 2, 2004, so don't wait any longer. Stop by the gym and register today. The event will take place in mid-January.

Intramural Sports Program: All Captain's Cup sports are unit competition; participants must compete with their unit. Military, military dependents 18 years of age and older, and DoD/NAF employees working on board NASCC are eligible to participate. Women are encouraged to participate in all sports. There is a minimal entry fee for contractors.

Awards are given to first and second place for each sport. Please register on time. Team roster sheets are available at the gym. Coach's meetings are **mandatory**.

Fitness Express:

World Trek 2003: This is the last month to participate in the World Trek 2003 program. All accumulated points for the World Trek Incentive Program will be erased Dec. 31, 2003. Be sure to claim any prizes earned by Jan. 1, 2004.

Group Fitness Classes: The group fitness classes will be taking a holiday break. December 19 will be the last day of group fitness classes for this year. Enjoy your holidays, but be ready to start the New Year off with hot and heavy workouts at the fitness center. Classes will resume on Jan. 5 to start 2004 with new pumped up group fitness classes. We'll see you there!

Fees: Bring your holiday guests with you for a workout during the holiday season. The daily guest fee is \$3. A fitness center usage fee will not be charged for active duty, retired or reserve military members and their dependents. Monthly membership fees include unlimited group exercise. The fees are \$15 for DoD/NAF working on base; \$25 other government employees and Navy League members; \$5 unlimited group exercise for retired military and all dependents; \$3 guest/daily charge; and locker fees from \$3 to \$5 per month.

For more information, please call the fitness center at 961-3164.

Information, Tickets and Tours (ITT):



Don't wait 'till it's too late to get your tickets to see one of the hottest teams in basketball. Stop by the ITT office today and get your tickets to watch the Spurs take on the Mavericks on March 5, 2004.

If you don't want to travel, don't worry; ITT has tickets to the Texas Treasure Casino Cruise! Enjoy a day out in the Gulf with some good food, entertainment and fun. You might even get lucky and win some money! The Texas Treasure cruises cost \$11 per ticket. Participants must be 21 years or older. **Keep a look out for the New Year's Eve - Vegas Style Celebration that is soon to come!**

Don't forget you can still purchase Entertainment books for \$20 at the ITT office. These books are filled with really great discounts to local and surrounding area restaurants and attractions. For more information on these or any other ITT events, please call 961-2267.

Outdoor Recreation and Adventure Center (ORAC):

Look what's new at the Paradise Cove Marina: Shields RV Park and Campground now has 32 new RV sites, a laundry facility and showers for its guests. Not only do we have the best RV park and campground, the fishing is great this time of year with flounder and drum running, so don't miss out!

Stop by ORAC and sign up for motor boat qualification classes. The classes for the fishing boats are held every Saturday at 10 a.m. For more information call the Paradise Cove Marina at 961-1293.

Youth Activities Center - The Zone

Registration for the upcoming Youth Basketball League is going on now; stop by the Youth Activities Center and register your children today. The ages for this league are 4 to 15. The registration fee is \$30 and the league will begin the second week of January and will run through the end of March. Please call the YA at 961-2355 for more information.

National recognition



Brig. Gen. Leon Johnson, (l) mobilization assistant to the director of operations, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, Texas, presented the Tuskegee Airman Finalist Award to Lt. Cmdr. Larry Proctor, officer in charge, Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment (AIMD) Truax Field, during the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.'s 32nd annual national convention held in Denver, Colo. Proctor was selected as one of four finalists to compete for the prestigious Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Military Award, which is presented to a field grade officer who has exhibited outstanding performances in both professional and community service.

NAS Corpus Christi January weather outlook

By AG2 Merody Hulsey
NTMOD

As we enter 2004, winter is now upon us. The average maximum temperature for January is 65 degrees Fahrenheit, with a minimum temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Although January is our coldest month, we usually reach freezing temperatures only once during the month. Cold fronts move through the area every five to six days. Rain showers associated with frontal passages provide the majority of our precipitation, about two inches for the month on average.

January is also the month for morning fog. Fog, on the average, occurs approximately 17 days during the month. Drizzle and light rain often accompany fog, which affects flight operations as well as the morning drive to work. Although thunderstorms do occur, they aren't the dominant weather factor. The predominant wind direction is from the north at approximately 11 knots.

Point your browsers to <https://www.ntmof.navy.mil> for the latest weather updates as well as other useful weather information. For current weather conditions that are updated hourly please call 961-4500.



“Little pink cards” go away as Guard and Reserve get full time commissary benefits

By Bonnie Powell,
DECA Public Affairs

All over the United States, Guardsmen and Reservists are getting rid of their “little pink cards.”

The signing of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act signaled unlimited shopping privilege for Reserve component members and their families. It also signaled the end of issuing, tracking, and checking off those little pink Commissary Privilege Cards. Previously, Reserve component personnel and their families were allowed 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year; and they had to have their privilege cards initialed at the commissary each day they shopped.

“Thanks to Congress and the Department of Defense for bringing full-time commissary shopping to the total force,” said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. Nixon noted that special thanks should go to those in DoD whose quick actions gave Guard and Reserve members unlimited commissary shopping in time to enjoy holiday savings.

“It’s a long overdue and significant benefit enhancement for Guard and Reserve personnel and their families as well as ‘gray area’ retirees,” said Joe Barnes, national executive secretary for the Fleet Reserve Association. Barnes is also a member of the Defense Commissary Agency Patron Council.

“We think it’s a great deal,” said Col. James Scott, director of individual and family support policy for the reserve component, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. “It also relieves the personnel center staffs and unit commands from a very expensive administrative burden in controlling and issuing the Commissary Privilege Card.” Approximately 1.2 million Guard and Reserve personnel and their authorized family members can now save an average of 32 percent or more over commercial grocery prices – every day if they wish. A family of four can save more than \$2,700 per year with regular commissary shopping.

Members of the Retired Reserve are also included in the extended benefit, adding about another 200,000 happy shoppers. These “gray area retirees” were not formerly entitled to unlimited commissary shopping until they reached age 60.

“Although we’ve recently seen many Guard and Reserve members with unlimited privileges due to activation,” said DeCA Consumer Advocate Bonita Moffett, “the extra traffic does not really impact the ability of commissaries to handle increased customer shopping. The average customer generally only shops twice a month, and since they are spread out all over the country the impact is very low at any one commissary.” DeCA operates 275 commissaries worldwide.

“The major benefit for Guard and Reserve members now is the convenience of being able to make a quick stop at the commissary to buy a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk, or diapers and baby food, without worrying about running out of shopping trips for the year,” added Moffett.

“This is certainly welcome news for Marine reserves,” said Sgt. Maj. Robin Dixon, senior enlisted advisor of Marines Forces Reserve, and also a DeCA Patron Council member. “It’s been a major concern of ours. We think our reserve Marines should be able to use the commissary whenever they want!” They finally got their wish.

The extended benefit may not apply worldwide. While Reserve and Guard personnel not on active duty can enjoy unlimited shopping in the United States, Guam or Puerto Rico, many overseas installations are impacted by host nation agreements that limit on-base shopping by non-active-duty personnel. When visiting or living outside the United States or its territories, Guard and Reserve personnel should always check with appropriate installation authorities about local commissary shopping privilege.

PAID CLASSIFIEDS

Enjoy More Golf. Save money on the purchase of a new set of clubs. 1-3-5 woods and 3-pitching wedge stainless steel irons \$185. Standard size or call for fitting. 991-3122. Also at Cimmaron Driving Range. 3/2

Powder Coating. Durable baked on finishes, over 150 colors in stock. Custom holographic and candy colors available. Protective powder coatings 361-854-7911. www.protective powder.com. 12/2

2 BR Duplex-Padre Island. 1 1/2 bath, 1 car. \$700 plus utilities, 1 year lease. Must have good references. (361) 949-9802 . Cell 517-206-5189.

2 BR Furnished Condo on ocean. 1 1/2 bath on Padre Island \$1600 includes utilities, 1 year lease. Must have good references. (361) 949-9802 . Cell 517-206-5189.

1 BR Furnished Condo-Padre Island. Boat dock, 5 minute walk to ocean. \$600 plus utilities, 1 year lease. Must have good references. (361) 949-9802 . Cell 517-206-5189.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

Pitbull female puppy- Solid tan, 9 wks. old. Agressive nature. \$200. Negotiable. Has shots. 774-9795.

1991 Ford Bronco- 4x4, V8 auto, A/C. \$3500 OBO. 947-1474. Ask for David.

Baby Trend Ultra- Baby Jogger. Like new \$90 OBO. Call Tina 986-1153.

Truck for sale: 2001 Toyota Tacoma PreRunner w/ TRD Package. V6 eng. w/ 22,500 miles. Excellent condition, with a perfect scheduled maintenance upkeep. Options:Century bed cover, bed liner, bed divider, split rear window, chrome bumpers and side step bar, AM/FM cassette,CD stereo. Asking \$18,500. Call Steve at 361-688-0219 anytime.

For Sale: King’s Crossing,6406 Bellac St. Approx 2400sf,2-story 3/2.5/2 on cul-de-sac lot. Fenced back yard has in-ground heated pool w/hot tub & backs to park. Den w/wetbar. LR/den w/cathedral ceilings divided by see-through stone wood-burning fireplace. Eat-in kitchen w/ island. 2 bdrms & full bath up. Laundry room & powder room down. Garage w/built-in work table and shelves. Attic decked for storage. \$214,900. Call 994-4940.

For Sale: Set of 4 Bridgestone Potenza RE730 tires (245/50ZR16), this set of four tires has less than 1k miles on them. These tires are “Z” Rated high performance. These tires offer great wet & dry traction. Price: \$400.00 OBO for the set of 4 tires. Call (361) 992-1134.

TSP open season nears end

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The end of the year brings the end of the latest Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season, when civilians and Sailors may adjust their TSP contributions or open an account. It began Oct. 15 and runs until Dec. 31.

TSP is a voluntary savings and investment plan for both Sailors and civilians. This open season, civilians under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) can increase contributions up to 14 percent of their pay; those under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and those in the military can contribute up to 9 percent of basic pay.

“Financial planning is an important aspect of our Sailors’ and civilians’ future. TSP provides an excellent opportunity to pay yourself first while reducing your taxable income,” said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing. “If you haven’t signed up yet, please take a look at the program and consider doing so before this open season ends.”

A major advantage of TSP is that no taxes are paid on contributions or earnings until withdrawal from the TSP account.

Those who are age 50 or older, and are contributing the maximum amount of regular TSP contributions for which they are eligible, may elect to make additional “catch-up” contributions from their taxable basic pay up to \$3,000 for 2004 beyond the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) limits. Form TSP-U-1-C is used to make this contribution.

Sailors contributing to TSP from their basic pay may also contribute up to 100 percent of incentive pay and special pay, including bonus pay, but total contributions from taxable pay for the year may not exceed the IRS limit of \$13,000 for 2004.

Contributions from pay earned in a combat zone are not included in this limit, but they count toward another IRS limit, which specifies that yearly TSP contributions cannot exceed the lesser of 100 percent of compensation or \$40,000. This dollar amount is indexed and may rise in 2004. If Sailors also contribute to a civilian TSP account, total contributions to both accounts cannot exceed that limit.

Allotments can be as little as 1 percent of basic pay up to 9 percent for Sailors and CSRS employees, and up to 14 percent for those under the FERS system.

There are five different investment funds within TSP. Each of the funds varies in its long-term returns. These are:

- * Government Securities Investment (G) Fund - invested in short-term, risk-free U.S. Treasury securities that are specially issued to the TSP.

- * Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund - invested in a bond index fund that tracks the Lehman Brothers U.S. Aggregate (LBA) bond index.

- * Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund - invested in a stock index fund that tracks the Standard & Poor’s (S&P) 500 stock index (which comprises large companies)

- * Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund -invested in a stock index fund that tracks the Wilshire 4500 stock index (which comprises small and medium companies).

- * International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund - invested in a stock index fund that tracks the Morgan Stanley Capital International EAFE (Europe, Australasia, Far East) stock index (which comprises stocks in 21 countries).

There is no guarantee that future rates of return will match historical rates, and there is risk of investment loss in the F, C, S and I Funds.

TSP account balances are transferable to an eligible retirement plan. This option makes TSP an attractive investment, no matter the length of service.

For the most recent TSP information, visit the TSP Web site at www.tsp.gov or call the ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777.

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and training on the job in the fleet. It can take up to two years to get fully qualified as a Navy AC, and qualifications are only good at that particular station. ATC personnel are experts in FAA rules and regulations, local course rules, aviation weather, communications procedures and terminology, and are also familiar with each of the aircraft’s particular operational characteristics at their particular location. Navy active duty ATC personnel are prohibited from doing civilian work. ATC personnel must get yearly flight physicals and cannot take any medications without flight surgeon approval. They must not only be mentally qualified, but physically qualified as well.

Recently, ACC(AW) Heidi Brown arranged a tour of the air station’s ATC facilities and answered many questions about ATC. The ATC facility is full of busy screens appearing hieroglyphic to the layperson. Every trainee is monitored on a one-on-one basis by a fully qualified air traffic controller. AC1 Tonya Schaeffer explained that she receives a high amount of job satisfaction from her work there and that co-workers take their jobs seriously. In talking with AC1 Ware, much of the job satisfaction comes from handling such a large responsibility while at the same time always experiencing new situations and solving unexpected problems. In touring the facility, it was evident the pride the Acs take in their job and, in the words of AC1 Ware, individuals of “high moral character.”

SECNAV sends holiday greetings

Special message from the Secretary of the Navy

During this joyful season, all members of the Navy-Marine Corps team are a beacon of hope and freedom for people around the world. Your service is the gift of liberty that is now being shared in parts of the world that have never seen such a promising future.

Each of us is blessed to live in a land where people of all faiths, ethnic backgrounds and cultures can celebrate holidays of their choosing, whenever they may occur throughout the year. With this blessing, however, comes a responsibility.

Our Commander in Chief clearly understands that our nation plays a unique role in the world. With great clarity of vision and unwavering resolve, President Bush has expressed our responsibility this way:

“The advance of freedom is the calling of our time; it is the calling of our country.... We believe that liberty is the design of nature. We believe that liberty is the direction of history. We believe that human fulfillment and excellence come in the responsible exercise of liberty. And we believe that freedom - the freedom we prize - is not for us alone; it is the right and the capacity of all mankind.”

To serve and to give the gift of liberty is why brave men and women wear the cloth of our nation. The greatest gift is not given in a box and wrapped with a bow. Rather, it is service to others. Our citizens, our national leaders and people across the globe cherish this gift from you.

Hopefully, many of you will be home with family and friends for the holidays. Enjoy your time together and be safe. If you can’t be home, please know that you are foremost in our thoughts and prayers, and we are thankful for your service in distant places.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays! Our heartfelt thanks to each of you for your magnificent gift of liberty and hope. May God bless you, your families, and loved ones during this special season and in the year to come, and may God continue to bless America.

Celebrating a century of service
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Corps Relief Society into sharper focus. In such cases, the Society can provide special additional assistance, thanks to the overwhelming benevolence of individuals, organizations, and corporations around the world.

The volunteers and employees of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society look forward to our second century of service. For additional information on our programs and services, to learn about volunteer opportunities, or to make a contribution to this organization, we encourage you to visit www.nmcrs.org.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS



Photo by PH1 Charlo Whorton

Bravo Zulu to the following Air Operations personnel who were recognized during a recent awards ceremony at Hangar 58. In alphabetical order: AC2 Mamie Ambrose, Letter of Appreciation; AD2 Kevin Brocious, Navy Achievement Medal; AC1 Duane Daugherty, Letter of Commendation; AC2 Adam Daughtrey, Letter of Appreciation; ACAA Ashley Drage, Letter of Appreciation; AC3 Bradly Francis, Letter of Appreciation; AC1 Gary Friudenberg, Navy Achievement Medal; AC3 Andrea Gantt, Letter of Appreciation; AT2 Donald Gillis, Letter of Appreciation; Mr. Amado Gonzales, Length of Service Award (35 years civil service); ACC Rob Hess, Navy Commendation Medal; Mr. Jim Lynch, Letter of Commendation/Wage Grade Employee of 4th Qtr 2003; AZ1 Jeannie Peters, Navy Achievement Medal; AC3 Jason Ressendez, Navy Achievement Medal; AT2 Christopher Rowland, Letter of Appreciation; AC2 Rigo Sarabia, Letter of Appreciation; AT2 Todd Teasdale, Letter of Appreciation; Mr. Victor Villarreal, Length of Service Award (25 years civil service); AM2 Robert White, Letter of Appreciation.



Photo by PH1 Charlo Whorton

Capt. Paula Hinger, (L) NASCC commanding officer, presented OS2(SW/AW) Rosalynn Doyle with a Navy Achievement Medal during an awards ceremony held at DET-FAC recently.



Photo by YNSN Michael Muslovski

Cmdr. Paul Lluy, (L) HM-15 commanding officer, recognizes AO1 Brian Cribb as HM-15's Sailor of the Year during a recent ceremony at the squadron.



Photo by PH1 Charlo Whorton

Military of the Quarter, 3rd quarter 2003

Congratulations to the following individuals who were recognized as Military of the Quarter/Sailor of the Quarter for the 3rd quarter of 2003 during a ceremony at the Bay Club:

Command	MOQ/SOQ	Command	MOQ/SOQ
Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment (AIMD)	Sailor of the Qtr: SK1(AW) Hector Acosta Petty Officer of the Qtr: AZ2(AW) Andres Torres Junior Sailor of the Qtr: AMAN Mathew Blom	Naval Hospital Corpus Christi	Sailor of the Qtr: HM1(FMF) Brian Johnson Junior Sailor of the Qtr: HM3 Ruby Roberts
Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15)	Sailor of the Qtr: AT1(AW/SW) Anthony Cobb Blackhawk of the Qtr: AM2(AW/NAC) Randall Dill Junior Sailor of the Qtr: AM3(AW/NAC) Aimee Anderson	Naval Reserve Center Corpus Christi	Staff Sailor of the Qtr: PN1(SW) Mark Holt Reserve Petty Officer of the Qtr: CM3(SCW) Bradley Svetich
Inspector-Instructor Staff Company C, 1 st BN, 23 rd Marines	Military of the Qtr: Sgt. Raul Alonsobautista SNCO of the Qtr: Staff Sgt. Eloy Rohrman	Personnel Support Detachment (PSD)	Petty Officer of the Qtr: DK1(SW/AW) Todd Lott
Marine Aviation Training Support Group 22 (MATSG 22)	NCO of the Qtr: Cpl. Tomas Trevino, Jr. Marine of the Qtr: Pvt. Robert Franklin	Training Wing 4 (TRAWING 4)	Military of the Qtr: YN1 Unique Smith Staff Sailor of the Qtr: YN2 Chris Sandoval
NAS Corpus Christi	Sailor of the Qtr: EN1(SW) Sean Davidson Petty Officer of the Qtr: AC2 Christopher McPeck Junior Sailor of the Qtr: MASN Michael Decker	VT-27	Staff Sailor of the Qtr: STS2(SS) Steven Proctor
Naval Training Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment Corpus Christi (NTMOD)	Sailor of the Qtr: AG1 Keith Hinde	VT-35 U.S. Coast Guard Group Corpus Christi	Military of the Qtr: Tech. Sgt. James Jones Military of the Qtr: SK1 David Alvarez
		U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi	Military of the Qtr: AMT1 Ricardo Olivas