

# CNATRA

## HQ COMMUNICATOR

DECEMBER 2020



## LEAVING A LEGACY

Blue Angels Transition  
to Super Hornet



## /MISSION BRIEF

To safely train the world's finest combat quality aviation professionals, delivering them at the right time, in the right numbers, and at the right cost to a naval force that is where it matters, when it matters.

## /WE ARE TEAM CNATRA

- We are "all in" for the mission
- We are professionals dedicated to improving ourselves, our team, and the naval services
- We lead with integrity, moral courage, and discipline
- We are accountable to the nation, our service, each other, and our families
- Integrity is our foundation

## /ADMIRAL'S SUGGESTION BOX

Got a suggestion? There are several ways to submit your suggestions to Rear Adm. Westendorff or COS:

1. Go to: <https://adss.navy.mil/applications/00sb.aspx>
2. Visit [www.cnatra.navy.mil](http://www.cnatra.navy.mil) and click on "Contact" then "Contact Us" to find a link to the suggestion box.
3. Use the link on the SharePoint portal.
4. Use the suggestion box at the quarterdeck.

## /ON THE COVER

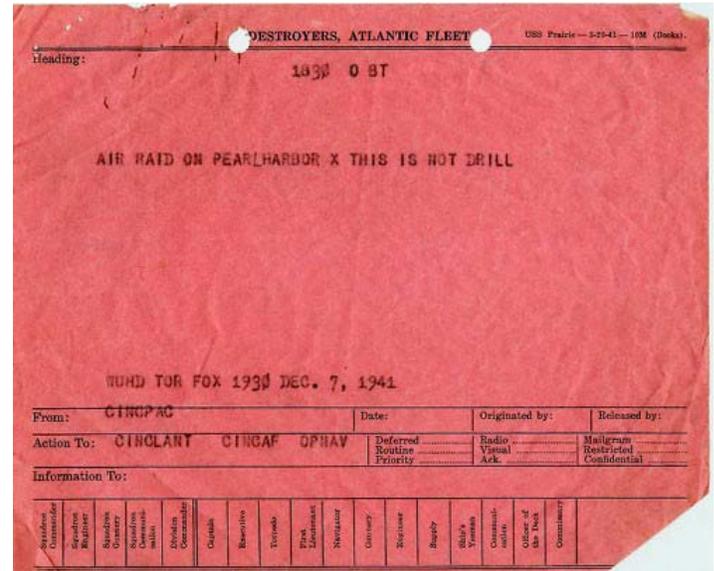
**PENSACOLA, Fla.** The U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, conducted the final flight Nov. 4 on the F/A-18 A/B/C/D "Legacy" Hornets marking the official transition of the Blue Angels to the F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet platform. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Cody Hendrix.*

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## /DECEMBER IN NAVAL AVIATION HISTORY

**Dec. 7, 1941:** "A date which will live in infamy - No matter how long it takes us to overcome this premeditated invasion the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory." - Franklin D. Roosevelt.



Courtesy Naval History and Heritage Command.

**Dec. 10, 1941:** A PBY aircraft piloted by Lt. Harmon T. Utter is attacked by three Japanese Mitsubishi A6M2 Type 0 carrier fighters. Chief Boatswain Earl D. Payne, Utter's bow gunner, shoots one down, scoring the Navy's first verifiable air-to-air kill of a Japanese plane in the Pacific War.

**Dec. 12, 1972:** Capt. Eugene A. Cernan, commander of Apollo 17, walks on the Moon and raises the U.S. flag. Cmdr. Ronald E. Evans is the Command Module Pilot and Harrison H. Schmitt is the Lunar Module pilot. The mission lasts 12 days, 13 hours and 52 minutes.

**Dec. 19, 1944:** PB4Y-1s (VPB 104) attack a Japanese convoy in the South China Sea and sink transport Shinfuku Maru.

**Dec. 21, 1951:** The first helicopter lands on board USS Consolation (AH 15) during Operation Helicopter, where casualties are directly evacuated from the battlefield to a hospital ship for the first time.

**Dec. 22, 1960:** HS-3 and HU-2 helicopters, operating from USS Valley Forge, rescue 28 men from oiler SS Pine Ridge breaking up in heavy seas off Cape Hatteras, N.C.

**Dec. 23, 1910:** Lt. Theodore G. Ellyson becomes the first naval officer sent to flight training when he was ordered to report to the Glenn H. Curtiss Aviation Camp at North Island, San Diego, Calif.

**Dec. 26, 1942:** SBDs, F4Fs, and P-38s attack Japanese transports at Wickham Anchorage, New Georgia and sink the freighters Takashima Maru and Iwami Maru.

**Dec. 27, 1944:** Task Group 94.9, commanded by Rear Adm. Allan E. Smith, bombards Japanese installations on Iwo Jima. USS Dunlap (DD 384), USS Fanning (DD 385), and USS Cummings (DD 365) sink Japanese fast transport T.7 and landing ship T.132.

# New Naval Introductory Flight Evaluation Program Provides Modern Foundation for Flight Training

By Anne Owens, CNATRA Public Affairs

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas -- The first 33 students graduated from the Navy's new Naval Introductory Flight Evaluation (NIFE) program aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Oct. 14.

NIFE, launched in September, combines and replaces the Aviation Preflight Indoctrination (API) and Introductory Flight Screening (IFS) programs, which have been in place for decades.

NIFE is the first step in the undergraduate aviation-training pipeline for every student naval aviator and student naval flight officer in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. It is designed to provide students with fundamental aviation knowledge, introduce military procedural-based training and performance standards, provide aeronautical adaptability screening, decrease attrition later in the training pipelines, and improve overall student performance during Primary flight training.

Naval Aviation Schools Command (NASC) facilitates the 8 1/2-week program, delivering students to Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) for their first flight experience in Navy aircraft.

While students will still get their first flight hours in civil aircraft with mostly civilian flight instructors, NIFE introduces students to military procedures earlier than ever before. NIFE also incorporates military flight instructors (MFIs), who provide flight instruction, serve as mentors, and oversee students' progress throughout the program. This allows MFIs to manage students' expectations of Primary training requirements, provide assistance to underperformers earlier, and lay the foundation of students' military aviation knowledge so they feel



**FOLEY, Ala.** -- Ensign Jacob Rozelle, a student naval aviator, conducts an aircraft pre-flight inspection before his training flight as part of the Naval Introductory Flight Evaluation (NIFE) program Nov. 6. NIFE is designed to provide students with fundamental aviation knowledge, introduce military procedural-based training and performance standards, provide aeronautical adaptability screening, decrease attrition later in the training pipelines, and improve overall student performance during primary flight training. Courtesy photo.

confident moving through the pipeline. Working with MFI mentors and applying appropriate study techniques early on is expected to reduce the number of initial progress checks, ready room UNSATs, and reduce academic failure overall.

"The restructuring of NIFE is a major step forward in CNATRA's vision for the Naval Aviation Enterprise," said NIFE Director Cmdr. Mark Yates. "Students are briefing, pre-flying, and executing procedures in flight just like they would in Primary, Advanced, and the fleet. When NIFE students arrive in Primary, they will be very comfortable with how to prepare and execute sorties. We have essentially moved the learning curve to the left with expectations of higher performance in Primary."

NIFE is divided into two parts: ground school and flight. The first is what was formerly known as API. It covers the

gamut from physiology and water survival to aerodynamics, weather, and engineering. The program includes five academic exams as well. Students then progress to the flight phase where they review Primary-styled course material, conduct briefings, aircraft pre-flight inspections, and execute airborne procedures just as they would in Primary flight training and beyond. Instruction has a greater focus on Navy Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) and relies less on commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) flight training programs. The goal is to develop a more confident and successful flight student throughout the remainder of training.

The aeronautical adaptability-screening portion allows the earlier application of Naval Aviation processes to identify active and passive airsickness. Students who are unable to achieve success due to physical considerations will know earlier to pursue alternate career

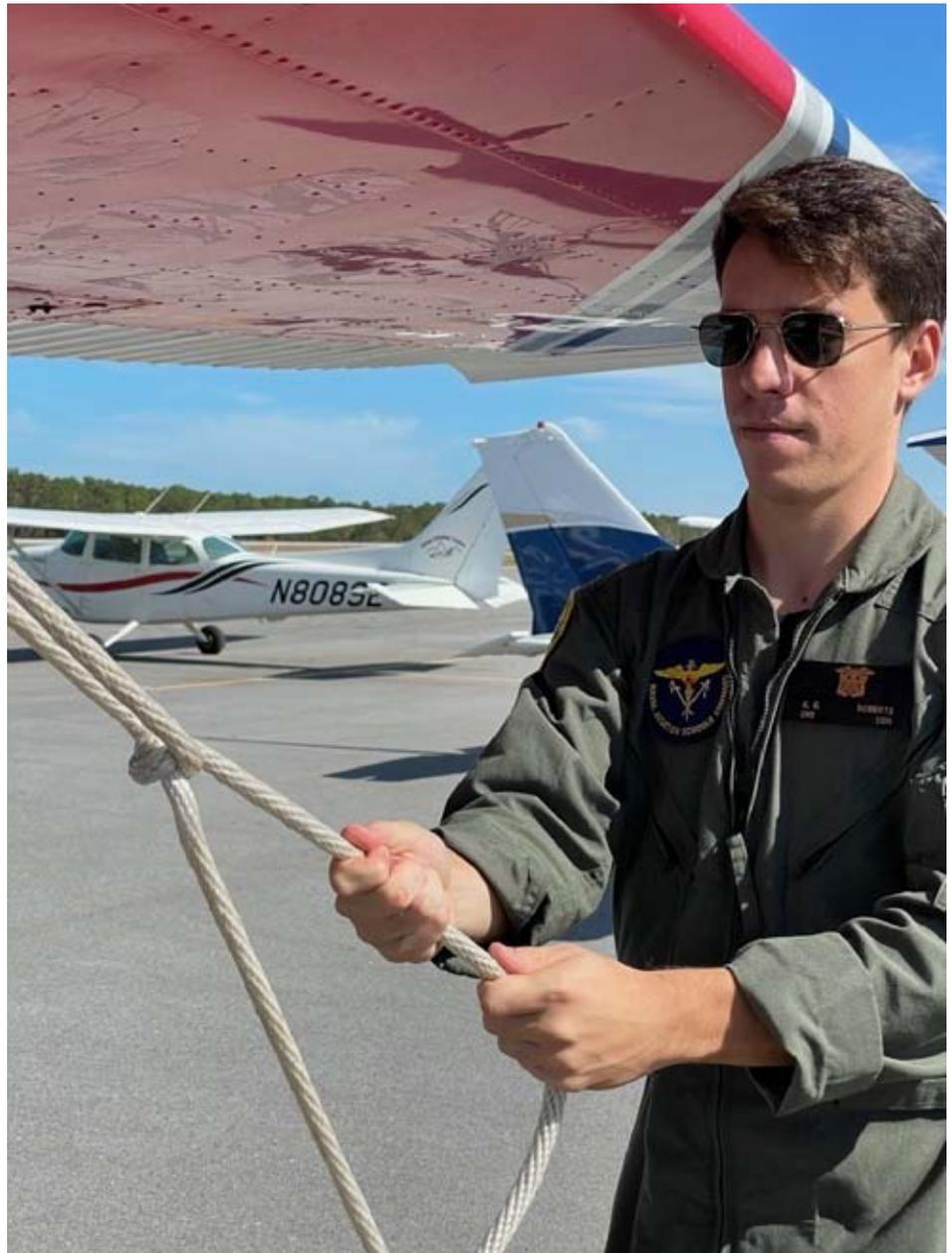
choices, reducing Primary attrition and instances of airsickness.

“NIFE represents a generation leap in preparing students for success in Primary,” CNATRA Assistant Chief of Staff for Training Capt. Steven Hnatt said. “The program will shift skill set development to the left, reducing time to train and increasing competency for the officer beginning Primary. This permits opportunity to train to a more challenging Primary, Advanced, and FRS phase. We are training for victory in the high-end fight - each level of training becomes more sophisticated from year to year. The demands on skill sets and required competencies continue to increase based on the threat we train to as directed in the National Military Strategy.”

Ensign Kyle Roberts, a native of Chicago who grew up in Orlando, Florida, is currently enrolled in NIFE. He attended Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Florida, and earned a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice in 2016 before commissioning via Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. He has already completed the ground school portion of NIFE and three of seven scheduled flights in a Cessna 172 Skyhawk, a single-engine high wing civil aircraft.

“My favorite part has been the academic challenge,” Roberts said. “My degree is not in a related field so this is all new to me. I’m learning so much about aviation in general and it has been really fun.”

Roberts is on track to become a naval flight officer and will report to the “Wildcats” of Training Squadron (VT) 10 at NAS Pensacola for Primary flight training in a T-6A Texan II turboprop aircraft. VT-10 graduates select either jets and go on to operate in EA-18G Growlers or F/A-18F Super Hornets, or they select “big-wing” aircraft and go on to operate in the P-8 Poseidon, EP-3 Aries, E-2C/D Hawkeye or E-6 Mercury.



**FOLEY, Ala.** Ensign Kyle Roberts, a student naval aviator, does an aircraft pre-flight inspection before his training flight Nov. 6 as part of the Naval Introductory Flight Evaluation (NIFE) program. NIFE is designed to provide students with fundamental aviation knowledge, introduce military procedural-based training and performance standards, provide aeronautical adaptability screening, decrease attrition later in the training pipelines, and improve overall student performance during primary flight training. *Courtesy photo.*

NASC provides an educational foundation in technical training, character development, and professional leadership to prepare Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and partner nation officers and enlisted students to become combat-quality aviation professionals. CNATRA trains the world’s finest combat-quality Naval Aviation professionals, delivered at the right time, in the right numbers, and at

the right cost to naval forces that are ready to fly, fight, lead, and win.

For more information on NASC or the NIFE program, visit the NASC website at <https://www.netc.navy.mil/NASC>. 

# N4/Final Flight: Blue Angels Legacy Hornet Arrives at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi

**CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas** Late afternoon Nov. 9, former Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, The Blue Angels, Commanding Officer Capt. Eric "Popeye" Doyle, flew former Blue Angel #1, an F/A-18C "Legacy" Hornet (BUNO 163677) from Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, to NAS Corpus Christi for its final

mission: CNATRA's new Blue Angels static-display aircraft on base.

Shortly after his arrival, the Blue Angels C-130J cargo aircraft, "Fat Albert," landed with Senior Chief Sly and his 10-person maintenance crew. They worked for three days removing the ejection seat, canopy and fire

bottle explosives, and draining all the hydraulic fluid and fuel to make the aircraft display-ready.

Although this aircraft has been with the Blues since 2016, it has a long 31-year history of combat and peacekeeping:

*- Assigned to VFA-25/USS Independence; flew operations in support of Desert Shield.*

*- Assigned to VFA-192/USS Independence; Battle Group spearheaded Operation Southern Watch and established the Iraqi no-fly zone. Deployed again to the Persian Gulf in support of OSW in 1993, 1995 and 1998.*

*- Assigned to VFA-146/USS Stennis; flew combat sorties in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.*

*- Assigned to VFA-97/MCAS Iwakuni as the first Navy squadron to participate in the Unit Deployment Program (UDP), which provides support in the protection of the Korean Peninsula and Japanese mainland.*

This aircraft will replace our current Blue Angels aircraft, an F/A-18A Hornet (BUNO163130), currently on display at the corner of Lexington Blvd. and D Street. The aircraft will switch around March. 🇺🇸



**CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas** Capt. Eric Doyle, Blue Angels Super Hornet Transition Team lead, dismounts former Blue Angel #1, an F/A-18C "Legacy" Hornet, after making its final flight to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Nov. 9. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Michelle Tucker.

## N4/WELCOME



CNATRA N4 extends a warm welcome to **Shannon Gillaspia**, our new T-45, T-6 Program Senior Program Analyst. Shannon spent the last 14 years with Rolls-Royce at their NAS Kingsville location. The last five years, she was the MRO Program Manager for Rolls-Royce overseeing the engine maintenance program at both Kingsville and Meridian. Her name may

seem familiar to some, as she is the wife of Mike Gillaspia, one of the ABC TV News Anchors here in Corpus Christi. Shannon and Mike have twin girls who are currently high school seniors. Shannon said she is looking forward to her new opportunity supporting CNATRA at NAS Corpus. Shannon is a welcome member of our N4 Team.



CNATRA N4 extends a warm welcome to **Kevin Marshall**, our new T-6 Aircraft Maintenance Class Desk. Kevin replaces Frank Cardenas, who recently left to take a position with JLS Corporation. Kevin retired with 28 years of active duty service as a lieutenant Limited Duty Officer (6330). His final tour was as the officer-in-charge at CNATRA Det. Kingsville. For the past 18 months, he

was a PMA-273 Support Contractor filling the T-6 & T-45 Senior Program Analyst here at CNATRA N4. He is married and has two children. He is a welcome addition to our N4 Team.



**PENSACOLA, Fla.** Secretary of the Navy Kenneth J. Braithwaite presents Ensign Brandon S. Aro with his “Wings of Gold” during a ceremony at the National Naval Aviation Museum, Nov. 18, 2020. Secretary Braithwaite presented the coveted “Wings of Gold” to the Navy’s three newest Naval Flight Officers (NFOs) during his visit to NAS Pensacola. *U.S. Navy photo by Joshua C. Cox*

# Newly Renovated Chief of Naval Air Training Headquarters Re-Opens on NAS Corpus Christi

CNATRA & NAS Corpus Christi Public Affairs

**CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas** Naval Air Station (NAS) Corpus Christi leadership held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 12 to mark the official re-opening of the newly renovated Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) headquarters building on base.

The building renovation took more than five years to complete due to setbacks in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

Originally constructed in 1941 during World War II, the building, known as Building I, hosted command staff, aviation training, engineering, communications, public works, and many other organizations that supported the mission of training naval aviators. President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the building after its construction in 1943 and it has since become an iconic symbol of Naval Aviation on base. Steeped in Naval Aviation history, many naval aviators have walked its halls including Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, and President George H.W. Bush.

Today, the 43,480 square foot building serves as home for CNATRA command staff, administration, operations, flight training development, legal, financial, safety, contract division, Navy Reserve and public affairs. The project began March 31, 2015 after years of planning due to the poor condition of the historic building. Modern updates to the building include bringing it up to code, installation of a complete heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system, a solar water heater, and ballistic glass doors and windows that exceed anti-terrorism force protection requirements. The building is also Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifiable.

“The building is completely transformed and looks incredible,” NAS Corpus Christi Commanding Officer Capt. Chris Jason said. “We’re glad that we can again put CNATRA back in this renovated building. I am thankful for the hard work our Public Works and contractor team has put in to modernize the building and prepare it for the critical work that will happen within its walls.”

During the renovation, displaced CNATRA employees relocated to Hangar 42 and Building 10 on base. The newly renovated building can now accommodate over 150 employees.

“We are thrilled with the renovation and are excited to move back home,” CNATRA Rear Adm. Robert Westendorff said. “While the team enjoyed being in our temporary hangar offices, the renovated building will enhance communication and productivity. The historic significance of our building is evident when you walk through the front door and will remind us of our honorable past as we train the next generation of Naval Aviation professionals.”

Building I was originally constructed in

July 1941 and had not been renovated since the 1970s. The more than \$21 million renovation was designed by Naval Facility Command Southeast architects and engineers to accurately preserve its historical appearance and characteristics, while still being energy efficient, LEED certifiable, and meeting the latest force protection standards. Contractors for this project are GFP-Yates, a joint venture. The facility will provide administrative space for 174 personnel that will support pilot training operations for its design life of more than 25 years.

CNATRA trains the world’s finest combat quality aviation professionals, delivering them at the right time, in the right numbers, and at the right cost to a naval force that is ready to fly, fight, lead, and win.

NAS Corpus Christi provides the best possible service and facilities to our customers with pride. We maintain and operate facilities, and provide service and material, to support operations of aviation facilities and units of the Naval Air Training Command, Corpus Christi Army Depot and other tenant activities and units. 



**CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas** Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Public Works Officer Cmdr. Eric W. Haas provides opening remarks during the Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) headquarters building ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 12.  
*U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Michelle Tucker.*

# RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

## Civilian and Senior Civilian of the Quarter Program

### 2020 3rd Quarter Civilian of the Quarter **LeDerrick Alford**

For professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties while serving as Information Technology, Senior Desktop Technician onboard Naval Air Station Meridian, culminating in his selection as the Chief of Naval Air Training Civilian of Quarter, Third Quarter Calendar Year 2020. Mr. Alford was dedicated to his duties, the command, guiding principles of the United States Navy, and the development of the future of Naval Aviation. Mr. Alford provided mission critical support to all operational spaces of Training Air Wing ONE and subordinate squadrons by ensuring all legacy devices were operational and available for classroom instruction and operational use on a daily basis. Additionally, he provided on-site support for the Training Air Wings ONE / TWO combined Carrier Qualification Detachment located at NAS North Island, San Diego. He was solely responsible for the configuration and maintenance of 18 workstations and 6 printers that were utilized on a 24/7 basis in support of the Carrier Qualification detachments. Utilizing his technical knowledge and ability to complete on-the-spot analysis of system faults, he quickly identified the misconfiguration of four detachment laptops that had become inoperable and provided restoration services to ensure there were no operational impacts to training and the ongoing detachment.



### 2020 3rd Quarter Senior Civilian of the Quarter **Robert J. Organo**

For professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties while serving as CNATRA N4 Detachment Pensacola's Quality Assurance Specialist, culminating in his selection as the Chief of Naval Air Training Senior Civilian of the Quarter, Third Quarter 2020. Mr. Organo was dedicated to his duties, the command, guiding principles of the United States Navy, and the development of the future of Naval Aviation. Demonstrating superb leadership, Robert Organo utilized his 26 years of F/A-18 Hornet experience to assist the Blue Angels and Naval Air Systems Command in the identification of maintenance spaces, support equipment, and materials for Naval Flight Demonstration Squadron transition to the Boeing F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet. Specifically, he expedited 230 items of Individual Material Readiness List (IMRL) equipment to support maintenance on Super Hornets. Additionally, he led the detachment's Maintenance Program Assessment (MPA) directly resulting in the Aviation Maintenance Inspection (AMI) team's acceptance of the MPA in lieu an AMI thereby saving the government \$50K in travel expenses while mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Finally, his extensive liaison with Public Works Department during Hurricane Sally recovery efforts returned Training Air Wing SIX to normal flight operations in only five days.



# Length of Service Awardees

<i>Name</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>Dept.</i>
PENNEY, CATHY	5	N4
GAFFORD, STEVEN	5	N4
KIOLBASSA, JAMES	5	N6
O'NEILL, JAMES	5	N6
ORTEGA, ERIKA	5	N7
REED, DIANA	10	N3
CRAIG, HANK	10	N4
JENSEN, TERRY	10	N4
GIBSON, KATHLEEN	10	N4
KUTIL, CHARLIE	10	N6
LUISLEYVA, MARICELA	10	N6
MAYMI, OMAR	10	N6
RIVERA, RACHEL	10	N6
SUYAT JR, BERNARD	10	N6
WILLIS, JONATHAN	10	N6
MURPHY, PATRICIA	10	N7
DUQUE, KELLY	10	N7
GARZA, LISBET	10	N7
MESMER, ROSE	10	N7
FOUST, SARA	10	N8
VALENTINO, DEBORAH	10	NFDS
PICKRELL, SPENCER	15	N4
TEMPLE, TONY	15	N6
DISTEFANO, THOMAS	15	N6
BONE, DAVID	15	N6
CADOTTE, GARY	20	N4
SCHULLE, SCOTT	20	N6
OWENS, SONJIA	20	N7
MCCOY, MARC	25	N4
HERCL, PAUL	25	N4
MCCLAREN, CHRISTOPHER	25	N6
JOHNSON, DEBORAH	25	NFDS
PITTS, JAMES	30	N1
GARRISON, JAMES	30	N4
ELLIS, MICHAEL	30	N4
ALEXANDER, BILLY	30	N6
CRAIG, BRIAN	30	N6
PADILLA, BLANE	30	N6
BROWN, WILLIAM	30	N7
WESLEY, RICHARD	30	N7
PITCOCK, JAMES	35	N1
VALLE, DELBERT	35	N4
MCGILVRAY, RUSSELL	35	N4
HAWKINSON, DAVID	35	N4
THOMAS, ARRIEGIOUS	35	N4
MORIN, CRISELDA	40	N8
SHEPPARD, THOMAS	45	N7

# Student Naval Aviators in Texas Get Look at High-Performance Fleet Aircraft

*Lt. Michelle Tucker, CNATRA Public Affairs*

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas Navy and Marine Corps student naval aviators got a firsthand look at high-performance tactical aircraft during Training Air Wing 2's Fleet Fly In aboard Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, Nov. 19.

Eleven aircraft flew in from various locations across the country including F-35B/C Lightning II, F/A-18D Hornet, F/A-18E Super Hornet, EA-18G Growler, and AV-8B Harrier aircraft.

Students walked around the aircraft and asked pilots questions about mission sets and aircraft capabilities and handling. Pilots provided briefs and answered students' questions about expectations of life in the fleet. Commanding General, Third Marine Aircraft Wing Maj. Gen. Christopher Mahoney piloted one of the F-35Bs from San Diego for the event.

"It is extremely important that the young up and coming pilots know where their future is," Mahoney said. "It is extremely important that they know they are connected directly to the future success of Naval Aviation in the fleet, whether that's the Marine Corps or the Navy. To bring these machines in and to bring the pilots in to show them their future vector is almost vertical."

The event generated excitement among the students. Some, like Marine 1st Lt. Joey Johnson, assigned to the "Golden Eagles" of Training Squadron (VT) 22, are nearing the end of undergraduate training and will soon select their fleet aircraft and report to their corresponding fleet replacement squadron for graduate-level flight training.

"It's just good to see what we are going to next," Johnson said. "It's hard

to envision what you're going to be doing so seeing these aircraft is pretty motivating for us."

Training Air Wing 2 comprises two training squadrons – the "Redhawks" of VT-21 and the "Golden Eagles" of VT-22. Together, they provide undergraduate flight training for the Navy and Marine Corps' tactical air, or strike pilots. Upon receiving their Wings of Gold, these new naval aviators progress to postgraduate flight training within their respective aircraft communities, which include F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, F-35 Lightning II, EA-18G Growler, AV-8B Harrier, E-2C/D Hawkeye, or C-2A Greyhound.

For more information about Training Air Wing 2, visit [www.cnatra.navy.mil/tw2](http://www.cnatra.navy.mil/tw2). 

**KINGSVILLE, Texas** Commanding General, Third Marine Aircraft Wing Maj. Gen. Christopher "Moe" Mahoney talks to student naval aviators after landing in an F-35B Lightning II aircraft in support of the Training Air Wing 2 Fleet Fly In aboard Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, Nov. 19. *U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Michelle Tucker.*





## Tips for Safe Online Holiday Shopping

As more consumers purchase goods and services online, cyber criminals take advantage of this opportunity to swoop in and steal your sensitive information. Here are some steps you can take to better secure your accounts and transactions.

**DON'T HESITATE TO UPDATE:** Before making any online purchase, be sure that all internet-connected devices - including PCs, smartphones and tablets - are running the most current versions of software.

**USE A SECURE WI-FI:** Using public Wi-Fi to shop online for gifts is convenient, but it is not cyber safe. Don't make purchases via public Wi-Fi; instead, use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) or your phone as a hotspot for a more secure shopping experience. Or, just wait until you're home and on your own secure network.

**LOCK DOWN YOUR LOGIN:** Create long and unique passphrases for all accounts and use multifactor authentication (MFA) wherever possible. MFA will fortify your online accounts by enabling the strongest authentication tools available, such as biometrics or a unique one-time code sent to your phone or mobile device.

**THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK:** If you receive an enticing offer via email or text, do not be so quick to click on the link. Instead, go directly to the company's website to verify the offer is legitimate.

**DO YOUR HOMEWORK:** Fraudsters are good at setting up fake e-commerce sites, particularly during the holiday season. Prior to making a purchase, read reviews to hear what others say about the merchant. In addition, look for a physical location and any customer service information. It's also a good idea to call the merchant to confirm that they are legitimate.

**CONSIDER YOUR PAYMENT OPTIONS:** Using a credit card is much safer than using a debit card; there are more consumer protections for credit cards if something goes awry. Or, you can use a third party payment service

instead of your credit card. There are many services you can use to pay for purchases without giving the merchant your credit card information directly.

**DON'T GIVE IT ALL AWAY:** Be alert to the kinds of information being collected to complete your transaction. If the merchant is requesting more data than you feel comfortable sharing, cancel the transaction. You only need to fill out required fields at checkout and you should not save your payment information in your profile. If the account autosaves it, go in after the purchase and delete the stored payment details.

**KEEP TABS ON YOUR BANK AND CREDIT CARD STATEMENTS:** Continuously check your accounts for any unauthorized activity. Good recordkeeping goes hand-in-hand with managing your cybersecurity. Another tip for monitoring activity is to set up alerts so that if your debit or credit card is used, you will receive an email or text message with the transaction details. 🐟

## Get Schooled on Cybersecurity: Online Learning Security Tips for Students and Parents

As K-12 schools adopt fully online or blended virtual and in-person learning environments, it is important to understand some basic cybersecurity steps students and parents can take to make sure they move to the top of the class securely.

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) gives parents control over what information websites can collect from their kids. The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, enforces the COPPA Rule, which spells out what operators of websites and online services must do to protect the privacy and safety online for children under 13 years old.

## Tips for Students

### **PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

Personal information is any information that can be used to identify you or your accounts. Examples include your name, address, phone number, usernames and passwords, pictures, birthday and social security number. If a stranger or someone you know asks you to share this information online, say no and stop talking to them. Immediately tell your parent or guardian who asked for it.

**CHECK BEFORE YOU DOWNLOAD:** Talk to your parents before you open an email attachment or download any software from the internet. These can sometimes cause viruses, which can make you unable to use your computer.

**THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK:** Remember what you learned about not accepting candy from strangers? Apply that to the online world as well. Do not click links in emails, text messages or chat boxes from people you do not know--and be suspicious of links sent from those you know as well.

**BLOCK THE BULLIES”** If another student in your online class is making you feel uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult.

**PROTECT YOUR COMPUTER:** Be sure to keep your laptop or tablet close to you. When you're done using it for the day, put it in a safe place at home. Don't leave it by itself outside or in a public place.

**THE LIBRARY IS OPEN:** Need to do research for your lessons? Talk to your librarian, teacher or parent about where you can go for safe and accurate websites for research. You can also talk to your local public library.

**MAKE PASSWORDS LONG AND STRONG:** Passwords are the keys to your accounts. The only people who need to know them are YOU and your parents or guardians. Not your brother, sister, best friend, or teacher – just you. Make a password in the form of a sentence you can remember, such as: “ILiket0EatIceCream0n\$undays!”

## Tips For Parents

**NEWTECH, WHO DIS?:** If the school issues or requires a technology that you and/or your child are not familiar with, explore its features together. Configure the security and privacy settings together immediately. If you are not tech-savvy, it's OK. If you need help with any of these tips, reach out to other parents, to your child's school, or trusted family members. The goal here is not to make you or your child a security expert, but to make online learning a safe space.

**APPLY YOUR RESEARCH:** Apps are a great way for students to learn and apply their knowledge. Before downloading any new learning app on your child's device, make sure it's a legitimate app. Who created the app? What do the user reviews say? Are there any articles published online about the app's privacy and security features (or lack thereof)?

**DON'T HESITATE TO UPDATE:** Having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system on devices children are using for their virtual schooling is one of the best defenses against online threats. When the computer or device says it's time to update the software, don't click postpone. Update.

**STRONG PASSWORDS IN PLAY KEEP CYBER CRIMINALS AT BAY:** When is the last time you changed your home's router password, if ever? Change passwords for routers and smart devices from their default manufacturer's password to one that is long (at least 12 characters) and unique.

**PARENTAL CONTROLS:** Parental controls are a great way to establish parameters around what kids can and can't do online. They do not replace candid discussions with your kids about online security and safety. Children may not recognize the dangers of visiting unknown websites or communicating with strangers online, so talk with them about these threats.

**KNOW YOUR ROLE:** Sometimes it's unavoidable for children to use the same computer that parents use for their work. If you're sharing devices, set up different user accounts so that children have access to a guest account with limited permissions and access. For instance, restrict your child's permissions to install and run software applications.

**NETWORK SEPARATELY:** Students aren't the only ones spending more time on the home network. Parents are also working from home at an unprecedented scale. If you and your children are all working from home, consider using separate networks to enhance your security--particularly if your work involves access to sensitive information.

**CONFIGURE PRIVACY SETTINGS:** Go through accounts with children to configure privacy and security settings to limit over-sharing of information--such as location and camera sharing. Walk the kids through why certain settings need to be changed. 🐞

## NMCI troubleshooting

NMCI troubleshooting works through trouble tickets. There are 3 ways to submit a ticket:

- Call 1-866-THE-NMCI (843-6624)
- Email ServiceDesk\_Navy@navy.mil
- Go to <https://servman/sm/ess.do> Once you are at the website, click “Submit an Interaction” under “Miscellaneous” on the left column.

NMCI prioritizes work efforts based on trouble-tickets - if there are multiple users having NMCI network issues please have all parties involved submit a ticket. The more tickets NMCI receives, the more attention is given to the problem.

# U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation Visits Project Avenger in Texas



## CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas

**Above:** U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation Lt. Gen. Mark Wise, right, and Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. Robert Westendorff, left, operate a virtual reality flight trainer devices, part of Naval Aviation Training Next - Project Avenger, during a visit to Training Air Wing 4 aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Nov. 24. Project Avenger is a prototype syllabus designed to train naval aviators to a greater level of proficiency in a shorter period of time than the traditional syllabus to increase fleet aviator availability.

**Left:** Student naval aviators enrolled in Naval Aviation Training Next - Project Avenger study as U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation Lt. Gen. Mark Wise receives a facility tour during a visit to Training Air Wing 4 aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Nov. 24. U.S. Navy photos by Lt. Michelle Tucker.



## N7/Training News

**Mission:** To plan, analyze, design, implement, evaluate, and maintain the training that safely delivers the world's finest combat-quality aviation professionals.



### From the ACOS

Greetings from the N7. First, let me say how thrilled I am to join the N7 and CNATRA team. The family and I are so excited to continue to call Corpus Christi home and I look forward to being a part of the great work being done across the department and the headquarters. If you haven't noticed, we have a ton of projects and initiative going on: T-Sharp, Flash to HTML5 conversion, Project Avenger, AHTS, AVO, restarted inspection cycle, and all the normal maintenance and updates to our current syllabi. It makes me exhausted just thinking about it. I'm very confident, however, that we have the right team to get it done. So, let's go after it. One last thing before I sign off... A shout out to CAPT Bug Hnatt for 36 incredible years of service to this great country. He will be missed. Thanks Bug for your commitment, drive, and passion. You definitely left this place better than you found it and leave behind some huge shoes to fill. Fair winds and following seas my friend.

Until next month...FDR out.

## Instructional Systems Design in the NATRACOM

### TRAINING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

The CNATRA Training Improvement Program (TIP) provides a process for improving and standardizing training curricula and the associated training courseware to ensure CNATRA produces the finest combat capable aviators that meet fleet requirements. For this issue we want to discuss the relationship of the TIP Manual to other instructions and directives.

### Curriculum Reviews

A curriculum review is the formal process to conduct in depth evaluation of phase curricula and ensure capitalization of the latest available technologies, procedures, and fleet requirements. Curriculum reviews can range in focus from one stage or one phase, to an entire pipeline. A phase curriculum review differs from a stage review primarily in that the whole curriculum is reviewed and not just one or two stages. Additionally, MCG revisions, vice change transmittals,

are the normal outcome of a phase review. The phase review requires a review of five separate areas, instructions, and/or publications, including; Master Curriculum Guides, Flight Training Instructions (FTI), Aviation Training Forms, Academic Training Instructions and Instructor Guides (IG).

Curriculum reviews adhere to the procedures outlined in CNATRAINST 1550.6F. The Curriculum Model Manager (the Commodore) will call and chair curriculum reviews. Attendees shall include, at a minimum, the appropriate CNATRA PTO, Curriculum coordinator (CC), TRAINING Standardization Officer, appropriate Stage Managers (SM), and an FTSC representative. FRS representation is strongly desired. Stage reviews can be called when a TCR has been submitted that the PTO has designated Urgent and the Stage Manager feels a review is required to finalize a suitable response.

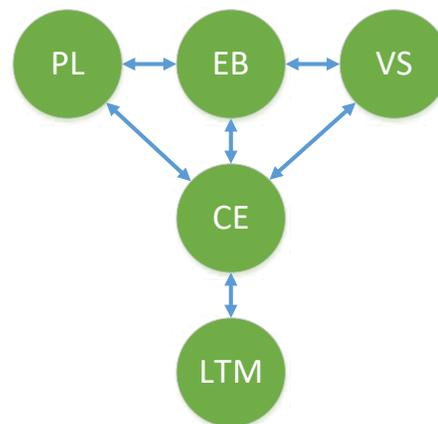
MONTHS BEFORE	Curriculum Review Time Line
4	The CC announces the date and location of upcoming planning and phase reviews and requests SMs conduct review of their publications.
3	The CC solicits proposed changes from the SMs to present at the phase review. Proposed changes will be distributed to all affected units.
2	The Pipeline Training Officer (PTO) meets with CNATRA N731/N732 TIMS Operations, TW TFA, and CNATRA N735 Curriculum Specialist(s) to provide projected operational data research requirements and projected curriculum research requirements.
1	The PTO meets with CNATRA N731/N732 TIMS Operations, TW TFA, and CNATRA N735 Curriculum Specialist(s) to finalize and discuss data/artifacts generated at the 2-month period. At this time the PTO will determine whether these representatives' attendance is required and if so delineate the itemized tasks/discussion points and the time they are needed during the curriculum review.
0	CMM hosts Curriculum Review while the CC and PTO chairs the overall review. Each SM chairs their specific portion.

Months After	After Review Actions
1	CC tasks SMs with specific review-approved revisions.
2-3	SMs and CC work revisions, generating and consolidating applicable TCRs.
4	CC ensures all TCRs have been submitted. CNATRA approves instructions and publications.
6	CNATRA publishes new instructions and publications.

## Fundamentals of Learning: Types of Memory

**Working Memory:** though the term “working memory” is often used synonymously with “short-term memory,” working memory is related to but actually distinct from short-term memory. It holds temporary data in the mind where it can be manipulated. Baddeley and Hitch’s 1974 model of working memory is the most commonly accepted theory of working memory today. According to Baddeley, working memory has a phonological loop to preserve verbal data, a visuospatial scratchpad to control visual data, and a central executive to disperse attention between them.

**Phonological Loop:** The phonological loop is responsible for dealing with auditory and verbal information, such as phone numbers, people’s names, or general understanding



of what other people are talking about. We could roughly say that it is a system specialized for language. It consists of two parts: a short-term phonological store with auditory memory traces that are subject to rapid decay, and an

articulatory loop that can revive these memory traces. The phonological store can only store sounds for about two seconds without rehearsal, but the auditory loop can “replay them” internally to keep them in working memory. The repetition of information deepens the memory.

**Visuospatial Sketchpad:** Visual and spatial information is handled in the visuospatial sketchpad. This means that information about the position and properties of objects can be stored. The phonological loop and visuospatial sketchpad are semi-independent systems; because of this, you can increase the amount you can remember by engaging both systems at once. For instance, you might be better able to remember an entire phone number if you visualize part of it (using the visuospatial sketchpad) and then say the rest of it out loud (using the phonological loop).

**Central Executive:** The central executive connects the phonological loop and the visuospatial sketchpad and coordinates their activities. It also links the working memory to the long-term memory, controls the storage of long-term memory, and manages memory retrieval from storage. The process of storage is influenced by the duration in which information is held in working memory and the amount that

the information is manipulated. Information is stored for a longer time if it is semantically interpreted and viewed with relation to other information already stored in long-term memory.

**Episodic Buffer** – links information across domains into integrated units with time or sequential ordering (lists, stories)

**Transport to Long-Term Memory (LTM):** The process of transferring information from short-term to long-term memory involves encoding and consolidation of information. This is a function of time; that is, the longer the memory stays in the short-term memory the more likely it is to be placed in the long-term memory. In this process, the meaningfulness or emotional content of an item may play a greater role in its retention in the long-term memory.

This greater retention is owed to an enhanced synaptic response within the hippocampus, which is essential for memory storage. The limbic system of the brain (including the hippocampus and amygdala) is not necessarily directly involved in long-term memory, but it selects particular information from short-term memory and consolidates these memories by playing them like a continuous tape.

## N7/WELCOME ABOARD



**Capt. Kevin “FDR” Delano** is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He received his Wings of Gold in October of 1996 right here at Corpus Christi. He served with various fleet squadrons including the “Golden Eagles” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9, the “Pro’s Nest” of VP-30, and the “Pelicans” of VP-45. His other operational tours include

flight deck officer/catapult and arresting gear officer aboard aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) and the air operations officer for Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 2 onboard aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). While assigned to CSG-2, he served as the LNO to Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet coordinating the strike group’s response in the initial efforts for Operation Inherent Resolve. CAPT Delano commanded the 33d Flying Training Squadron at Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma. In this capacity, he led a Joint Specialized Undergraduate Flying Training Squadron, flying the T-6 Texan II. Additionally, he has served on the National Joint Operations and Intelligence Center floor as the Chief of Operations and the Division Chief for the National Military Command System Operations Division. He comes to us from Training Air Wing Four.



**Marine Maj. Quay “YipYip” Depriest** was born in Valley View, Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University in May 2002. He was commissioned as a 2ndLt in the U.S. Marine Corps in May 2007, through the Officer Candidates Course, and reported to The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. In September 2008, he reported for flight

training at Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, where he received his Wings of Gold.

He was designated a naval flight officer in September 2010, and reported to NAS Whidbey Island, Washington, for follow-on training in the EA-6B electronic attack jet. In December 2011, he reported to Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VMAQ) 3, MCAS Cherry Point, for duty as an operational EA-6B Electronic Counter Measures Officer.

In September 2012, deployed with VMAQ-3 to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Central Command. In January 2014, deployed again with VMAQ-3 to Al Udeid Air Base in support of

both Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) in Central Command. In September 2015, deployed with VMAQ-3 to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan in support of Pacific Command Unit Deployment Plan (UDP). While in VMAQ-3, he served as the squadron embarkation officer, airframes division officer, quality assurance officer and assistant aviation maintenance officer.

In August 2016, he reported to Training Squadron (VT) 86, NAS Pensacola, to serve as an NFO flight instructor. While at VT-86 he served as a scheduling officer and strike standardization officer.

In August 2018, DePriest was selected to transition to the 7315 PMOS. He reported to VMU-2 in December 2018 where he served as the aircraft maintenance officer until October 2020. During his tour he was a part of multiple deployments for training (DFT), which included him being the WTI detachment OIC two times.

In October 2020, he reported to Naval Air Training Command (CNATRA), NAS Corpus Christi, to serve as the UAS pipeline training officer.

DePriest's awards include the Air Medal Strike/Flight Award, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various campaign, service, and unit awards.



**Tonnie L. Smith** is from Sledge, Mississippi, and has been in civil service for 10 ½ years. Before coming to CNATRA, he was at Training Air Wing 6/VT-10 as a Student Control clerk.

Smith joined the CNATRA team October 2020 as an application assistance coordinator, embedded with VT-4. His knowledge of student control functions, combined with his already demonstrated desire to learn “everything T-Sharp”, has proven him to be a significant addition to the TMS Support Team at TW-6.

Smith is married to Crystal A. Smith and together they have two sons and five daughters. In his spare time he enjoys working with his wife working in ministry to provide support for the community.



**Alex Carpenter** is a graduate of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi with a Bachelor of Business Administration in economics. He joined CNATRA June 24, 2019 as part of the DON Financial Management Career Program (FMCP), based in Arlington, Virginia, which trains recent graduates for two years

and prepares them for a career in the Navy. He has been able to learn various aspects of financial management and Naval Aviation by working 60-day rotations with N3, N4, N7, N8 and Training Air Wing 4. He said he is grateful that he got to start his civil service career at CNATRA and appreciates all the guidance he has received.

## **BRAVO ZULU**

### **Lt. Cmdr. Marcus “Showtime” Dodd**

His many achievements were recognized by the awarding him the Meritorious Service Medal (gold star in lieu of second award) for outstanding meritorious service as the Assistant Aviation Training Officer.

He has been an instructor pilot for more than 12 years and a veteran of 20 standardization inspections. We offer our congratulations and a hearty HUZAH! 🇺🇸



# Fair Winds and Following Seas, Capt. Hnatt

We bid farewell to Capt. Steven Hnatt last month. In normal times we could have had the deserved pomp and circumstance that a veteran of 36 years deserves. We also know that retirement ceremonies are not just for the individual but for their shipmates as well. Nevertheless, we did have a chance to say Bon Voyage in a socially distanced manner to one of our Shipmates. We thought it appropriate to share his impressive biography with you all, it's a success story, full of hard work, healthy ambition, and accomplishments.

A native of Galveston County, Texas, Capt. Steve "Bug" Hnatt enlisted in the United States Navy in 1984. He was rated as an avionics technician later that year and assigned to A-7E Corsair II and F/A-18A units home based at NAS Cecil Field, Florida. He conducted multiple deployments to the Mediterranean in the final years of the Cold War and later to the Arabian Gulf supporting Operation Desert Storm on USS Theodore Roosevelt. In 1993, he was selected for the Navy's Enlisted Commissioning Program and returned to Texas as he was accepted to the Engineering Technology program at Texas A&M University. He earned Top Graduate Honors in 1996 and received his commission with orders to Navy flight school.

"Bug" earned his wings in 1997 and was detailed to the E-2C Hawkeye Command and Control platform, where he would serve three squadron tours, deploying on USS Enterprise and USS Harry S. Truman engaging in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Hnatt's shore tours included Air Wing and Tactics instruction in Fallon, Nevada, and the U.S. Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics school in Yuma, Arizona. In 2009, Bug and his wife, Melissa, returned to Texas, this time to the Joint Information Operations Center at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. Finding "Heaven on Earth," Bug and Melissa acquired property in Bexar and Medina counties with an eye on post-military life. While there, Bug functioned as the command liaison to the Texas Navy, ensuring departing officers we presented with proper "Texas Navy recognition" that included a commission as a Commander in the Texas Navy accompanied by a Texas Navy flag display (complete with engraved Bowie knife).



In 2011, Hnatt (and Texas Navy Commander) was selected for command of Training Squadron 10 in Pensacola, Florida, the largest undergraduate training squadron in the U.S. Navy, where he proud led his team in the production of over 700 Navy, Marine, and international military partner aviators. There was no mistaking "Bug" was in the cockpit - his personal flight helmet was styled on the Texas flag, which he wore every time he flew in the Beechcraft T-6 Texan II aircraft.

Post-command, Bug completed National War College at the Eisenhower School (Washington, D.C.) and reported to USS Abraham Lincoln, where he further honed his leadership skills while functioning as a senior officer on an aircraft carrier, leading a young and diverse team as the ship's operations office.

For his final set of active duty orders, Hnatt once again returned to Texas, serving as the assistant chief of staff for Training and Standardization at the Naval Air Training Command onboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. He directed, managed, and provided oversight of multiple training programs and policies that generate over 1,600 Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, and international military partner aviators per year. It is an appropriate "Lone Star book-end" to a 36-year career of service that began and will end in Texas.

At the close of 2020, Bug will begin his transition to civilian life with Melissa. They are confident the remainder of their years will continue to be blessed as Texas residents until their remains are returned to the earth at the family plot in Brazos County and their spirits rise to heaven - which is a short trip from anywhere in Texas. 🇺🇸



Photos: Capt. Scott Starkey presents Capt. Steven Hnatt with the Legion of Merit (top) and a certificate as an honorary admiral in the Texas Navy (left).

# FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER DECEMBER 2020

NAS CORPUS  
CHRISTI

Hours of Operation - Monday - Friday 0730-1600 4th Floor Building H-100 (361) 961-2372

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	<p>1</p> <p>Job Support/ Services 0900-1030</p> <p>NFAAS Brief 1100-1200</p> <p>GI Bill Benefits 1400-1500</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Spouse Job/ Resume Support 0900-1030</p> <p>Personal Property Brief 1300-1400</p>	<p>3</p> <p>USA Jobs 2021 0900-1030</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Stress Management 0900-1000</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Basic Resume 0900-1030</p> <p>Advanced Resume 1230-1400</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Skillbridge Brief Skillstorm 1400-1500</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Effective Communication 0900-1000</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Job Support/ Services 0900-1030</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Spouse Job/ Resume Support 0900-1030</p> <p>Ombudsman Assembly 1700-1800</p>	<p>17</p> <p>USA Jobs Application 0900-1030</p> <p>Feed Your Baby 1300-1430</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Conflict Resolution 0900-1000</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Basic Resume 0900-1030</p> <p>Advanced Resume 1230-1400</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>FFSC CLOSED</p> 
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Couples Communication 1300</p>	<p>31</p>	



**PENSACOLA, Fla.** Lead solo pilot Cmdr. Ben Walborn, assigned to the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, performs the sneak pass during a training flight over Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola Nov. 20. The Blue Angels are conducting training flights over Pensacola to build flight and maintenance proficiency on the new F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet platform and maintain readiness. The 2021 show season will be the Blue Angels' first year flying the Super Hornet platform as well as the 75th anniversary of the team.

*U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Cody Hendrix.*