

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi



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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi is celebrating its 75th anniversary

NAS Corpus Christi is celebrating its 75th anniversary with several events leading up to a culminating event on March 12, which will include an official ceremony, flyover, static displays, tours, concert and fireworks.

A golf tournament is scheduled for Friday morning, March 11. And, the South Texas Navy Historical Committee is planning a 1940s-themed gala Friday evening. The official ceremony will be held Saturday morning, March 12, beginning at 11 a.m. – 75 years to the minute that the commissioning ceremony was held.

Following the ceremony, the festivities will continue with static displays, tours, entertainment, concert and fireworks.

Sunday morning, March 13, a non-denominational church service will be held at the Protestant Chapel, followed by breakfast at the Catalina Club.

The station was about 70 percent complete when it was dedicated March 12, 1941. Capt. Alva Bernhard, first commanding officer of the U.S. Air Training Center at Corpus Christi, proclaimed the facility, “the University of the Air.” And, during World War II, 35,000 men successfully completed flight training here.

It was said that during the war there probably was not a pilot in the Navy who had not landed at the air station. Either the pilot took flight training at the Corpus Christi base or stopped here on a cross-country flight.

Surrounded on three sides by water – Corpus Christi Bay, Oso Bay and the Laguna Madre -- Naval Air Station Corpus Christi’s primary mission continues to be flight training. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and foreign student pilots earn their “Wings of Gold” training in the four squadrons of Training Air Wing Four, using NAS’ Truax Field and outlying airfields.

The base is also home to the Chief of Naval Air Training, the Corpus Christi Army Depot, the aviation component of Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi, and dozens of other tenant organizations. More than 12,800 service members, civilian employees, contractors and family members, live, work and play aboard the air station.

For more information about the anniversary celebration being planned, contact the Public Affairs Office 961-2674 or e-mail nascc-pao@navy.mil.