



Flying K

Flight student
is first Navy
Marathon winner

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April 5, 2013

Hagel announces fewer furlough days for civilians

By Nick Simeone
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department has revised from 22 to 14 the number of days hundreds of thousands of civilian employees could be furloughed this year because of the budget sequester, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced March 29.

In addition, a senior Defense Department official speaking on background told reporters the start of the furloughs will be delayed until mid-to-late June, after more than 700,000 department employees receive furlough notices now set to go out in early May. Furloughs would happen over seven two-week pay periods until the end of September, when the current fiscal year ends, the senior official said, with employees likely to be told not to come to work for two days during each of those pay periods.

Department officials say they are still working to determine which employees might be exempted.

Hagel characterized the reduced furloughs as well as a revised estimate of sequestration's impact on the defense budget as good news. The changes follow Congressional approval last week of a defense appropriations bill that prevented an additional six billion dollars in cuts, ordered under sequestration, from taking effect.

"It reduces a shortfall at least in the operations budget," the secretary told reporters at a Pentagon news conference. "We came out better than we went in under the sequester, where it looks like our number is \$41 billion [in cuts] now versus the \$46 billion."

But despite a Congressional reprieve, Hagel said the Pentagon is still going to be short at least \$22 billion for

see *Furlough on page 10*



Hagel

First responders save victims' lives 7 die in tragic accident at NAS Kingsville front gate

By Jon Gagné
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

A high speed vehicle pursuit in the late evening hours of March 20 resulted in a tragic crash into the protective barrier at the NAS Kingsville main gate claiming the lives of six undocumented immigrants. Nine other individuals, also believed to be undocumented immigrants, were injured in the accident and taken to area hospitals by ambulance or HALO Flight for treatment. One of the injured died three days later. No NAS Kingsville personnel or first responders were injured.

All 15 immigrants were riding in a 1996 extended cab pick-up truck. Ten of the individuals were crammed into the cab of the truck, while the other five were hiding under a tarp in the truck bed. Officials estimate the vehicle was traveling over 70 miles per hour when it crashed into the barrier.

"This vehicle crash was tragic and resulted in the loss of innocent lives," said NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Mark McLaughlin. "While I am deeply saddened by the loss of life in this senseless crash, I am also extremely proud of the professional response shown by our Security personnel and first responders in controlling the crash scene and the heroic efforts to remove the victims from the wreckage without regard to their own safety. I'm convinced that their efforts saved the lives of the survivors from inside the cab of that truck."

NAS Kingsville security guard Jared Sovel was manning the outside front gate of the air station when a vehicle approached the base at a high rate of speed at about 11:15 p.m. Sovel noticed the vehicle was being pursued by law enforcement with lights flashing as he stepped out of the guard shack and onto the road entering the base. Sovel wasn't sure if the vehicle was preparing to stop or change direction at the last minute, as he attempted to stop the truck. It was soon clear that the driver had no intention of slowing down or stopping, instead increasing its speed as it sped by Sovel nearly hitting him.

Sovel immediately got on his radio and relayed a command to security guard David Gearin, who was manning the inside front gate.

"Gate runner, gate runner, deploy the barrier," Sovel directed. Gearin complied, and within a matter of seconds, the high speed pursuit came to a tragic end. Gearin witnessed the crash from the inside gate Security shack.

"I could see the lights of a vehicle approaching the front gate, and shortly thereafter I heard Sovel on the radio as the vehicle sped through the checkpoint. Following protocol, I deployed the barrier."

Gearin said he saw the vehicle continue towards his gate at a high rate of speed and then attempt to avoid the flashing lights at the gate by shifting lanes at the last second. That's

see *Crash on page 2*



In recognition ... of military children, Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer, signed a proclamation recently declaring April as Month of the Military Child. Pictured above, McLaughlin tells Child Development Center preschool students what he is about to sign and why. From left is Lily Taylor, Adriana Round, McLaughlin, Lacey Stanley (behind McLaughlin), Mycah Thompson-Lerma, Elijah Thompson-Lerma, Emily Perez, Reyden Baduya and

Madison Sealey. In the background is preschool teacher Melonie Warnecke. Wanting to honor military kids for their sacrifices and courage, in 1986 Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger designated April as the Month of the Military Child. Since then, military installations, organizations and communities have paid tribute to these little military heroes. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)

From the Bridge



Capt. Mark McLaughlin
Commanding Officer



Greetings Team Kingsville.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Easter break.

I have some updated news on the sequester and civilian furlough plan. Now that we have a continuing resolution to take us to the end of the fiscal year, the Department of Defense has re-evaluated its budgetary situation.

It has now been decided that DoD can reduce the number of civilian furlough days to 14 days, vice the 22 days originally planned. This changes the overall timeline for civilian furloughs and will mean that there will be a delay issuing furlough proposal notices to civilian employees until early to mid-May. Furloughs would not begin until mid to late June. Of course, this is all subject to change, but this is the best information I have to date to assist you in your planning.

The amount of furlough time being reduced to 14 days is the current estimate in order to execute a balanced reduction in the DoD budget that both meets sequestration targets and minimizes the adverse effects on our mission. As I get more information on the timeline for the new proposed furlough plan, I will pass it along immediately.

If you have any questions or concerns, our Business Manager, Diana Zavala, is standing by to answer them and we'll post any changes as they become available.

Until next time. ~ Skipper Mac

Crash from page 1

when the vehicle crashed into the barrier. Gearin said he knew immediately that there would be critical injuries to anyone inside the truck.

"My initial reaction was to protect the integrity of the base, and gain control of the scene," Gearin said. "When I realized that Kingsville police and U.S. Border Patrol personnel were already on site, my next thoughts were of assisting the crash victims."

Watch Commander Tommy Stevens arrived on scene just after the crash, having been on patrol on the north side of the base at the time of the first radio calls. He said he knew the guards at the gate would need his assistance. As Stevens turned on to Forrestal Avenue, he could barely see the front gate.

"At first, I could only see smoke," Stevens recalled as he approached the scene. "Then, in a split second, the shockwave, the noise and flashing lights brought everything into focus."

Stevens used his radio to contact Fire and Emergency Services for emergency medical assistance and then placed a call to request additional NAS Kingsville security personnel. The response was swift.

"Our Fire and Emergency Services personnel were on scene in about two minutes from the time we got the call," said NAS Kingsville Fire Chief Ruben Perez. "We didn't have all the details about the crash before we got there so when we arrived at the front gate we had to make a quick assessment of what we were dealing with."

"As an incident commander," Perez said,

"you always want to ensure the safety of all first responders as soon as you can. Your tactical training and experience becomes essential, and within seconds, you begin asking yourself a number of questions. Why is Kingsville Police Department and Border Patrol on scene? Why are the impact barriers deployed? What type of incident are we responding to?"

Perez added that a quick, 360 degree assessment of the scene convinced him that saving lives would be their first priority.

"We could hear people calling for help from inside the vehicle," Perez said. "But it was difficult for us to estimate how many people were trapped inside the cab. But that didn't stop us from responding. The fact is, upon arrival we immediately knew this was not a normal vehicle incident; it was a large scale, high impact crash and assistance from multiple agencies would be necessary."

Based on their training, Perez said, fire and emergency medical units arrive on site and stand-by outside the scene until directed to respond. But it would be different this time around, he said. On this night, it was going to involve quick, controlled action by first responders in order to save innocent lives.

"Aside from ensuring scene safety, rapid extrication of the victims from the truck was our immediate objective," Perez said. "Extricating the people from the cab of the truck without causing further injury would be a difficult task due to the mangled wreckage."

The rescue team used hydraulic rescue tools to cut the roof off the vehicle so that

they could get access to the victims. Once the roof was removed, the rescue team realized there were a lot more bodies in the cab than they had anticipated.

"None of us were expecting to find 10 people crammed inside a small truck cab," Perez said, "and we had no idea of what their status was. Still, our fire fighters began working inside the cab, doing everything they could do to save lives."

Chief Petty Officer Tim Knight arrived at the base shortly after the accident and immediately assumed duties as Security's on-scene investigator. After accessing the scene, he began securing the area along with NAS Security Director David Taylor to allow for emergency medical response while protecting the integrity of the accident scene. Meanwhile, the fire crew continued to work to extract and treat the victims.

"The fire crew was busy getting the victims out of the wreckage when I arrived at the base," Knight said, "and everyone else was doing whatever they could to help. I received a passdown from the watch commander on what had happened and then began to secure the crash site."

Knight then helped direct civilian emergency medical response teams as they began arriving on site. Additional law enforcement personnel also arrived from the Kleberg County Sheriff's Office and the Texas Department of Public Safety. Injured victims were taken by ambulance or HALO

see *Crash on next page*



Commendation Medal -- Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer presents ACC(AW) Jarred Lee with a Navy Commendation Medal for his service as air traffic control training chief aboard NAS Kingsville from April 2009 to April 2013. His actions supported the completion of more than one million flight operations and the winging of 624 Navy and Marine Corps Aviators. As the director of multiple training programs, he was responsible for 485 air traffic control qualifications and 75 supervisory certifications. Lee was also instrumental in the implementation of an \$11.5 million national airspace modernization project transforming an aging installation into the most advanced control facility in the Navy. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)

Flying K

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This paper is produced for people like 2nd Lt. Ryan Wright who recently reported to Training Squadron 21 from Marine Aviation Training Support Group (MATSG) 22 aboard NAS Corpus Christi. The student aviator is a native of Dayton, Ohio, and has one-and-a-half years of service.

Air traffic controller retires from Navy with 20 years service

AC1(AW/SW) Kevin Kahler retired from the Navy during a traditional ceremony held March 22, at the Captain's Club.

Kahler, a native of Greenville, Pa., enlisted in the Navy in April 1993, and reported to Great Lakes, Ill., where he graduated from Recruit Training in June.

Kahler's first duty station was USS Compte de Grasse (DD 974) in Norfolk, Va. He was assigned to the Operations Department, Deck Division. In June 1997, Kahler enrolled in AC "A" School and given follow-on orders to NAS Patuxent River, Md., for five years. There he earned his

Control Tower Operator certification.

Kahler reported to USS Saipan (LHA 2) in late 2002. There, he earned his aviation and surface warfare specialists pins and was selected as Air Traffic Controller of the Year for 2004. Kahler reported to Naval Air Technical Training Center, Pensacola, Fla., in November 2005, where he was assigned as an amphibious air traffic control center "C" School instructor. Within 18 months, he was reassigned to instruct "A" school. He also earned his master training specialist certification (MTS) prior to attending an advanced radar "C" school and being transferred.

Kahler reported to NAS Kingsville in April 2011. He is retiring to Pennsylvania to spend quality time with his children before enrolling in a petroleum and natural gas engineering degree program in the fall.

His awards include two Navy Achievement Medals, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, six Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, two Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, four Sea Service Deployment awards, NATO Medal and Navy Pistol Expert.



AC1(AW/SW) Kevin Kahler receives the national ensign from AC2(AW/SW) Janet Jones during the "Old Glory" portion of his retirement ceremony held March 22. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)

Crash from page 2

Flight to local hospitals.

"In my 24 years of experience in the Security and law enforcement realm, I have never seen a better prepared and active response team to an incident, especially one of mass casualties," Taylor said.

"From my security guards' initial actions in protection of vital installation interests, to our first responders setting up a perimeter to allow medical response, to the investigation itself, everyone was simply professional. I am proud to say, on the day of event, our team was trained to mission readiness and responded above expectations."

NAS Kingsville closed the front gate immediately after the accident occurred

and temporarily rerouted all inbound and outbound traffic to the Caesar Street gate. Once the vehicle was moved from the site an accident investigation team checked the area for additional damage. By late afternoon on March 21, the base reopened the front gate to inbound traffic only from the hours of 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The gate was re-opened to all inbound and outbound traffic 24 hours a day on March 28.

The Texas Department of Public Safety assumed control of the crash investigation, and the U.S. Border Patrol coordinated medical care and processing for the crash victims.

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In the Break



Capt. Joe Evans
Commander
Training Air Wing TWO



Greetings NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO,

They say the weather changes fast down here, but surprisingly enough the Department of Defense's fiscal budget guidance to us edged out the weather by a nose last week.

Earlier last week we were standing by to issue furlough notifications to our civilian work force amounting to 22 days, and we were told that the flying budget was going to be rolled back to about 60 percent of normal for the rest of the fiscal year. In a matter of a few days, all of that changed.

As most of you undoubtedly know, furloughs are still possible and perhaps probable, but the "unofficial" releases state that our Secretary of Defense has committed to shortening the number of potential furlough days from 22 down to 14. At the time of this column's writing, I still have not received official notification of that action, but I have no reason to believe that it is not accurate. As always, we will e-mail the official news out as soon as it is available.

As for the Wing's operational budget, after being told earlier last week that our operating fund would be severely slashed, by the end of the week, we were "plussed" back up to normal levels for the third fiscal quarter, which runs from April through the end of June. (I have no idea what the fourth quarter will hold for us.) Despite the reinstatement of our third quarter operational budget, our previously scheduled Weapons Detachment to El Centro, Calif., is still canceled. Due to budgetary roll backs at the Flight Replacement Squadrons (FRS'), we should still be able to make all of our near term commitments without the detachment. Carrier Qualification Detachments will continue though with our next one scheduled later this month at Jacksonville, Fla.

Our mission at NAS Kingsville remains the same, and as if to prove it, next week we will conduct one of our largest Winging ceremonies in the two years since I arrived here. Don't miss it! Whether you are a civilian, a contractor, an air traffic controller, an instructor pilot or a student, our combined mission remains the same and that is to train the best Naval Aviators possible for the fleet. We ceremonially finish that process every month with a winging ceremony. I invite you to attend and celebrate your contribution to our nation's security.

Best to all,
"Joe Bags" Evans

Spring into action as a Ready Navy Family

For many, spring brings a resurgence of energy and activity with the milder temperatures.

It is a perfect time to practice your family emergency plan and to re-evaluate and restock your emergency supply kit for the changing season. Although winter storms are becoming a fading memory, it is important to remember that weather and other hazards can be unpredictable. So spring into action as a Ready Navy Family and be ready for any hazard.

Be and Stay Informed: Learn about hazards that are common in spring months and most likely to happen in your area. The Ready Navy website "Be and Stay Informed" tabs offer specific instructions, information and resources you may need to know regarding floods, tornadoes, man-made hazards, and emergency actions. Learn what you should know if you need to evacuate or take shelter in your home.

Make a Plan: As a family, make and refine your emergency plan so that everyone in the family understands what to do, where to go, and what to take in the event of any emergency. Practice your plan by conducting a drill where all family members must gather at your designated meeting place, exiting by various doors. Your emergency plan should also include how your family will communicate with each other, particularly if

normal communication methods, such as cell towers, are out. Road conditions and other hazards can limit ease of movement. Have a contact person outside the area who each member of the family can notify that they are safe, if separated. Place a call to your designated contact person to be sure he or she is willing to serve in that role. The Ready Navy website provides printable forms and contact cards to guide you in your planning.

Build a Kit: The best way to prepare for the unexpected is to have on hand one or more emergency kits that include enough water and non-perishable supplies for every family member to survive at least three days. Keep a kit at home, and consider having kits in your car, and a portable version in your home ready to take with you. Make a game of kit building with your children. Make note of items you are missing and shop together at your local installation commissary and NEX to complete your kit. History shows that children who are involved and informed with emergency planning are better able to react safely in an emergency.

For information about Ready Navy and tips, forms, and guidance to be prepared for and stay informed about all hazards, visit www.ready.navy.mil. Ready Navy is a CNIC-sponsored emergency preparedness program. (From Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs)

Bravo Zulu



Senior Civilian of the Year -- Capt. Joe Evans, commander, Training Air Wing TWO, presents Anna Martinez with the Senior Civilian of the Year Award for Training Air Wing TWO for her expert planning and superior organizational skills as a scheduling officer. Martinez' attention to detail, thoroughness and ability to maximize efficiency in scheduling led to a six-week time to train reduction for Intermediate Jet. (Photos by Cmdr. Rey Molina, TW-2 Chief Staff Officer)

Junior Civilian of the 4th Quarter -- Capt. Joe Evans, commander, TW2, presents Rose Mesmer with a certificate for being selected as Junior Civilian of the 4th Quarter. Mesmer was recognized for her dedicated and meticulous diligence. Her efforts directly contributed to Training Squadron 21 achieving an unprecedented level of excellence on a major Chief of Naval Air Training Inspection. CNATRA inspectors awarded the squadron Safety Department with an overall grade of "outstanding" citing "zero" discrepancies.

PW personnel recognized

Bravo zulu to the following Public Works employees who were recognized recently.

James Bustos was recognized as Employee of the First Quarter, FY13

Norma Barrera was selected as Supervisor of the First Quarter, FY13.

Ernie Rogers was awarded Supervisor of the Year and **Tish Knerr** was selected as Employee of the Year for 2012.

NASK personnel recognized

Bravo zulu to the following NAS Kingsville personnel who were recognized recently.

Frank Firmatura was presented with the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for outstanding service while serving as Fleet and Family Service

see BRAVO on next page



Arevalo



Firmatura



C. Gonzalez



O. Gonzalez



Guri



Lee



Round



Silhavy

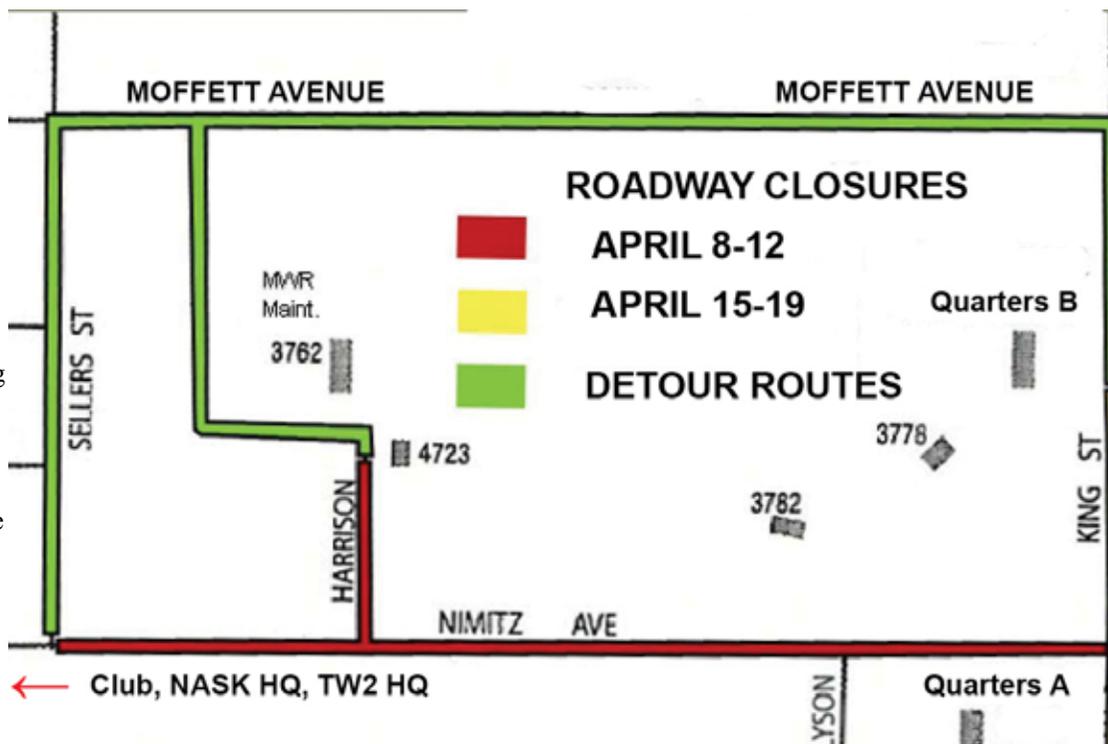
Water Line Replacement Project Update: (April 6-19)

Construction on board the air station continues April 6-19 with Phase 4 along Nimitz Avenue from Sellers Street to King Street. Please be aware that the work in this area will also include watermain installation alongside Harrison Street. (See Map)

Around April 15, the contractor should begin installing watermain lines along King Street from Nimitz

Avenue to Moffett Avenue. Due to waterlines crossing the roadway, full roadway closures will be necessary; however, access will be provided to all facilities via posted detours.

Additionally, the Branch Health Clinic, Security Building and Child Development Center will experience a water outage



on Saturday, April 20, which will allow for the tie-in of their water services to the newly installed watermain. Should you have issues with any aspect of this construction please notify the construction manager, Gilbert Huff at (361) 516-6043 or by e-mail at gilbert.huff@navy.mil.

Runner guts-out solid performance

VT-22 student pilot becomes first champion of Corpus Christi Navy Marathon

By Jon Gagné
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

In his day job, Ensign Nathan Wallace is a Student Naval Aviator assigned to the Golden Eagles of VT-22. He admits he is living his dream of becoming a jet pilot for the Navy and that everything he does in life is centered on that goal. A few months from now, he'll earn those coveted Wings of Gold that come with the title "Naval Aviator." While earning those golden wings is what he is truly focusing on, it hasn't stopped him from competing for gold in other arenas.

Wallace was one of three Training Air Wing TWO personnel to participate in the inaugural Corpus Christi Marathon March 24. This was his first attempt at a full marathon, a 22.6 mile event. "My background is triathlons," Wallace said, "so I've been involved with endurance sports since high school cross country and doing triathlons throughout college. I decided over the Christmas break to run a marathon as my New Year's resolution, and fortunately



Ensign Nathan Wallace is the first runner to reach the crest of the Harbor Bridge as daylight breaks over Corpus Christi Bay. (Courtesy photo by George Tuley, Corpus Christi Caller Times)

Corpus Christi announced their plans for the inaugural Navy Marathon."

Wallace added that once he registered for the race in early January he began preparing himself for the longest race of his life to date.

"I started training in January and worked up to running between 30-45 miles a week in order to prepare myself and build-up my endurance. Before I started training for the marathon I wasn't running very much at all since it gets so hot in Kingsville most of the year. But now that I've run the race I plan to do more [of them] in the future. For now, I'll scale back the running as summer approaches."

Although registration numbers for the marathon were a bit lower than organizers had hoped, race director Lt. Cmdr. Manny Cordero said that other marathons have started small. "The New York Marathon started with 10 runners its first year," Manny Cordero told a reporters from the Corpus Christi Caller-Times. "Now, it's got 50,000 runners. Absolutely our vision is to continue on here. We're here to stay."

Organizers planned a number of events for "Marathon Weekend." A Navy Health & Fitness Expo at the American Bank Center kicked things off on Friday. Saturday's lineup began with a Wounded Warrior & Family Fun Run/Walk, followed by a Kids' Warrior Trot (children aged 12 and under), and day two of the Navy Health & Fitness Expo.

Sunday's events included the Inaugural Corpus Christi Navy Marathon & Half Marathon, a Navy Marathon & Half Marathon Wheelchair Race, a Navy Marathon Four-Person Relay, a Navy Half Marathon Two-Person Relay, a Navy Marathon & Half Marathon Cup Challenge (Team Race), and a post-race celebration and awards ceremony. Entries came from 30 different states, from as far north as New York, as far west as Washington, and as far south as Mexico.

"My overall experience at the marathon was a positive one," Wallace said. "Although it was the first running of this race and therefore a very small field, all the participants and volunteers seemed to be happy to be there and to be helping to put on an event to benefit the Wounded Warrior Foundation. I was proud to be a part of it."

Wallace added that the 26.2 mile course,



Ensign Nathan Wallace, a student pilot with VT-22 at NAS Kingsville with his first place medal in the full marathon, said the event was the longest distance he'd ever run, winning with a time of 3:13:50 in near gale force winds during the inaugural Texas Navy Marathon in Corpus Christi, Sunday, March 24, 2013. (Courtesy photo by George Tuley, Corpus Christi Caller Times)

which started near the USS Lexington Museum, presented a number of challenges. The first major hurdle was the Harbor Bridge, just two and a half miles into the race. Runners then jogged their way along Ocean Drive to the Bay Bridge at the 16 and a half mile marker, and NAS Corpus Christi at the 18 mile marker. Runners then turned back and headed their way through the final eight miles, crossing over the Bay Bridge again, and then following Ocean Drive all the way to Cole Park.

"The race itself was difficult," Wallace stated. "The longest I had ever run prior to the race was 18 miles. Unfortunately the 18 mile mark of the race was exactly when the course turned to the north and straight into a 25-mph headwind all the way to the finish line. After eight miles of fighting the wind I was certainly happy to be finished -- as I imagine all the runners were."

Wallace finished the marathon with a winning time of 3 hours, 13 minutes and 50 seconds, 14 minutes ahead of the runner-up, Alex Jimenez of Harlingen and third place winner Albert Ruiz of Kingsville.

The win earned Wallace a gold medal and qualified him for entry into the 117th annual Boston Marathon scheduled for Monday, April 15, when the city of Boston celebrates Patriot Day. Wallace said he's honored that his win qualified him for the Boston Marathon, one of the biggest marathons held in the U.S., but he's going to pass on making the trek to Beantown. Wallace says he has his sights set on earning a different type of gold medal in about 10 months, and that's where he'll be focusing his attention.

"For now I'll be content to concentrate on flight training and earning my wings," he said. "But I may come back next year to defend my title."

Bravo from previous page

Center Director, NAS Kingsville, from August 1994 through January 2013. He expertly managed numerous programs to include Transition Global Positioning System, Relocation Family Employment, Family Advocacy, Life Skills, Command Financial, Ombudsman, Deployment, and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. Firmatura led his staff through six accreditations with zero discrepancies and received exceptional praise from the accreditation team for the flawless operation

of his programs. As a volunteer in May 2005, Firmatura established and directed the Family Assistance Center in response to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Within hours of notification and with severe staff and infrastructure limitations, he assembled a team and built a Family Assistance Center operation from the ground up. His customer services included hurricane recovery and crisis intervention. He served as the point of contact for identifying requirements for hurricane recovery assistance. He oversaw

the development and resourcing of disaster relief for thousands of displaced military personnel and their families who were victims of Hurricane Katrina. Finally, Firmatura's 31 years of service contributed insurmountable to the federal service and NAS Kingsville's mission of supporting the fleet, fighter and family.

David Round was recognized for five years of government service.

The NAS Kingsville Navy Gateway Inn & Suites was presented with their five-

star Zumwalt award for excellence recently. Kingsville's NGIS was one of 10 facilities Navywide to receive the five-star excellence rating.

Several members of the NGIS staff also received certificates of accreditation.

Housekeeping Accreditation was presented to Cynthia Arevalo, Cynthia Gonzalez and Ornela Guri.

Front Desk Accreditation was presented to Oscar Gonzalez, Betty Jo Lee and Wayne Silhavy.



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New Beginnings

Easter is a time for rejoicing, reflection, new beginnings

By Chaplain Bill Hardison

Easter-- it's a time for rejoicing and time for reflection. Easter represents new beginnings, new life, and restoration and for many it's simply a fresh start. Many visit church with hope for new beginnings, or some anticipation that this will be the year they can make significant changes deep within them.

Maybe you haven't visited church in a long while. Maybe you have visited many churches and are still searching; or maybe you're simply looking for a renewed faith, and a new church. McFall Memorial Chapel could be your answer.

Maybe, some of you are not sure what you're looking for. Possibly, you've never visited a church in your life, and maybe you have never met a chaplain or chapel that

accepts you where you are in life -- with serious questions, uncertainties and doubts. My friend, McFall Memorial Chapel could be your answer.

We hold two weekly services at McFall Memorial Chapel -- Protestant and Catholic. As the Protestant Chaplain I welcome everyone exactly where they are in life with all their questions and doubts regardless of background (protestant represents most Christian faith groups such as Non-denominational, Baptist, Reformed, Presbyterian, Methodists, Lutheran, Evangelical and Pentecostal to name a few). I look forward to meeting you, knowing you and helping you find restoration, new beginnings and new life. Come as you are, simply come.

Grace and Peace,
Billy



McFall Chapel egg hunt -- Children from NAS Kingsville braved strong winds to participate in the Chapel's Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, March 24. The strong winds and chilly temperatures may have prevented the children from finding all of the eggs, but each child seemed satisfied with their take at the end of the hunt. Members of the Religious Ministries team volunteered to hide the eggs earlier that morning. (Courtesy photo by Shannon Misner, *Flying K* photographer at large.)

Morale, Welfare and Recreation "Cutback" Hours of Operation

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<p>Bowling Center Monday to Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, closed</p>	<p>K-Rock Coffee Shop is closed until further notice.</p> <p>K-Bar at the Captain's Club is closed on Wednesdays</p>

Correction - ET1 Brian Johnson was misidentified in a photo on page 9 of the March 22 issue of the *Flying K*. Johnson was one of the volunteers who took part in the Driscoll Children's Hospital Radiothon held recently.

DoD releases update to SAPR policy

By Nick Simeone
American Forces Press Service

The Department of Defense released updated policies and procedures March 29 aimed at combating sexual assaults in the military and improving care for victims.

Senior defense officials said the updated policies and procedures provide a framework that improves safety for sexual assault victims, standardizes victim-assistance services across the force, enhances prevention efforts and provides victims added confidence to come forward to report assaults and seek treatment.

"Today's release of an updated policy directive underscores the department's commitment to combating sexual assault on every level within the military," said Army Maj. Gen. Gary S. Patton, director of DoD's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

SAPRO officials said the policy changes came about through a coordinated effort among the services, the National Guard Bureau, the DoD inspector general, military healthcare providers, chaplains and the entire DoD community to improve every aspect of the department's response to sexual assault.

"We have thousands of victims in the armed forces," Air Force Col. Alan R. Metzler, SAPRO's deputy director, said in an interview with American Forces Press Service. "We need to make sure that we prevent sexual assault from happening, and when it does, provide a response system

that can care for people and hold people accountable so we can get the perpetrators out of the armed forces."

The updated policies incorporate expedited transfers for victims, establish a hotline for crisis intervention, and require additional training as well as new, uniform standards for care givers.

"We have worked with the national certification body and codified into our policy that every victim advocate, every sexual assault response coordinator have a level of training and competence and national certification so that they are providing victims the best quality care," Metzler said.

Senior Pentagon officials emphasize that the department has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual assault. In recent weeks, Patton has met with Capitol Hill lawmakers to discuss the department's response to sexual assault, emphasizing that the Pentagon needs to do more to combat the crime while welcoming input from outside groups.

A goal of the new policies and procedures is to encourage sexual assault victims to have confidence in the system and to come forward and report crimes, which Metzler acknowledged are "vastly under reported."

"The department takes this seriously, that when a victim tells us that they have been sexually assaulted, we will believe them," he said. "We will protect their privacy. They will be able to have help and care because we understand the nature of this crime and we want them to come forward to get help."

CNO explains what budget changes mean to you

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert released a video message to the fleet recently about the passage of yet another continuing resolution (CR) and what that means for the fleet.

In the video, the Navy's top admiral discussed the CR extension that the President signed last week putting legislation into effect that will restore Defense Department funds through September.

What was projected to be a \$9 billion shortfall in the Navy's operations accounts will be halved according to Greenert. He explained in the video that the Bill will take care of four and a half billion dollar shortfall in operations and that the Navy will have to adjust. He also stated, that sequestration, the reduction of spending in all accounts, remains in place.

"We're going to move ahead in a very deliberate fashion and decide what's important and fund those most important things," said Greenert. "Money will be distributed to the fleet and important operations can get underway."

Among those priorities Greenert said that the Navy's bills will be paid, deployed operations will remain funded and some restoration and modernization projects will return.

"So what does this mean to you? For our Sailors, this means your pay will be stable

as it has been, our manpower accounts have been stable throughout this turmoil," said Greenert. "We're going to get our family readiness programs and MWR programs back on track where they need to be. PCS will remain stable throughout all this, so moves should continue apace."

Despite other branches reducing access to tuition assistance, Greenert stated that he will fight to keep education benefits for Sailors intact.

"Tuition assistance is still at 100 percent, and I'm working to keep it at that level," said Greenert. "That's where I think we need to be."

Greenert thanked the Navy civilian workforce for their patience during the turmoil of the last couple of months.



Greenert

see CNO on page 10

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Furlough from page 1

operations and maintenance, “and that means we are going to have to prioritize and make some cuts and do what we’ve got to do,” including making sharp reductions in base operating support and training for nondeployed units.

More critical in the long run, he said, is how budget cuts will affect readiness and the department’s overall mission. Because of that concern, he said he has directed Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to conduct an intensive department-wide review of U.S. strategic interests including how to protect the nation with fewer resources. “How do we prioritize the threats and then the capabilities required to deal with threats?” he said. “There will be some significant changes, there’s no way around it.”

CNO from page 9

“Remember we’re a team here and we can’t function without your dedication,” said Greenert.

“As you may know our furloughs are being reduced from 22 to 14 days,” said Greenert. “The Secretary of the Navy and I are working with the Department of Defense staff to keep that as low as possible.”

Greenert stressed that with a balanced approach to spending, careful planning

Dempsey said the department has already exhausted 80 percent of its operating funds halfway through the fiscal year and characterized the current budget situation as “not the deepest, but the steepest decline in our budget ever,” and warned it will affect military readiness into the future.

“We will have to trade at some level and to some degree our future readiness for current operations,” the chairman said. He called on elected leaders to give the Pentagon the budget flexibility it needs to carry out institutional reforms.

“We can’t afford excess equipment,” Dempsey said. “We can’t afford excess facilities. We have to reform how we buy weapons and services. We have to reduce redundancy. And we’ve got to change, at some level, our compensation structure.”

and the dedication of all hands, the Navy will be able to successfully navigate these tumultuous fiscal times.

“I want you to remember to focus on Warfighting First, Operate Forward and Be Ready,” said Greenert. “Thank you for your patience, thank you for your professionalism, thank you for your service.” (By Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs)

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