



Chief Culinary Specialist retires.

Page 12

Flight Log

In this issue of the Flying K

Focus on Team Kingsville: Honor Guard.

Page 4

BHCK IDC retires.

Page 6

Operation Paint Brush comes to Kingsville.

Page 7

Seven Aviators pin on Navy-Marine Corps Wings of Gold.

Page 8

Pass the remote, pass the germs.

Page 8

Officers spank Chiefs in Operation Shipmate softball game.

Page 10

15 NAS Kingsville Sailors to tack on new chevrons:

Navy-wide enlisted advancements results released

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) released the Cycle 200 active-duty advancements Nov. 19 for the fall 2008 exam cycle.

Overall advancement opportunity held steady for the fourth straight exam cycle, with total opportunity decreasing by only .56 percent, from 24.69 percent to 24.13 percent.

Sailors taking the E-4 test saw their advancement opportunity increase from 42.54 percent to 43.94 percent (+1.40 percent), while E-5 quotas stayed stable at 22.60 percent (down .68 percent), and E-6 test takers saw opportunity decrease slightly from 12.14 percent to 10.75 percent (down 1.39 percent).

RADM Dan Holloway, Director of CNP's policy branch, said "I'm happy to see advancement remain steady once again. We saw a smooth trend from last year to this year, and given our increased retention through all pay grades, that's very encouraging news."

"We'll be watching advancement very closely in 2009 and beyond," Holloway said. "If we continue to see increased retention, especially in the senior pay grades, upcoming advancement cycles could see a decrease in opportunity, especially at the E-7 to E-9 level."

NAS Kingsville commands will advance 15 Sailors based on the September exam including three to petty officer 1st class, 10 to petty officer 2nd class (E-5), and two to petty officer 3rd class (E-4).

Advancing to PO1 were Air Traffic

Controller 1st Class Geoffrey Steele of Air Operations, Culinary Specialist 1st Class Anthony Court of the Combined Bachelor Quarters, and Religious Program Specialist Christine Tamag, who is currently serving an IA assignment in Kuwait.

Advancements to E-5 included three Air Traffic Controllers and three Hospital Corpsman assigned to the Branch Health Clinic. Advanced were: AC2 Kevin Hawkins; AC2 Brian Heaver; AC2 Heather Turner; MA2 Victor Longoria; MA2 Andrea Mills; RP2 Norman Otters; HM2 Miguel Monarez; HM2 Ismael Lopez; HM2 Charles Steen; and CS2 Keturia Laidlaw.

Advancing to E-4 were Master at Arms 3rd Class Christopher Eck and Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Trev-

or Leon. Both will attend petty officer indoctrination before tacking on their new chevrons.

Navy-wide, 31 ratings had 100-percent advancement to E-4, while the bottom five ratings at the E-4 level included Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Aircraft Handler) (ABH) at 18.52 percent; Machinist's Mate (MM) at 17.24 percent; Engineering Aid (EA) at 8.47 percent; Ship's Serviceman (SH) at 4.34 percent; and Personnel Specialist (PS) at 2.10 percent.

Five ratings at the E-5 level featured 100 percent advancement. Those ratings were: Cryptologic Technician (CTR, CTN, CTT); Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Legalman (LN); Machinery Repairman (MR); and Navy Diver (ND). Other E-5 rat-

(Continued on page 4)

NAS Kingsville spends a day at the ranch



Coming Dec. 12



From the Bridge



CAPT Phil "Waddz" Waddingham
Commanding Officer, NAS Kingsville

Greetings, NAS Kingsville!

I hope this Friday after Thanksgiving finds you well, and able to enjoy all of the blessings we have in abundance, at home with loved ones, or if you are far from home, with fellow shipmates and friends here at Kingsville.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, keep our teammates who are deployed on individual augmentee assignments, and their families, in your thoughts and prayers. Their example of unselfish dedication, performed everyday, serves to inspire all of us.

This past week I had the pleasure of meeting with the Commanding Officer of Naval facilities Command,

Southeast, CAPT Doug Morton during his visit from Jacksonville, Fla. We spent a good deal of time talking about some of the challenges we have as a region, and as a base, to continue to make the improvements we have made in the coming year and beyond. As we enter a new fiscal environment in the budget cycle under new White House administration leadership, as well as new leadership at Naval Installations Command beginning in January, we as leaders will be expected to be good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. With limited resources, we will be expected to accomplish our assigned mission as efficiently as possible, and avoid waste wherever we can. We feel we can do this. The good news is that our base and our primary mission of supporting Training Air Wing TWO are priorities to our resource sponsors—which means they understand what we do is important, and will continue to support our needs.

I also had the pleasure of meeting briefly with the new President of Texas A&M Kingsville, Dr. Steve Talant recently. He has an exciting plan for the future of TAMUK, and in less than two months on board, he has hit the deck running. As a retired Air Force officer, he appreciates the military, and what it takes to run an organization like NAS Kingsville. I have offered to show him around our campus in the coming weeks, and he

is very excited about seeing what we do, and how we do business. I anticipate we will have many discussions on how our two organizations can build on what we have established already, and look for new ways to strengthen that relationship to the betterment of both the university and the base.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your continued hard work—both here on base—and in the community. Whether you are supporting Operation Paintbrush, King Ranch "Ranch Hand Breakfast", Trash-Off Days, Veteran's Day parades or ceremonies, keeping the lights on our airfield or the AC on at the simulator building, or flying two to three events per day to complete student naval aviator production, you are making a difference. Everyday I see examples of Team Kingsville PRIDE (professionalism, responsibility, integrity, dedication, and effectiveness), and it makes me proud to be part of this special organization. Well done and keep up the good work.

Waddz sends.



Tews' Views



Chaplain (LCDR) Mark Tews
NAS Kingsville, Religious Ministries

Living In Thanksgiving

Scottish Minister Alexander Whyte was known for his uplifting prayers in the pulpit. He always found something for which to be grateful. One Sunday morning the weather was so gloomy that one church member thought to himself, "Certainly the preacher won't think of anything for which to thank the Lord on a wretched day like this." Much to his surprise, however, Whyte began by praying, "We thank Thee, O God that it is not always like this."

In his letter to the Colossians the Apostle Paul mentions giving thanks seven times. The number seven in the Bible stands for completion and perfection. In his letter Paul tells us how to have a complete life and the key ingredient to a complete life is a life full of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is not simply a day in November we acknowledge with celebration. Thanksgiving is instead an everyday attitude of gratitude to God.

This is what Paul is talking about in his first letter to the Thessalonians (5:18) when he writes, "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you."

Author Corrie Ten Boom in "The Hiding Place"

relates an incident that taught her always to be thankful. She and her sister Betsy had just been transferred to Ravensbruck concentration camp. On entering the barracks, they found them extremely overcrowded and flea-infested. Remembering Paul's advice in 1 Thessalonians to rejoice always, pray constantly, and give thanks in all circumstances, Betsy told Corrie to stop and thank the Lord for every detail of their new living quarters. Corrie at first flatly refused to give thanks for the fleas, but Betsy persisted, and Corrie gave in. As time went on, they were surprised to find how openly they could hold Bible study and prayer meetings without guard interference. Later they learned the reason the guards would not enter the barracks was because of the fleas.

Many imprison themselves today because things don't go their own way. So instead of being thankful they are ungrateful, and end up building a prison cell of their own attitude. If you predominantly view the world from a negative perspective you have what Zig Zigler calls, "stinking thinking". Even if "stinking thinking" isn't the problem, for many people their "thankfulness" is little more than a platitude of gratitude. That is to say that their expressions of gratitude are nothing more than an empty or redundant exercise of going through the motions just putting an X in the box on some sort of check-off list, fulfilling the obligatory duty so one can get back to "turkey day" never truly giving thanks to God.

So, how do we get this everyday in every way outlook of true thanks giving? Where do we find and how do we develop a genuine attitude of gratitude? The answer, my friends, is that we are to be centered in faith. A mind set on God and the things of God is a mind focused. Paul writes in Col. 3.2 "Set your mind on things

above, not on the things that are on the earth." A heart and mind that is not consumed with the material things of the world will be thankful. It is necessary to have a Godly perspective to be truly thankful. Proverbs tells us as a man thinks, so he is. If your attitude of gratitude has felt more like a platitude lately then ask yourself these questions:

a) What thoughts control your mind during the day? Are you filled with anxiety and worry? About...the job, the kids, money, Christmas?

b) What time do you give to meditating on the things of God? (Where do we find the things of God? We find them in His Word. Psalms 1 and Joshua 1.8 tell us to meditate on God's Word day and night.) In God's Word we find our hope, our hope laid up for us in Heaven. A life of joy and thankfulness is not found in what we have and hold here on earth, even though such things are themselves also the gifts of God's providence, for it is all temporary. We find our true joy and lasting thankfulness instead in remembering what God has laid up for us in heaven.

Some time ago I heard Paul Harvey tell the following story of gratitude on his popular "Rest of the Story" radio show.

"It is gratitude that prompted an old man to visit a broken pier on the eastern seacoast of Florida. Every Friday night, until his death in 1973, he would return, walking slowly and slightly stooped with a large bucket of shrimp. The sea gulls would flock to the old man, and he would feed them from his bucket. Many years before, in October, 1942 Captain Eddie Rickenbacker was on a mission in a B-17 to deliver an important message to General Douglas MacArthur in New Guinea.

(Continued on page 7)



In The Break...



CDR Timothy "Cowboy" Carr
Chief Staff Officer, Training Air Wing TWO

Happy Thanksgiving, Shipmates! You'll have probably already enjoyed your turkey and dressing by the time you read this, but I couldn't let the opportunity pass by without saying it.

So, for what were you especially thankful this year? Could you come up with a big list? Or was it hard to come up with any reasons at all? I know that the news seems particularly grim these days, and our economic future is uncertain. We're engaged in what the press portrays as an endless and perhaps unwinnable fight against a faceless, stateless enemy. The entire world is threatened with catastrophic and irreversible warming – or cooling. OK, climate change; whatever it is, it's pretty darn scary. I don't know whether to buy extra sun-screen or winter coats!

With all the latest attempts to throw us into despair, I am especially thankful just for the Holiday of Thanksgiving itself. It provides us all with one day when we can really stop and take stock of what we have to be thankful for. We can watch the Macy's Parade and some football and try and get beyond the cacophony of gloom that is so prevalent in our time.

Well, maybe I can help put the above events in perspective. Is our economic future uncertain? No more so than many other hard times our nation has endured. Are we engaged in an endless and unwin-

nable fight? Not at all, and we can be thankful that we have finally joined this fight. It was only endless and unwinnable when we stood by and let it occur. As for catastrophic climate change – I grew up in north Texas where it could be 25 degrees one day and 85 the next. I bet we can figure out a way to survive.

I don't want to sound like a Pollyanna – I realize that difficult times can and do occur in all our lives. Nothing I write here will lessen those difficulties. I am only suggesting that we not allow our difficulties to control our mood. No matter what challenges we face, we have ways to meet and overcome them. Our own skills and knowledge may be the answer. We might rely on friends and family for support. Our co-workers and teammates should always be willing to assist. A church family can provide invaluable support during difficult times. Most challenges never have to be faced alone, and for that you can be thankful.

So, what was Cowboy especially thankful for this year? The list is long, but here are some of the items: A flying job; fantastic co-workers; well-prepared students; high aspect ACM solo leads; living in a house, not a tent; being home most nights; that Sailors and Marines are out there taking it to the bad guys; and Karen, Casey, and Colter

Again, Happy Thanksgiving. I'll close with a quote from our original Commander-in-Chief, "Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be." – George Washington

God Bless You All, Cowboy

First Class Association provides after PRT boost



From left: AD1 Santos Rivas, AC1 William R. Bowman, AC1 Isreal Luera and AC1 Eric Tamez manned the table of fresh fruit and water that the First Class Petty Officer Association provided throughout the week of the PRT. Gathered around the table were the first five NASK Sailor's to cross the finish line.



The Flying K

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

The Flying K is published every other week by Alice Newspapers Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas. The Flying K is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Navy, Naval Air Station Kingsville, or Alice Newspapers Inc., of the products and services advertised herein. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher may refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. All editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas. To advertise in The Flying K, contact Mr. Javier Ramos, Alice Newspapers, Inc., at 361-664-6588.

NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer
CAPT Philip L. Waddingham

NAS Kingsville Executive Officer
CDR Scott Allen

TraWing Two Commander:
CAPT Bill Davis

TraWing Two Chief Staff Officer
CDR Tim Carr

Command Chaplain:
LCDR Mark Tews

Chief Public Affairs Officer
Jon Gagné

Flying K Staff
Managing Editor
Jon Gagné

Editor / Layout:
Maryann Shramko
Writer/Photographer:
EN3 Brenda Acevedo

Contact Us:

Public Affairs Office
NAS Kingsville Bldg. 2740
554 McCain Street
Kingsville, TX 78363-5054
By E-mail:
KNGV-PAO@navy.mil
By Phone: (361) 516-6219/6146

CAPTAIN'S LINE:

(Info for the Commanding Officer)

Send emails to:

KNGV-PAO@navy.mil. On the subject line type:
ATTN: CAPTAIN'S LINE.

Focus on Team Kingsville: Honor Guard

By EN3 Brenda Acevedo, Flying K staff

The NAS Kingsville Honor Guard is a ceremonial escort, often military in nature, comprised of active duty military volunteers from throughout the command. The primary purpose of an honor guard is to provide funeral honors for fallen comrades. Honor guards also serve as "guardians of the colors" during official military ceremonies and special community events. The NAS Kingsville Honor Guard present the nation's colors and provide a military presence at ceremonies, funerals, and official state functions throughout South Texas from Laredo to San Antonio and points south.



From left: RP3 Norman Otters; AC2 Nick Morgan; AC2 Carlos Lopez-Haver; AC2 Craig Regan.

Craig Regan; AC3 Brian Heaver; EN3 Brenda Acevedo; RP3 Norman Otters; ABH2 Jacob Hood; AM2 Robert White; ACAN Foy Fleming; ACAN Trevor Leon; and ACAN Matthew Hartopp. The Honor Guard officer-in-charge is Chief Air Traffic Controller Mike Garcia, Air Operations Radar Leading Chief and command Emergency Management Officer.

"It's an honor to be a part of NASK honor guard," Garcia said recently. "I'm lucky to have such dedicated professionals and outstanding Sailors serving on this team. Their honor, courage and commitment make them great representatives of the command.

I have received nothing but compliments and gratitude from those that have called upon their services. I am truly proud and grateful for all our Sailors have done and accomplished."

The Guard reflects on the discipline of the military and the positive attributes of the organization that Sailors feel they contribute to. Membership on the Guard provides professional development for the members of the team, and showcases their devotion to duty in serving their country and contributing to the building of their nation by showing presence in all positive events. The Guard serves as ambassadors to the public, presenting a positive image of their service, and assist the Navy's recruiting effort.

NAS Kingsville's Guard is a command-funded organization with a small budget for uniforms and supplies. The unit is available for any Government function, requiring an at least, 48 hours notice prior to submitting a DD214 for funeral honors request.

Members of the NAS Kingsville Honor Guard are AC2 (AW) Daniel Tarrega; AC2 Nick Morgan; AC2 Carlos Lopez-Haver; AC2 Jeremy Whitley; AC2

The guard is called the Color Guard when they perform at events that require them to simply present the colors. During official military functions they may be called the ceremonial guard; at funerals they would be the Honor Guard and if the event requires a rifle detail, they would be referred to as a firing squad.

"The Honor Guard's performance is meant to show families that the military is about pride and discipline. We never forget [those who have served], and we are there to support all of those who have served and will serve in the future," said AC2 Daniel Tarrega, a member of the NAS Kingsville team since 2007.

The NAS Kingsville Honor Guard is currently looking for new members. Interested personnel should be top-performing enlisted personnel in pay-grades E-1 to E-6. They must be recommended or nominated by their chain of command, and must be within physical standards. After successfully completing 18 months of service in the Honor Guard, members will qualify for a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

For further information, contact Chief Garcia or AC2 Nick Morgan at 516-6187.



From left: AS3 Felicia M. Tarrega; AC2 Jeremy Whitley; AC2 (AW) Daniel Tarrega; EN3 Brenda Acevedo.

(Advancement from page 1)

ings with high advancement percentages included Machinist's Mate Nuclear (MMN) at 92.86 percent; Electronics Technician Radio (ETR) at 90.0 percent; Gunner's Mate (GM) at 85.07 percent; Intelligence Specialist (IS) at 82.55 percent; and Special Warfare Operator (SO) at 82.09 percent.

The bottom five rating advancements at the E-5 level included Postal Clerk (PC) at 4.29 percent; Electrician's Mate (EM) at 3.59 percent; Utilitiesman (UT) at 2.59 percent; Personnel Specialist (PS) at 2.05 percent; and Construction Mechanic (CM) at 2.0 percent.

The top five ratings for advancement to E-6 included: Special Warfare Operator (SO) and Navy Counselor Recruiter (NCR) at 100 percent; Special Warfare Boat Operator (SB) at 92.11 percent; Electronics Technician Nuclear (ETN) Group 1 at

90.54 percent; Machinist's Mate Nuclear Group One (MMN) at 78.74 percent; Cryptologic Technician Interpretative (CTI) at 75.0 percent; and Intelligence Specialist (IS) at 68.75 percent.

The lowest five ratings for advancement to E-6 included Postal Clerk (PC) at 2.22 percent; Electrician's Mate (EM) at 2.12 percent; Personnel Specialist (PS) at 2.05 percent; Utilitiesman (UT) at 2.02 percent; and Construction Mechanic (CM) at 2.01 percent.



Toys for Tots

Drop boxes are located at:

Bldg 2740 (quarterdeck)

Public Works

Air Operations

Branch Health Clinic

Central Bachelor Quarters (CBQ)

VT-21/VT-22 Hanger (second deck)



Thanksgiving

SOME OF OUR SHIPMATES WILL NOT BE AT THE TABLE THIS THANKSGIVING



Photo by MC1 (AW) Brian Aho

Layout by MC2 Washington Calcedo

TAKE TIME TO GIVE THANKS FOR THE DEDICATION AND SUPPORT OF YOUR SHIPMATES

Branch Health Clinic Kingsville IDC Chief transfers to Fleet Reserve

By Bill Love, Naval Hospital Corpus Christi, Public Affairs

Chief Hospital Corpsman (Fleet Marine Force) Daniel C. Hansen, a native of Seattle, Wash., transferred to the Fleet Reserve Nov. 6, 2008 during a morning retirement ceremony at the Naval Air Station, Kingsville Captain's Club.

In a poignant address to family, staff and well-wishers, he expressed his deep gratitude saying, "It has been an honor to serve with you; you have given me more than I could ever repay, thank you."

Officer in Charge, Branch Health Clinic Kingsville, LCDR Dawn Hardin, MSC, officiated at the ceremony, and Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Command Master Chief Clarence Hodges delivered the keynote remarks.

Hansen served as the Clinic Manager and an Independent Duty Corpsman at Branch Health Clinic Kingsville since April 2005. Staff held him in high esteem.

"He is the kind of person that you could trust and have confidence in," stated HM1 (FMF) Billy Chanek. "You could always count on him for a calm, reassuring and levelheaded point of view on any issue he was involved with."

Hansen, who said that he was going to miss the Navy, miss deploying out front, and miss serving with great men and women, doing "incredibly honorable things," began his Navy career after enlisting on December 28, 1988.

Following Recruit Training in San Diego, Calif., he attended Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Ill., served at Naval Hospital Pensacola Fla., and in 1991, he transferred to the Naval Hospital in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



(Left) LCDR Dawn Hardin, OIC, BHCK presents Hansen with a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

The following year, Hansen attended Field Medical Service School, Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he served with 2nd Marine Division, 1st Battalion 8th Marines. As a line Corpsman, he deployed with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOS) on board USS America (CV 66) supporting Operation Provide Promise/Deny Flight in the former Yugoslavia and on board the USS Guadalcanal (LPH 7) supporting Operation Continue Hope in Somalia. Hansen advanced to Petty Officer 2nd Class in 1994.

In 1995, Hansen reported to Naval Reserve Readiness Command Eleven, Dallas, Texas. Two years later, he transferred to Naval Hospital Sigonella, Italy. Following that overseas assignment, he attended Surface Force Independent Duty Corpsman School, San Diego Calif., and then returned to 2nd Marine Division and 1st Battalion 8th Marines.

In 2003, Hansen deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOS) on board the USS Iwo Jima (LPH 2), participating in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom and supporting peacekeeping operations in Liberia. Hansen advanced to Chief Petty Officer in August 2004, and returned to Iraq as the Battalion Chief with 2nd Battalion 10th Marines in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. In November 2007, while assigned to BHC Kingsville, Hansen deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Hansen's personal awards and accomplishments include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4), Combat Action Ribbon, and the Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist.

Hansen and his wife Christina, have three sons, Matthew, Cody, and Daniel.

"Fair winds and following seas HMC Hansen"



HMC Tony Lafuente (left) presents HMC Daniel Hansen with a statue of a "Trail Boss" on behalf of the NAS Kingsville CPOA.



HMC Daniel Hansen (right) looks at a quilt being held up by LCDR Dawn Hardin (back left) and HMC Tony Lafuente. The quilt was sewn by his mother-in-law with patches and pieces of Hansen's uniforms that his wife Christina (front left) had gathered throughout Hansen's career.



ACC Michael Presnell salutes the Ensign after presenting it to HMC Daniel Hansen.



HMC Daniel Hansen escorts his wife Christina and sons Matthew, Cody, and Daniel ashore.

Photos by Bill Love

“Team NAS Kingsville” chips in for Operation Paintbrush

Story by Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs, photos by RP3 Norman Otters, NAS Kingsville Chaplains Office

Sailors and personnel from NAS Kingsville spent the better part of the day Saturday, Nov. 8 adding a new look to an old home in downtown Kingsville. Their efforts were part of the Keep Kingsville Beautiful committee’s “Operation Paintbrush,” which focuses on the homes of senior citizens in the Kingsville area and utilizes volunteer manpower to give the homes a fresh look.

Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Norman Otters of the NAS Kingsville Religious Ministries Department spearheaded the volunteer efforts. In all, 14 active duty personnel and two community volunteers turned out to scrape off old paint, give the home a complete cleaning, and provide the home a fresh coat of paint. At the end of the day, the change was remarkable.

“What a transformation of this home,” said Sue Waddingham, another volunteer and a member of Keep Kingsville Beautiful committee, an affiliate of the Keep Texas Beautiful initiative. “It is amazing what a difference a handful of people can make in just a few hours. They worked hard but had fun and left with a real sense of pride and accomplishment.”

Petty Officer Otters stated that he hopes to gets



Left: CS2 Holly Clow was one of 14 volunteers from NAS Kingsville to show up and support “Operation Paintbrush” Saturday, Nov. 8.

volunteers to participate in “Operation Paintbrush” on at least a quarterly basis. He believes the volunteer opportunity to assist senior citizens in the local community is a win-win situation for the air station.

“By doing projects like this, we can really show the people of Kingsville that we care,” Otters said. “As long as we are stationed here in Kingsville this is our community, too. And providing assistance to our senior citizens is a great way to show that commitment. We all had a great time and the owners were thrilled with the results.”

Operation Paintbrush is one of several projects that base personnel can get involved in through volunteering. Some of the other projects include the city’s Adopt-A-Spot Program, quarterly Trash-Off Days, school mentorship programs, and a whole lot more.

NAS Kingsville participation in these community outreach projects is coordinated through the base Public Affairs Office in conjunction with the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce, the Navy League, and the Kingsville Visitor’s Bureau. Otters serves as the Community Outreach leading petty officer (LPO) and donates more than 200 hours of his free time each year to special community projects.

“I’d be hard-pressed to find someone who is more dedicated to helping out in the local community than Petty Officer Otters,” said Chaplain Mark Tews. “He just amazes me with the enthusiasm that he has for these types of projects.”

The NAS Kingsville Junior Enlisted Association provided lunch for the volunteers, Sherwin-Williams, Inc. of Kingsville donated the paint for the project, and the Keep Kingsville Beautiful committee provid-

ed all the supplies. The only thing the NAS Kingsville volunteers needed to do was show up and paint to “pay it forward.”



Above: Mr. Jose Gonzales Cavazos relaxes on the porch of his newly painted house which received a much needed facelift. Below: CAPT Phil Waddingham transformed the underside of the carport from the Pepto Bismo pink to a bright clean white.



(Living in Thanksgiving from page 2)

But there was an unexpected detour which would hurl Captain Eddie into the most harrowing adventure of his life.

Somewhere over the South Pacific the Flying Fortress became lost beyond the reach of radio. Fuel ran dangerously low, so the men ditched their plane in the ocean. . For nearly a month Captain Eddie and his companions would fight the water, and the weather, and the scorching sun. But of all their enemies at sea, one proved most formidable: starvation. Eight days out, their rations were long gone or destroyed by the salt water. It would take a miracle to sustain them. And a miracle occurred. In Captain Eddie’s own words, ‘Cherry, (the B-17 pilot, Captain William Cherry) ‘read the service that afternoon, and we finished with a prayer for deliverance and a hymn of praise. There was some talk, but it tapered off in the oppressive heat. With my hat pulled down over my eyes to keep out some of the glare, I dozed off.’

Now this is still Captain Rickenbacker talking. . . ‘Something landed on my head. I knew that it was a sea gull. I don’t know how I knew, I just knew. Everyone else knew, too. No one said a word, but peering out from under my hat brim without moving my head, I could see the expression on their faces. They were staring at that gull. The gull meant food, if, I could catch it.’”

And the rest as they say is history. Captain Eddie caught the gull. Its flesh was eaten. Its intestines were used for bait to catch fish. The survivors were sustained and their hopes renewed because a lone sea gull, uncharacteristically hundreds of miles from land, offered itself as a sacrifice. You know that Captain Eddie made it.

And now, you also know that he never forgot. Because every Friday evening, about sun set, on a lonely stretch along the eastern Florida seacoast. . . an old man walked. . . white haired, bushy browed, slightly bent. His bucket filled with shrimp to feed to the gulls, to remember that one which, on a day long

past, gave itself without a struggle, like manna in the wilderness.’

Those that are truly thankful never forget what they have received. I am sure that your giving of thanks this past Thursday on Thanksgiving Day was much more than a platitude.

By the leading of God’s Holy Spirit these three things we do for an attitude of gratitude all year through; (1) Count your blessings. Find one thing in your life each day to” thank God for. (2) Count on your Blesser. All good and perfect gifts come from God. And (3), continue your blessings by passing them on to others.



Seven aviators pin on Navy-Marine Corps Wings of Gold

By Maryann Shramko, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Seven Navy, Marine Corps flight students were designated as "Naval Aviators" during Training Air Wing TWO's monthly winging ceremony at the Captain's Club Friday, Nov. 21. The ceremony marked the end of nearly 13 months of training at NAS Kingsville for the group and nearly two years of aviation training. TW-2 Commander CAPT Bill Davis presided over the ceremony along with squadron skippers CDR Bill Bulis (VT-21) and CDR Chris Kirby (VT-22). Also in attendance was LtCol. Dave Portillo, Operations Officer, Marine Aviation Training Support Group Corpus Christi. More than 125 friends, shipmates and family members attended the ceremony.



Front row from left: CDR Chris Kirby, Commanding Officer, VT-22; 1st Lt. William R. Houck; 1st Lt. Nicholas P. Dimitruk; Lt. Col. Dave Portillo, Operations Officer, MATSG-22, and CAPT Bill Davis, Commander, CTW-2. Middle row: CDR Gerald Murphy, Executive Officer, VT-22; Maj. Jayson M. Tiger; 1st Lt. Tyler B. Sanders and CDR William Bulis, Commanding Officer, VT-21. Top row: CDR Timothy Carr, Chief Staff Officer, CTW-2; LTJG Ryan D. Ellison; LTJG Nathan L. Staples; LTJG Travis S. Smith and CAPT Phil Waddingham, Commanding Officer, NASK. (Photo by Richard Stewart)

Receiving their Wings from VT-21 were: 1st Lt. William R. Houck, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Maj. Jayson M. Tiger, Ogdensburg, N.Y. From VT-22: 1st Lt. Nicholas P. Dimitruk, Wimbledon, United Kingdom; LTJG Ryan D. Ellison, Pawnee, Okla.; 1st Lt. Tyler B. Sanders, Durango, Colo.; LTJG Travis S. Smith, Athens, Ga., and LTJG Nathan L. Staples, Narragansett, R.I.

1st Lt. Sweigart was also recognized during the ceremony for outstanding performance by being named to the Commodore's List for academic excellence. CAPT Davis and COL Clark made the presentation.



Pass the remote pass the germs

Pass the remote, pass cold germs, is the title of an article from the Associated Press that I read the other day. There were some interesting things that may be of interest as we enter into flu and cold season. Someone in your house have the sniffles? Watch out for the refrigerator door handle, the TV remote too. A new study found cold sufferers often leave their germs there, where they can live for two days or longer.

It stated that "Scientists at the University of Virginia, long known for its virology research, tested surfaces in the homes of people with colds and reported the results at the nation's premier conference on infectious diseases". It discussed the fact the doctors don't know how often people catch colds from touching germ surfaces as opposed to shaking a sick person's hand, however it reminded me of a study two years ago which showed that germs in hotel rooms survived a day after guests left, waiting to be picked up by the next person checking in.

It mentioned that in a new study researchers started with 30 adults showing early symptoms of colds. Sixteen tested positive for rhinovirus, which causes about half of all colds. The adults were asked to name 10 places in their homes they had touched in the pre-

ceding 18 hours and researchers used DNA tests to hunt for the rhinovirus. They found that commonly touched areas like refrigerator doors and handles were positive about 40 percent of the time for cold germs. All three of the salt and pepper shakers they tested were contaminated. Other spots found to harbor the germ: six out of 18 door knobs; eight of 14 refrigerator handles; three of 13 light switches; six of 10 remote controls; eight of 10 bathroom faucets; four of seven phones; and three of four dishwasher handles.

It told of a test where they contaminated surfaces with participants' mucus and then tested to see whether rhinovirus stuck to their fingers when they turned on lights, answered phones, or did other common tasks. More than half of the participants got the virus on their fingertips 48 hours after the mucus was smeared.

With a 17 year old son in school and my wife and I exposed to public areas on a daily basis I started thinking, maybe a little hand sanitizer, a wipe on the door knobs and refrigerator handle along with washing our hands often might just provide a little defense this Flu and cold season.

DoD C.W. Bill Young Bone Marrow Donor Registration Drive

Date: Dec. 1-5

POCs:

(HQ BLDG) ETCM Gamez ext. 6495
(Air Ops) AC1 Marrero ext. 6187
(BHCK) HM2 Parke ext. 6313

Location: Contact a POCs for appt.

Requirements: Active duty military, dependents, National Guard, reservist or DoD civilian. Must be 18-60 years of age and in good health.

Registration for the Donor Database consists of a tissue sample from your inner cheek via an oral swab.



Welcome Aboard!

The following personnel have reported for duty.



ENS Erin Rosinger

Student Naval Aviator, TW-2
Brainerd, Minn.

LT Brad McNeese

Instructor Pilot, TW-2
Colorado Springs, Colo.

2nd Lt. Chris Dunick

Student Naval Aviator, VT-22
Alameda, Calif.

LT Gabriel Szekely

Student Naval Aviator, TW-2
Boulder, Colo.

Capt. Filip Heist

Instructor Pilot, VT-21
Covington, Ky.

2nd Lt. David Harris

Student Naval Aviator, TW-2
Fayetteville, Ga.

ET1 Gary Lowe

NASK, Ground Electronics
Texas City, Texas

2nd Lt. Matthew Sisneros

Student Naval Aviator, TW-2
Phoenix, Ariz.

2nd Lt. John Yunker

Student Naval Aviator, TW-2
San Diego, Calif.

ENS Brad Panzarella

Student Naval Aviator, TW-2
West Palm Beach, Fla.

1st Lt. Dan Gibbon

Student Naval Aviator, TW-2
Tacoma, Wash.

CS1 Erasmo Guerrero

NASK, Combined Bachelor Qtrs
Findlay, Ohio



Branch Health Clinic Corner



Holiday Safety

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of more than 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

Christmas tree fire hazards. Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Maintain Your Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory. Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

By HM3 Cyrus Cunningham

Welcome home MA3 Christopher Mateo



Nov. 19 - MA3 Christopher Mateo was greeted by fellow veterans at Corpus Christi International Airport upon his return from an Individual Augmentation assignment in Afghanistan.

FY-08 Motorcycle Fatalities (all DON)

Oct. 1, 2007 - Sept. 30, 2008

Statistics		Rank	Total	Percent of Total
FY-08	FY-07	E1	2	3%
Fatalities: 58 (up 53%)	38	E2	5	9%
Passengers: 2		E3	11	19%
Total Bikes: 56		E4	9	16%
Day: 27 Night: 25 Dusk: 6		E5	15	26%
		E6	6	10%
		E7	4	7%
		E8	2	3%
		M2/C	1	2%
		01	1	2%
		02	1	2%
		03	1	2%
		TOTAL:	58	100%

Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

* Fatalities are all Navy/Marine Corps

Tews holds Chiefs to just 8 hits as

Officers spank chiefs, 15-1 in Operation Shipmate softball challenge

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

CAPT Phil Waddingham never had a doubt that he held the upper hand in the Operation Shipmate softball challenge between the NAS Kingsville Wardroom and the Chief Petty Officers' Association Tuesday, Nov. 18. In fact, Waddingham was more concerned with player turnout than he was the final outcome.

"I'm not worried about beating the Chiefs," he said, "I'm just beginning to feel a little uncomfortable with the number of players we'll be able to muster."

Fortunately, Waddingham's team had just enough officer power to tangle with the Chiefs, who were themselves a bit short-handed. "Our numbers were down, too," said team captain and Command Master Chief Izzy Gamez. "We only had 11 players available, so we were forced to play everyone the entire game while keeping the grills going so that we could raise money for Operation Shipmate. But in the end, we just didn't play well."

Gamez hit the nail right on the head with that statement as the Chiefs were out-hit 26-8 in the 7-inning, no-run-rule contest. The Chiefs also committed 8 errors and left 9 runners on base. The Chiefs found themselves looking at a 15-0 whitewash until Mike Presnell singled with one out in the bottom of the seventh inning and then came all the way around to score on a couple of throwing errors. It was the lone bright spot of the game for the Chiefs in a very lop-sided affair.

The Officers jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning on an RBI-single by shortstop Joe Humphrey and a two-run inside-the-park homerun by short fielder Chris Chandler. They made it 4-0 in the second with an unearned run, and then 6-0 in the third as Joe "Hol-



Above: LCDR Mark Tews tosses a strike to HMC Tony LaFuente (below).



lywood" Heuser burned Will Hornbeak in the outfield for another two-run inside-the-park homerun.

It became 8-0 in the fourth on singles by Jason Ballin, Humphrey, Waddingham and an error by CPO shortstop Mike Garcia and a sacrifice fly off the bat of Jimmy Cook. Single runs in the fifth and sixth innings staked the O's to a 10-0 lead.

"We couldn't keep them off the bases," said losing pitcher Jon Bess after the game. "They just kept hitting it to the right spots."

The Officers put the game out of reach with five runs in the top of the seventh. Consecutive one-pout singles by Ballin, Humphrey, Waddingham, Chandler and Cook accounted for four runs, while winning pitcher Mark Tews added a run-scoring single to cap the scoring.

While Tews was only 2-for-4

at the plate, he did his part on the mound. Limiting the Chiefs to just 8 hits without walking a batter, and picking up three strikeouts -- including back-to-back strikeouts in the third inning of Jon Bess and Izzy "Dizzy" Gamez.

Whether or not there is a rematch in the making wasn't clear after the game as the Chiefs declined to comment about the outcome.

Doctored Lineup?

The NAS Kingsville Branch Health Clinic played a big role in the Officer's victory, with Ballin and Humphrey both going 5-for-5 in the game and Cook going 3-for-4. All three each drove in a run, while Ballin and Humphrey each scored three times.

K Factor:

Although being pounded for 26 hits, Bess recorded four strikeouts in the game, including "Hollywood" Heuser twice. Other victims were Chris Code and Brian Schonefeld.



Above (from left) ACC Thomas Hornbeak and CSCS Michael Reed chase down a fly ball to center field. Neither Chief was able to make the catch.



LT Christopher Code makes the play at first base sending the runner AOCs Michael Corley right back to the dugout.



Chief and Officers give the traditional high fives at the end of the game. It was all in good fun!

BOX SCORE

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Runs	Hits	Errors
Officers	3	1	2	2	1	1	5	15	26	5
Chiefs	0	0	0	0	0	1		1	8	8

Winning Pitcher: Mark Tews

Losing Pitcher: Jon Bess

E- Garcia 2, Wystub 2, Bess, Reed, Gamez 2, Presnell, Taylor, Humphrey 2, Ballin, Code, Schonefeld.

2BH - Chandler 3BH- Ballin, Cook HR: Chandler, Heuser. SF- Cook. DP: Officers 1, CPOs 1 SB-Waddingham.

OFFICERS	AB	R	H	BI	CHIEFS	AB	R	H	BI	PITCHING	1P	RA	ER	HA	SO
Ballin, 2B	5	3	5	1	Garcia, SS	3	0	1	0	Tews, W	7	1	0	8	3
Humphrey, SS	5	3	5	1	Corley, 1B	3	0	1	0	Bess, L	7	15	12	26	4
Waddingham, 3B	5	1	2	1	LaFuente, LF	3	0	1	0	UMPIRES:					
Chandler, SF	5	3	3	4	Bess, P	3	0	1	0	Charles Young (plate), Ken Moses					
Cook, LF	4	1	3	2	Gamez, RF	3	0	0	0	(bases)					
Hueser, RF	5	1	2	2	Wystub, 2B	3	0	0	0	NATIONAL ANTHEM:					
Tews, P	5	0	2	1	Presnell, 3B	3	1	2	0	AC2 Ann Marie Wood, Air Ops/ATC					
Code, IB	5	0	2	0	Taylor, C	3	0	1	0	SOUND:					
Schoenefeld, LF	4	2	0	0	Hornbeak, LC	3	0	1	0	Ground Electronics, ET2 Joseph Morin,					
Pierzchala, C	4	1	2	0	Reed, RC	2	0	0	0	ET2 Michael Nimmons.					
Totals	47	15	26	12	Totals	29	1	8	0	ANNOUNCER: Jon Gagné, PAO					



Navy Knowledge Online Orientation at the Library

- Every Wednesday at 5 p.m. the Library staff will hold a short class on what the library section of NKO has available. This great site is for active duty, retirees, and dependants. If you are in the DEERS system, then you have access to this resource. For more information, call the Library at 516-6271.

Texas State Vehicle Inspection - If your Texas State Vehicle Inspection expires this month, stop by the Auto Skills Center and get it renewed to avoid any costly fines. For more information, contact Auto Skills at 516-6248.

Dec. 1-30 - \$10 off weekend or \$20 off week long camper trailer rentals. For more information call Outdoor Recreation at 516-6191.

Free Book Drawing - Enter to win a free Christmas book at the Station Library. Entries will be accepted up until Dec. 19. For more information, call 516-6271.

Dec. 1 - Free gift wrapping for Single Sailors - Bring in up to 10 gifts to the Station Library up until Dec. 17 for free gift wrapping. For more info, call 516-6271.

Dec. 4 - Single Sailors bowl free - Stop by the Bowling Center between 6-8 p.m., and get in a free game on the Single Sailor program. For more info, call 516-6449.

Dec. 6 - Rio Grand Outlet Mall trip - The van will depart from ITT for the Rio Grande Outlet Mall in Mercedes, Texas at 8 a.m. Don't miss this last great shopping trip before Christmas. Fee is \$9 per person. We will return no later than 6 p.m. For more information call ITT at 516-6449.



Hours of operation change

Due to the limited volume of customers service experienced in the first hour of business NFCU will change their hours of operation. The new hours will be as follows:

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

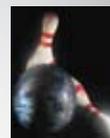
Dec. 9 - Spades Tournament - Talk is cheap! If you think you have what it takes to be the best Spades player on base, now is the time to prove it. Play will begin at 7p.m. Entry is free. For more info, call ITT at 516-6449.

Dec. 11 - Jingle Bell 5K Fun Run - Kick off the holiday season with a little exercise by joining us for the annual Jingle Bell 5K Fun Run. The race will start at The Total Fitness Connection at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 11. The first 30 participants to register and complete the event will receive a free t-shirt. Light refreshments will be served following the event, and everyone is welcome. For more information, call 516-4386.

Dec. 12 - Kids Night Out - Looking for some well deserved time out? Register now for Kids Night out at the CDC and SAC. Registration deadline is Dec. 10 and the cost is \$10 per family. Call the SAC at 516-6718 or CDC at 516-6176 for more info.

Dec. 12- CDC Winter Olympics - The CDC will be holding their annual Winter Olympics from 9-10 a.m. All Children will participate. For more info, call 516-6176.

Bowling League



In the Dog House Fall League Standings

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>GB</u>
1.	3 Minds in the Gutter	34.0	22.0	0.0
2.	Lane Breakers	31.5	24.5	2.5
3.	Tumbalos	27.5	28.5	6.5
4.	The Rebels	26.0	30.0	8.0
5.	Hounds	24.5	31.5	9.5
6.	The Pin-Heads	20.0	36.0	14.0
7.	Los Tres Vatos	16.5	19.5	17.5
8.	Ghost	0.0	0.0	34.0

Wednesday Nite Mixed League Standings

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>GB</u>
1.	Petes Angels	29.0	15.0	0.0
2.	Tidy Bowlers	26.0	18.0	3.0
3.	Sixty Forty	25.0	19.0	4.0
4.	Big K Rollers	24.0	20.0	5.0
5.	Laugh Out Loud	23.0	21.0	6.0
6.	DUH's	23.0	21.0	6.0
7.	Guttermouths	21.0	23.0	8.0
8.	Ghost	0.0	0.0	29.0



HOG PEN

RICHARDSON, TEXAS - After improving from 3-8 to 7-4 in one season, the Texas A&M-Kingsville football team had 17 players earn Lone Star Conference South Division honors in 2008.

Javelina senior safety Jabir Perkins and junior defensive tackle Jimmy Saddler-McQueen headlined the group. Perkins earned First Team Defense honors and was named the Defensive Back of the Year. Saddler-McQueen earned Second Team Defense honors and was named the Co-Defensive Lineman of the Year. Perkins had 61 tackles, five tackles for loss, and a team-high five interceptions while also scoring a touchdown on a fumble recovery. Saddler-McQueen was the team's top run-stuffer with 43 tackles, 8.5 tackles for loss, and three sacks. He also batted down seven passes at the line of scrimmage.

Senior wide receiver Jareko Taylor, junior left guard Markeith Wesley and junior punter Cody Smith were the other Javelinas earning First Team all-LSC South honors. Taylor led the team with a school-record 66 catches while gaining 1,090 yards and scoring 11 touchdowns. Wesley was the top lineman on an offense that averaged nearly 430 yards per game. Smith led the LSC with a 43.0 punting average and also gained 28 yards on four carries. It was his second straight First Team selection.

Senior linebacker Mike Martinez, junior rover John Reeves, and sophomore wide receivers Ryan Lincoln and Damian Couthren all earned Second Team LSC South honors. Martinez led the Javelina defense with 87 tackles while registering seven tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks, and three forced fumbles. Reeves made the transition from wide receiver to rover in the off-season and flourished. He made 51 tackles, broke up four passes, and picked off one pass. Lincoln had 48 receptions for 740 yards and four touchdowns. He tied a school record with a 95-yard reception in the final game of the season at Angelo State. He also contributed 114 yards rushing and two touchdowns on 14 carries. Couthren had 38 catches, 606 yards receiving and five touchdowns as the third receiver in the offense.

The Javelinas had nine players earn LSC South Division Honorable Mention honors including; junior offensive tackle Jorge Guerra, senior quarterback Billy Garza, senior running back Billy Martin, senior kick returner Jabir Perkins, senior kick returner Clavens Charles, junior defensive end Jimmy Lugo, senior defensive end Tyrrell Herndon, freshman corner back Derrick Thomas, and junior corner back Eric John.

In most conferences Garza would have been a higher selection, but with two probable All-Americans ahead of him he was relegated to honorable mention honors. Garza set school records for completions (209), attempts (370) and yards (2,787) while completing 23 touchdowns. He also ran for 132 yards and four touchdowns.

Sophomore center Tim Byerly was the lone Javelina to be named to the LSC South Division Commissioner's Honor Roll.

NAS Kingsville salutes Chief Culinary Specialist at retirement ceremony

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Chief Culinary Specialist (Surface Warfare) Prelvis "Bull" Lofties closed out his 20-year active duty career Friday, Nov. 24 with an official retirement ceremony at the Captain's Club. More than 100 friends, family and shipmates turned out to send Chief Lofties ashore. The guest speakers for the ceremony included Naval Academy Command Master Chief (Air Warfare / Surface Warfare) Evelyn Banks, NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham, and Chaplain (LCDR) Mark Tews. ADCS (AW) Jon Bess served as master of ceremonies.

Selecting Master Chief Banks as his guest speaker was an easy decision for Chief Lofties. It was Banks, then a 2nd Class Mess Specialist serving as a recruiter in her hometown of Memphis, Tenn., who recruited Lofties into the Navy 1988. "I consider myself so fortunate to have recruited Chief Lofties in 1988," Banks told the audience. "I knew then that he was a special man because he seemed so determined to become a Sailor."

Banks spoke about introducing Lofties to the Navy and sending him off to recruit training and then to Mess Management "A" School at Recruit Training Command and Naval Training Center San Diego, Calif. She spoke of how impressed she was with Lofties' perseverance and commitment and his drive to succeed. "It was never a surprise to me," she said, "that he'd be selected to be a chief petty officer."

"When [Chief Lofties] asked me to speak at his retirement I asked him to send me some of his enlisted evaluations. He sent me every single one he has received during his career. And I can tell you, that every last one of his evaluations has these things in common. They all say that he is competent and highly efficient. They all say that he has a great attitude, and he consistently takes care of his people. They all say that he consistently performs in an outstanding manner with unmatched devotion to military duty. Even before president-elect Barrack Obama popularized the term 'Yes We Can' [Chief Lofties] was saying 'Yes I Can.' From day one he told me, 'Yes I Can. I want to do this thing, and I will.'

Capt. Waddingham shared those comments during his remarks as he thanked Chief Lofties for his service



Guest Speaker CMDCM(AW/SW) Evelyn Banks praises Lofties for his 20-years of honorable service.

to the command during his final tour of active duty. "It's tough to say goodbye to a shipmate and a good friend, like Chief Lofties," Waddingham said. "For 20 years, Chief Lofties has served his country well. From boot camp at Recruit Training Command in San Diego, to assignments at sea aboard USS Midway (CV 41), USS Comstock (LSD 45) and USS Grasp (APS 51), to an overseas assignment in Yokosuka, Japan, to Fleet Training Center and Fleet Training Anti-Warfare center San Diego, Chief Lofties hit the deck running. At NAS Kingsville, he has been the 'go-to' Chief for the most challenging and rewarding assignments. He has gone above and beyond his duties to ensure that NAS Kingsville Sailors had the highest possible living conditions; he has served as a mentor for the New Horizons program for at-risk youth in the local community. In short, he has led Sailors and civilians like few can."

Turning his remarks to the Chief, Waddingham thanked him for his contributions to the Naval Air Station. "It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with you," he said. "I will miss your counsel, your leadership, and your competent approach to doing what is right for the Sailors of the Naval Air Station. You represent the best of Naval leadership."

ADCS (AW/SW) Jon Bess then followed with a

brief but comical "roast" of the honoree, focusing on Lofties' role as president of the NAS Kingsville Chief Petty Officers' Mess. His remarks included the presentation of gag gifts and digs at one of Chief Lofties' favorite pastimes - eating. "If you ever needed "Bull" to be somewhere all you had to do was mention the word "barbecue" and he'd be the first one there."

When it came time for Lofties to make his remarks, he thanked all in attendance, including his parents, Ed and Louise Lofties of Grand Junction, Tenn., his younger brother Trentis, mother-in-law Mary Watkins of Somerville, Tenn., his children, and his wife Sharen. He also spoke briefly about his career, his future plans, and his love for the Chief Petty Officer community.

"I never imagined when I joined the Navy that I would be here 20 years later," he said. "But when I enlisted Master Chief Banks told me what to expect. And we have stayed in touch throughout our careers."

After thanking his family, Lofties reminded his Chief Petty Officer community to "always take care of your people. Lead by example and fight the good fight." He then presented a chief's anchor to CS2 Bernice Meno, saying "Some day you will earn your own set of anchors. Until then, you will carry this anchor around with you."

The ceremony concluded with the traditional passing of the Flag for the Old Glory ceremony, the reading of "The Watch" by ACC (AW) William Hornbeak, the benediction by Chaplain Tews and the piping ashore of the Lofties family by honorary boatswain HMC (FMF/SW) Dave Ziehr, as all active chiefs in attendance lined up as sideboys.



CSC Prelvis Lofties sings a song to his wife Sharen, "To the girl I love."



CAPT Phil Waddingham (left) presents the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal to CSC Prelvis Lofties.



CSC(SW) Prelvis Lofties (right) laughs at himself as ADCS(AW/SW) Jon Bess roast's him.



CSCS(SW) Michael Reed (left) presents Lofties with his retirement shadowbox on behalf of the CPOA.



Pictured with Lofties (center) are his parents Ed and Louise (left), son Shazon (front), wife Sharen, and son PreVonn.