



*America celebrates its 232nd anniversary of Independence.*



*July 4, 1776 - July 4, 2008*

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***Kingsville Celebrates The 4th of July.***

# ***4th of July celebration planned for Air Station and City of Kingsville***

The Naval Air Station and the City of Kingsville are planning a full-day of celebrations to honor the nation's 232nd birthday July 4. The Independence Day holiday is especially noteworthy to NAS Kingsville as it marks the anniversary of the air station's official dedication in 1942. Since that first commissioning on July 4, 1942, the base has been used as an active military installation for 61 years. (The base was placed in a caretaker status from 1946 to 1951).

Independence Day celebrations kick off in downtown Kingsville at 9 a.m. with the city's annual "Old Time 4th of July Parade." This year the parade is broken down into three segments with the decorated bicycle parade leading off, followed by the children and pet parade, and ending with the 4th of July tribute to America and the U.S. Armed Forces. NAS Kingsville personnel will be participating, led by the NAS Color Guard. Check-in for the parade begins at 8 a.m. at the Kleberg County Courthouse. (See page 8 for other Kingsville 4th of July



events).

At 11:30 a.m., the Texas Historical Commission will sponsor a small ceremony near the front gate to unveil a Texas in World War II historical marker recognizing the proud history of the air station's role in training Navy and Marine Corps aviators for the war

effort. The ceremony will include remarks from city and county officials, NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer CAPT Phil Waddingham, and Mr. William McWhorter of the Texas Historical Commission.

On base, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department is sponsoring a host of activities for base personnel beginning at 1 p.m. as the NAS pool opens its doors for recreational swimming. An official welcoming ceremony for base personnel will take place at the track near the gym at 5 p.m., followed by live entertainment by the band "Thyrium." Old fashioned 4th of July games and races will be held on the football field for parents and children beginning at 5:30. A family movie will follow at the base gym at 7 p.m.

At 9:15 p.m., base personnel will be treated to a spectacular fireworks display. While these events are not open to the general public, the fireworks should be able to be seen by Kingsville citizens from Kleberg Park.

## **CO announces Sailor of the Quarter selections**

CAPT Phil Waddingham presented plaques and Letters of Commendation to three NAS Kingsville Sailors during an all hands awards ceremony held at the Captain's Club ballroom Thursday, June 19. The Skipper praised the awardees for their outstanding performance and accomplishments in front of more than 200 base military and civilian personnel.

Pulling down Sr. Sailor of the Quarter honors was Gunners Mate 1st Class Kevin Hooks of the NAS Kingsville Security Department. Hooks, a native of Houston who has been on board for

18 months, was selected from a strong group of senior petty officers who were nominated by their departments. When it came down to the bottom line, collateral duties played a key role in his selection.

"GM1 Hooks has a lot of collateral duties," said Chief Quartermaster Jacob Lozano, Security Dept. leading chief. "He goes the extra mile and does more than what's expected every time."

Hooks serves as the training petty officer for more than 80 Sailors, government civilians and contract security personnel. He is also the command Uri-

nalysys Program Coordinator and has supervised over 300 specimen samples for the command Urinalysis Program, ensuring they are handled and processed correctly. Other collateral duties include RM Work Center Supervisor, Range Safety Officer, and Department Career Counselor.

Hooks said he enjoys training and working with fellow Sailors, especially when it comes to making career decisions. "As a departmental career counselor I've had the opportunity to help a lot people with their careers," Hooks

**(Continued on page 5)**



## From The Bridge...



**CAPT Phil "Waddz" Waddingham**  
Commanding Officer, NAS Kingsville

Hard to believe it is already summer again. Actually, it's easy if you take into account the fact that the average temperature has anchored in the range of 90 plus every day. Just a reminder for all to properly hydrate and stay indoors if at all possible, and avoid strenuous labor in the middle of the day if you can help it. If you absolutely must be outdoors working, then wear proper clothing, sunscreen, and drink plenty of water. When the mosquitoes finally arrive, you can add insect repellent to your list!

Hopefully you have seen some of the advertising for our upcoming NAS Kingsville 4th of July celebration. This will be the first time in a long while that we have hosted a no-kidding fireworks display on the base for the benefit of NAS Kingsville personnel and families, and invited guests. Unfortunately, this event is not open to the general public, but you can bring your civilian friends and neighbors with you if

you plan to escort them during their visit. Contact NAS Security if you have any specific concerns or questions on guest or personal items policies.

As far as the line-up for the 4th of July, it is packed full of things to do for the entire family. Starting at 9 a.m., there will be a parade in town held by the City of Kingsville, then, at 11:30 a.m., there will be an historical commission ceremony at the Main Gate. NAS Kingsville will be properly designated as an historical site, complete with a proclamation and placement of an historical marker. The 4th of July is also the birth date of NAS Kingsville, and this ceremony will pay respects to the air station's contributions to World War II. Following this at 1 p.m., the NAS Kingsville swimming pool opens for recreational swimming. At 3 p.m. at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, the Kingsville Symphony Orchestra will perform. Music will be patriotic pieces we have all grown up with that honor both our nation and our military. There will also be a spectacular presentation of fireworks through the marvels of modern technology shown on stage with music. Military personnel and veterans in uniform free get in free, and tickets range from \$5 to \$30 for all others. Military branches represented will be recognized during a special Armed Forces Salute.

The 4th of July Welcome ceremony on base kicks-off at the base track located behind the Gym at 5 p.m., followed by live music and kid's games and activities. At 7 p.m., there will be a family movie at the base Gym, and the countdown to fireworks be-

gins at 9:15 p.m. See Wayne Short at MWR, or any of our MWR staff, if you have questions about the event. I hope to see all of you there!

Interested in serving on the Navy Ball committee? There is still room for new members, and your ideas are welcome. Lots of activity has taken place in preparation for this year's Navy Birthday Ball. The date has not been set yet, and there are plenty of details to work out, but the fundraising is in high gear, with thousands of dollars already raised. See ABH1 Kizzie if you would like to participate in the planning and preparation.

Finally, before I sign off, I want to remind everyone who works on board the Naval Air Station to have a safe, and healthy 4th of July weekend. The following link is provided by our Safety Department as a resource for specific information on summer recreational safety. Here you can find information on everything from backyard barbecuing, travel, motorcycle safety, camping, swimming, boating, and even fireworks. Please take a moment to check this out. We want – and need – you to come back to work! <http://safetycenter.navy.mil/>.

On that note, keep doing the great work that you do every day. Each and every one of you is a patriot, and you understand the call to serve our Nation. I appreciate what you do, and wish you all a very happy upcoming 4th of July.

Skipper Waddz sends.



## Tews' Views



**Chaplain (LCDR) Mark Tews**  
NAS Kingsville, Religious Ministries

### *In Pursuit of Happiness*

As we approach this 4th of July holiday weekend with it's celebration of our independence, rights and freedom, I want to focus a bit on one of those inalienable rights with which we are endowed by our Creator... The Pursuit of Happiness.

It's been said most folks are so busy trying to find happiness, they never find joy. So what is this strange little three-letter word that can mean so much in your life? What does it really mean to be happy and or to have joy in your life? In the Bible David says, "The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes." (Psalm 19:8) David also describes finding joy in salvation after having commit-

ted grievous sins he turned to God, begging for that early joy to instilled in him again. In Psalm 51:12, he said, "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." In the New Testament the Lord speaks many times of our, "joy being made full", expressing His desire that we share in His joy (John 15:11, 17:13). Joy is listed as one of the fruits of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22) And we are even told to consider it joy when we are faced with trials. (James 1:2)

Are you enjoying all the freedoms that you serve to defend? Have you found happiness in your life? Does it grow with every passing day, or does it shift elusively? The good news my friends is that even on those occasions when happiness eludes you, there is still joy available to you. Where or how then do we go about pursuing happiness and joy? It is certainly something we want, even something we might be inclined to pray for, and that is certainly a good place to start.

However, so many times when we pray, we think that if we ask enough times, if we phrase our sentences right, if we pray in the right prescribed sequence, if...if...if... Somehow we will convince God to do things our way. After all, Scripture says that if we ask, it will be given to us...if we seek, we will find...if we knock, the door will be opened. So, what's the problem?

Generally, the problem is that we haven't gotten tuned in to God's wavelength in the first place. Generally, we haven't spent enough time with Him to understand His heart. Generally, what we are asking for is so far out of His will there's just no way he will say "yes." And if that is the case, we can beat on God's door until we are blue in the face, and he'll keep on saying "no."

But, don't despair, don't give up the pursuit. As I've already said, there is good news. The Scripture is true. If we are walking with the Lord on a daily basis, if we are reading His Word and spending time with Him, if our relationship with Him is the most important thing in our lives, we will be in tune and what we ask for will be what he wants us to have. What then we are seeking is exactly what He is leading us to find. The doors we want to open are only those which he has prepared for us. You see, God wants to say "yes" to all your prayers. His willingness to respond positively to you is greater than you can imagine. The pursuit of happiness and joy then is found in realizing that is God who pursues us in order to make our joy complete. What we need to do is to stop trying to change His mind and instead allow Him to change ours.

***"The purpose of prayer is not to inform god of our needs, but to invite Him to rule our lives"***  
– Clarence Bauman



**CAPT Bill "BD" Davis**  
Commander, Training Air Wing TWO

## In The Break...



Summer is upon us. The temperatures are soaring as we head into July we can expect those typical very hot – black flag – late mornings and afternoons. The black flag is part of warning system developed to let people know whether it is safe to work outside, which includes exercise. If you look at the flag pole at the command building, there are flags also located at the gym and Air Ops, you will see a colored flag which hangs throughout the day describing the heat index. The black flag which is our normal condition in the summer time indicates physical training and strenuous exercise is not recommended. The below chart describes the different color flags.

(1) Heat Condition V (<82.0 – Blue Flag). Extremely intense physical exertion may precipitate heat exhaustion or heat stroke; therefore, caution should be taken.

(2) Heat Condition IV (82.0-84.9 – Green Flag). Discretion required in planning heavy exercise for unseasoned personnel. This is a marginal limit of environmental heat stress.

(3) Heat Condition III (85.0-87.9 – Yellow Flag). Strenuous exercise and activity (i.e., close order drill) should be curtailed for new and unseasoned personnel during the first three weeks of exposure.

(4) Heat Condition II (88.0-89.9 – Red Flag). Strenuous exercise should be curtailed for all personnel with less than 12 weeks training in hot weather.

(5) Heat Condition I (>90.0 – Black Flag). Physi-

cal training and strenuous exercise should be suspended for all personnel (excludes operational commitments not for training purposes).

Working outside in the high temperatures associated with South Texas can result heat stroke and heat exhaustion. That includes flying in these hot temperatures where the ramp temperatures have been measured on a typical day at 120+. Everyone needs to watch out for each other and ensure good hydration to avoid serious injury. Below is a guide to the signs and symptoms associated with heat stress and exhaustion.

### Heat Stress

When the body is unable to cool itself by sweating, several heat-induced illnesses such as heat stress or heat exhaustion and the more severe heat stroke can occur, and can result in death.

### Factors Leading to Heat Stress

High temperature and humidity; direct sun or heat; limited air movement; physical exertion; poor physical condition; some medicines; and inadequate tolerance for hot workplaces.

### Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion

- Headaches, dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting.
- Weakness and moist skin.
- Mood changes such as irritability or confusion.
- Upset stomach or vomiting.

### Symptoms of Heat Stroke

- Dry, hot skin with no sweating.
- Mental confusion or losing consciousness.
- Seizures or convulsions.

### Preventing Heat Stress

- Know signs/symptoms of heat-related illnesses; monitor yourself and coworkers.
- Block out direct sun or other heat sources.
- Use cooling fans/air-conditioning; rest regularly.
- Drink lots of water; about 1 cup every 15 minutes.
- Wear lightweight, light colored, loose-fitting clothes.
- Avoid alcohol, caffeinated drinks, or heavy meals.

In closing, Congratulations to our new wingee's who received their Wings of Gold this week:

Training Squadron 21 (VT-21): LTJG David V. Bellis, USN; LTJG Ashutash V. Bobade, Indian Navy; LTJG Nathan A. Miller, USN; LT Gokul Suresh, Indian Navy; LTJG Pradeep Shukla, Indian Navy; 1st LT Maximilian A. Tufts III, USMC;

Training Squadron 22 (VT-22): LTJG Anne L. Domko, USN; LTJG Joseph T. Giordano, USN; 1st LT Andrew B. Greer, USMC; 1st LT Lloyd A. Harper, USMC; 1st LT Matthew W. Patera, USMC; LTJG Jared M. Wolcott, USN;

You should all be very proud of your accomplishments.

Best wishes, BD

## The Flying K

### Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

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**ATTN: CAPTAIN'S LINE.**

### Frocking Ceremony

*From left CDR Scott Allen, NASK Executive Officer, presents frocking letters to CS2 Bernice Meno and MA2 Russell Myers in a special ceremony held June 11.*



### Awards Ceremony

*Front row (from left) MA2 Jessica Cato, JSOQ; GM1 Kevin Hooks, SOQ; AC2 Melvin Jernigan, BJOQ; and AC2 Ann Marie Wood, GCM. Back row (from left) CAPT Phil Waddingham; AO2 Nathan Guffey, GCM; AEC James Moore, GCM; AC1 Matthew Duchesne, GCM; AD1 Santos Rivas, RIMPAC 06 LOC; AT2 Jacob Hood, NASK LOC; and AC2 Jeremy Whiteley, NASK LOC.*



# NOAA predicts “near-normal” or “above-normal” 2008 Hurricane Season

The 2008 Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service’s National Hurricane Center, a “near normal” hurricane season is being predicted for U.S. coastal areas in 2008. The “near normal” prediction includes the probability of 12-16 named storms during the season, with 6-9 of those storms reaching hurricane strength and 2-5 becoming major hurricanes. NOAA’s predictions were announced on the onset of the 2008 Atlantic Hurricane Season June 1.

“Living in a coastal state means having a plan for each and every hurricane season. Review or complete emergency plans now - before a storm threatens,” said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. “Planning and preparation is the key to storm survival and recovery.”

Similar climate patterns to those expected this season have produced a wide-range of activity according to the National Hurricane Center. Those climate patterns have produced near-normal and above-normal seasons. An “average” hurricane season has 11 named storms, with six hurricanes and two hurricanes listed as category IV or better.

“The outlook is a general guide to the overall seasonal hurricane activity,” Lautenbacher said. “It does not predict whether, where or when any of these storms may hit land. That is the job of the National Hurricane Center after a storm forms.”

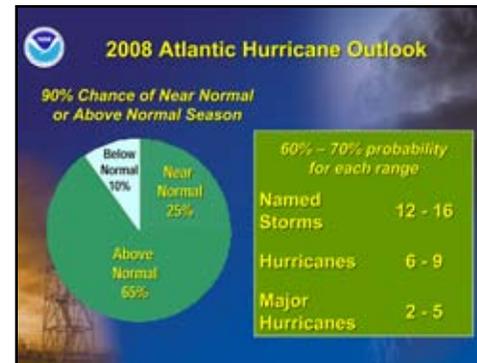
Bill Read, director of NOAA’s National Hurricane Center, said, “Our forecasters are ready to track any tropical cyclone, from a depression to a hurricane,

which forms in the Atlantic Basin. We urge coastal residents to have a hurricane plan in place before the season begins and NHC will continue to provide the best possible forecast to the public.”

When a storm forms in the tropics – and even before that stage – NOAA forecasters at the Miami-based National Hurricane Center are in continuous monitoring mode – employing a dense network of satellites, land- and ocean-based sensors and aircraft reconnaissance missions operated by NOAA and its partners. This array of data supplies the information for complex computer modeling and human expertise that serves the basis for the hurricane center’s track and intensity forecasts that extend out five days in advance.

The science behind the outlook is rooted in the analysis and prediction of current and future global climate patterns as compared to previous seasons with similar conditions.

“The main factors influencing this year’s seasonal outlook are the continuing multi-decadal signal (the combination of ocean and atmospheric conditions that have spawned increased hurricane activity since 1995), and the anticipated lingering effects of La Niña,” said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center. “One of the expect-



ed oceanic conditions is a continuation since 1995 of warmer-than-normal temperatures in the eastern tropical Atlantic.”

“Americans in hurricane-prone states must get serious and be prepared. Government – even with the federal, tribal, state and local governments working perfectly in sync – is not the entire answer. Everyone is part of the emergency management process,” said FEMA Administrator R. David Paulison. “We must continue to develop a culture of preparedness in America in which every American takes personal responsibility for his or her own emergency preparedness.”

NOAA’s Atlantic hurricane season outlook will be updated on Aug. 7, just prior to what is historically the peak period for

hurricane activity.

Tropical systems acquire a name – the first of which for 2008 will be Arthur – upon reaching tropical storm strength with sustained winds of at least 39 mph. Tropical storms become hurricanes when winds reach 74 mph, and become major hurricanes when winds reach 111 mph.

## Safety - Hurricane Preparedness

(From Rhumb Lines: Straight Lines to Navigate By)

Hurricane preparedness is our Maritime Strategy in action. Exercising our hurricane preparedness plans in anticipation of the 2008 storm season assures our readiness for two core capabilities -- maritime security and humanitarian assistance/disasters. -- - ADM Jonathen Greenhart, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Personal and unit preparations for hurricanes should be a continued effort during the entire season (June 1 - Nov. 30). This year’s preparations and hurricane exercises emphasize sortie and disaster preparedness by Navy units.

### Personal responsibility throughout hurricane season

- Have emergency supplies and materials on hand in advance can avoid shortages.
- Have an evacuation plan for those left behind, including pets, if units are required to sortie and aircraft have to evacuate.
- Inspect homes throughout the season for storm damage – check gutters, storm shutters, and shingles.
- Monitor radio and television reports frequently, as hurricanes can drastically change course and intensity.
- Tie down or move indoors potential airborne objects which may cause injury or death in strong winds.
- Have cash and a car with a full gas tank in case of

evacuation. If ordered to evacuate, do so immediately.

### Command responsibilities before and during an approaching hurricane

- Implement procedures for determining the status and whereabouts of Sailors and Navy family members after a catastrophic event and train families on these procedures.
- Conduct personnel accountability and family assessments according to the geographic area of interest (GAOI), established by NAVADMIN based on storm tracks.
- It is strongly recommended that all Sailors share their evacuation plans with command leaders before evacuations are ordered which will serve to hasten the accountability process.

### How the Navy prepares – HURREX 08

*This year’s exercise provides a focused training event to afloat and shore-based commands with hurricane threat scenarios for use in exercising sortie, evacuation, emergency preparedness, and recovery and consequence management procedures.*

- Being prepared ensures that the Navy is ready to respond to weather threats to U.S. coastal regions and maintain the ability to deploy forces even under the most adverse weather conditions.

- Timeliness is crucial in accounting for family members during a hurricane, especially with geographically separated families.

- The Navy remains committed to the safety, security and accountability of our Sailors and Navy family members during hurricanes.

### Key Messages:

- Personnel accountability clearly remains both a command and an individual responsibility.
- As partners of the community, the Navy will inform local areas of any actions taken to improve readiness and responsiveness in the event of a hurricane.
- A prepared Navy is a ready Navy. A unit is only as prepared as all its Sailors, and Sailors are only as prepared as their family members.

### Facts & Figures:

- The Navy family and accountability and assessment system is located at <https://www.navyfamily.navy.mil>.
- The 2007 Atlantic hurricane season produced 14 named storms, including six hurricanes, two of which were major. The 2008 season prediction is 15 named storms, with eight hurricanes, and four major.
- Additional hurricane preparedness information is available at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.

**(SOQ from page 1)**

said. "It's been [really] fulfilling."

The Jr. Sailor of the Quarter also hailed from Security, where she serves a Military Working Dog Handler. Master at Arms 2nd Class Jessica Cato, from Lockport, La., was selected from a strong field of candidates for the award, and volunteerism played a key role in gaining her the honor. "I do a lot of volunteer work in the community and I enjoy helping and guiding others," Cato said. She is also involved in a number of base Community Outreach Programs that help solidify the relationship between the Navy and the local community.

When it comes to selecting a specific job that Cato does best for her department, Lozano says he'd be hard-pressed to pick one. "MA2 Cato does a lot of things for a lot of people in the department," he said. "She also initiated an advancement study group for E-5 and below personnel to help prepare them for advancement,

**SOQ****GM1(SW) Kevin Hooks**

and she helps the community by working with the children and painting homes in a number of Community Outreach Programs. She is definitely a team player."

Cato, who has been on board since October 2005, has also done her part for the global war on terror by serving six months as an Individual Augmentee in Iraq.

Still, despite her accomplishments, she feels she is just doing her job. "I feel very honored to have received this award and be recognized for my work on base and in the city of Kingsville," she said. "I know there are a lot of good junior petty officers on this base who are deserving of this honor."

In addition to her regular duties, Cato serves as the Lost and Found Custodian, Alternate Evidence Custodian and MWR representative for the department.

The Bluejacket of the Quarter is Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Melvin Jernigan, who hails from Oklahoma City, Okla., and was recently selected for advancement

**JSOQ****MA2 Jessica Cato**

to his present grade. Jernigan has been on board the air station for 18 months and has quickly moved up the advancement ladder. He has proven himself to be a valuable member of the Air Traffic Control team at NAS Kingsville, and he is well respected within his department, according to Chief Air Traffic Controller Mike Presnell, ATC leading chief. "AC2 Jernigan is not only one of our top air traffic controllers at one of the busiest ATC facilities in the Navy," Presnell said, "but he is a direct representation of a dedicated Sailor.

Jernigan's also shown initiative. He has taken a leadership role in Air Ops as Recycling Petty Officer, which is important for the base, community and the planet, and he said he was honored to be selected for the award and to be recognized for his performance.

"I work hard to get qualified and I [take pride in] maintaining military bearing. I think that's important. To get this recognition feels like an accomplishment, a stepping stone to a brighter career in the Navy."

**BJOQ****AC2 Melvin Jernigan**

## MCPON To Chief Selection Board: "What I expect of 1st Class Petty Officers"

By Senior Chief Mass Communications Specialist (SW/AW) Bill Houlihan

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr addressed the active duty chief petty officer selection board June 23 and outlined his expectations of first class petty officers being considered for selection to chief.

"You are the gatekeepers to our [CPO] community," Campa told the selection board. "What you do in the next several weeks will impact our [chiefs] mess and our Navy for years to come."

First line leadership, rating expertise, professionalism, communication, loyalty and heritage are all mentioned in the CPO precepts, the governing document each selection board uses as they deliberate and select Sailors whose records appear in front of a board.

"Those expectations are the things we expect our first classes to be doing. We expect them to generate deckplate results. The most important factor I want you to consider is leadership, what they're doing for those they lead. No one should be wearing an anchor on their collar if they can't lead Sailors," Campa said.

Language taken straight from the guidance, "Expectations of the First Class Petty Officer" has been inserted into the selection board's precepts, and those



*MILLINGTON, Tenn. (June 23, 2008) Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa Jr. addresses the E-7 selection board at the base chapel during his visit to Naval Support Activity Mid-South, Millington. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jennifer A. Villalovos.*

Sailors who live up to them have the best chance of putting on anchors Sept. 16.

Campa introduced the Expectations in December

2007 and reinforced a number of characteristics effective first class petty officers have always demonstrated. Just seven months later, those expectations have been formally recognized as the most significant indicators of a candidate's potential to lead as a chief.

Campa followed a similar formula after he introduced the Chief Petty Officer's Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles. Within a year of their creation, they were inserted into senior and master chief selection board precepts.

"It's one thing to talk about what we expect from our leaders, it's a whole other matter to drive performance based on those expectations. That's what we do when we place the Guiding Principles or the Expectations into precepts.

"We're telling our Sailors that if they want to be advanced, the success of those they lead is what the board is going to look at," said Campa.

The results of the MCPON's message will be felt by the entire fleet when CPO results are released later this summer.

For more news from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, visit [www.navy.mil/local/mcpon/](http://www.navy.mil/local/mcpon/).

# Branch Health Clinic Kingsville corpsmen demonstrate tactical combat casualty skills

By Bill W. Love, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Public Affairs

Fifteen “battle ready” Navy Corpsmen from Branch Health Clinic Kingsville (BHCK) sharpened their tactical combat casualty skills during the 1st Annual Hospital Corpsmen Olympics held on the Air Station June 13. Comprising five teams, the Corpsmen negotiated five different life-saving technique scenarios spread out along a three-quarter-mile course behind the NAS Kingsville gym complex, while swiftly demonstrating proficiencies under the watchful eyes of five seasoned proctors. The timed event was held in recognition of the 110th Birthday of the Hospital Corps.

Spearheading the process improvement exercise were Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF/SW) Kelly Miller and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (FMF) Justin Lancaster.

“We wanted everyone involved!” stated Miller, a San Antonio native and Independent Duty Corpsman who joined the BHCK team in November 2007 from the U.S. Marine Corps’ Hawaii-based Combat Service Support Group Three. He and the clinic’s training petty officer, Lancaster, drew from each other’s experiences in different theatres while planning the field event. Lancaster, who hails from Mesa, Ariz., humped with the 1st Marine Division out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., before beefing up the BHCK team a year and a half ago. “In Afghanistan we had [to transport] a KIA (killed in action) that we had to carry down a mountain pass,” Miller explained, emphasizing the importance of adding as much realism to the drill as possible. “Granted, we weren’t treating him at the same time, but we carried him for two miles.”

Patient Carry Station 3 simulated that realism, although Miller and Lancaster ensured a more thorough and heftier workout by requiring teams to carry each other on stretchers the entire route. Lancaster revealed that several of the teams’ members who have not recently served with the Marines [in the field] benefited from the “full field perspective.”

Supervising the competing teams during the 90-minute drill were five experienced veterans who served as proctors, assessing practical aspects of hemorrhage control, airway control, patient carry, intravenous therapy, and casualty response. Three of the proctors are assigned to Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi (NHCCC).

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (FMF) Luis Rodriguez

monitored hemorrhage control techniques at Station 1. Rodriguez, assigned to NHCCC Manpower, is a valued, Texas native who has served two tours of duty in Iraq. Prior to reporting for duty at NHCCC in August 2007, he was assigned to 1st Marine Division, 5th Marine Regiment Aid Station. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in combat and he has been in the Navy for five years.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (FMF) Gabriel Llanas directed teams during patient carry exercises at station 3. Llanas, a five year Navy veteran, is assigned to the NHCCC Pharmacy. He hails from Miles, Texas.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (FMF) Justin Hradil observed teams’ casualty response at Station 5. Hradil hails from San Antonio and has been in the Navy for six years. He joined the NHCCC team two months ago from the 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. He is now assigned to NHCCC Management Services.

Lancaster says that the overall knowledge of all of the participants impressed him, particularly with their IV skills. During in-brief prior to the event’s start, teams were alerted that sticking partners during that phase would be tricky because members were going to be graded on how well they prepared the site, used proper technique and established an IV line. “Lots of the guys hadn’t done IV,” Lancaster remarked, “and they got it right the first time.”

One of the participants, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (FMF) Jacob Welch from Joshua, Texas, a six year Navy veteran who has already served a total of 20 months in Iraq with the 2nd Marines, shared his perspective.

Welch has been a member of the BHCK team for two years and he said that he thought the training went very well. “Any time you do something for the first time there is usually a good deal of glitches,” he said. “I did not notice anything of the sort. Everything ran so



Left to right: HM1(FMF) Billy Chanek, HMC(FMF) Daniel Hansen, and HMC(FMF) Tony Lafuente participate in a hemorrhage control exercise with patient MM2(SW) Justin Nutt. Photo by Bill W. Love, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi.

smooth, it was almost fluid.”

Welch also said that the drill increased his confidence and put the night and day difference of working in a clinic – and with the Marines – in real perspective.

As each of the five teams approached the final station, Hradil ensured that they followed the format, guidelines, and procedures for calling in a NINE-Line Medevac. Hradil’s call sign was ‘Station 5’.

“I also gave the teams various extremities to splint while calling in the NINE-Line,” Hradil said. “LCDR Hardin’s [BHCK officer-in-charge] call sign was ‘Charlie Med’.

Her role was to respond to the NINE-Line as if it would have been received ‘in theater’ and give confirmation of dispatch of an inbound helo. She gave the go-ahead to move from [the final] station to the finish line once Station 5 was complete.” Hradil added that he was impressed with the corpsmen’s capabilities, combined with the have-fun attitude of the event.

“I think that the Corpsmen at NAS Kingsville demonstrated through practical application that there are no rookies in the Hospital Corps when it comes to Combat Casualty Care,” Hradil declared. “The Corpsmen Olympics was well-organized, efficient, and it touched all of the aspects of [Tactical Combat Casualty Course] TCCC.”

Something about the Corpsmen Olympics resonated with Welch on a more personal level. In fact, he described it as “pretty awesome.”

“I am a part of something bigger than me!” he said. “110 years of tradition and sacrifice, that’s what we were celebrating ... 110 years of friendship and brotherhood. I know that one day I may be called upon to save the life of a Marine or soldier. History may not ever know my name, but that Marine or soldier will never forget it!”

The top three teams completed the course with times of 24:59, 27:45, and 30:17.



HM3 Steven McKinley (left) performs the “fireman’s carry” on HM3 Garcia as HM3 Jacob Welch runs besides them for support. Photo by EN3 Brenda Acevedo.



HM2(FMF) Marlon Rendon (left), and HM1(SW) Ralph Sample (right) strain to get HM2(FMF) Levon Hansford to safety while negotiating the patient carry. Photo by Bill W. Love, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi.



HM3 Cyrus Cunningham inserts an intravenous catheter into HM3(FMF) Ismael Lopez’s arm at the IV therapy station. Photo by Bill W. Love, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi.

## Hooks use 9th inning rally to down Tulsa on Military Appreciation Night at Whataburger Field

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The Corpus Christi Hooks scored two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning Thursday, June 26 to turn back the Tulsa Drillers, 4-3, in front of 6,500 fans on Military Appreciation Night at Whataburger Field. The two-run rally capped a come-from-behind win for the Hooks, snapping a five game losing streak.

On a night that was dedicated to military personnel throughout South Texas, fans were treated to a great pitcher's dual through the first six innings, and a dramatic come-from-behind victory by the Hooks.

Prior to the start of the game, the focus was on the military. The Hooks coordinated the special night Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Departments at all South Texas military installations to provide service members and their families a night at the ball park. The festivities included a 50-flag ceremony, a re-enlistment, a helicopter fly-in to deliver the game balls, a ceremonial first pitch by seven local base commanders, and the singing of the national anthem by DC2(SW) Jimmy Rush from the South Central Regional Maintenance Center at Naval Station Ingleside. There was also a pre-game enlistment ceremony as 26 people on the Navy's Delayed Entry Program were sworn into the Navy by Ingleside Skipper CAPT B.T. Taylor.

NAS Corpus Christi Commanding Officer CAPT Tim Coolidge thought the opening ceremonies went fairly smoothly. "The first pitch went well," Coolidge said. "The helo transfer was flawless, and the Aircrewman delivered



the game balls to me. When the helo departed, all seven of us lined up and, on the announcer's call, all pitched at the same time (to 7 catchers). Quick and painless - and while I was collecting the balls, the others formed a line in front of the mound. Probably a smart thing...but, for the record, I had lined up at the pitcher's mound!"

Area MWR's set up a nice pre-game for military personnel who attended the game, and use of the swimming pool. Senior Chief Aviation Machinist mate Jon Bess spent most of the night sampling the food and chatting with fellow Chiefs and Sailors from NAS Corpus Christi. Bess said he had a good time, but had to leave early and missed the late-inning heroics.

"It was nice to see the Chiefs from Corpus again," Bess said. "I hadn't seen most of them since CPO season last year. It's always fun to hang out with our fellow Chiefs and Sailors. It definitely strengthens the camaraderie. Overall, it was great food, great drink, and great people. It doesn't get much better than that."

NAS Kingsville executive secretary Janie Ramos, who attended the game with her husband Rene, provided photos of the pre-game ceremonies.

"There was a good size group of civilians and military from NASK (familiar faces), Ramos said. "Rene and I really enjoyed it. We were leaving at the beginning of the 9th inning, and walking almost to the exit when the Hooks started to hit the ball and score. We got so excited that we stood around and watched."

Ramos said one of her favorite parts of the evening's festivities was the military helicopter fly-in. "The helicopter was really a sight to see," she said. "A Coast Guard air-



The Corpus Christi Hooks held a Military Appreciation Night on June 26, the first of two planned this season. Throwing out the first pitch, from left, are: Capt. Philip Waddingham, CO NAS Kingsville; Capt. B.T. Taylor, CO Naval Station Ingleside; Capt. Tim Coolidge, CO NAS Corpus Christi; Chief Warrant Officer-3 Daniel Jandrey, USMC, MATSG-22; Cmdr. Jason Fosdick, Corpus Christi Deputy Sector Commander, USCG; Col. Joe Dunaway, CO Corpus Christi Army Depot; and Capt. Matt Elleby, USAF, Training Squadron 35. Photo by Rod Hafemeister, NAS Corpus Christi Public Affairs for "The Wingspan."

crewman was hauled down with a cable and he unstrapped himself, walked over to a military person and handed delivered the [game balls] and our CO, CAPT Coolidge, and the other CO's in attendance threw out the first pitch. There were a lot of people and military personnel taking close-up photos."

Chaplain Mark Tews summed up the night in just a few words. "Great venue, great camaraderie, great game, great fun!" he said.

As far as the game was concerned, it couldn't have ended any better if it had scripted. Neither team seemed to be able to get anything going off starters Al Johnson (Tulsa) and Chance Douglas (Hooks). The game remained scoreless through six innings, but things changed quickly in the top of the seventh.

Solo home runs by Tulsa's Tony Blanco and Justin Nelson and an unearned run, gave the Drillers 3-0 lead and ended the night for Douglas. Overall, the 24-year old allowed 8 hits over 7 innings and walked one. He threw a total of 97 pitches on the night. Southpaw Chris Blazek came in to relieve Douglas, and was able to hold Tulsa scoreless the rest of the way, keeping the hopes alive for the Hooks.

In the bottom of the seventh, Corpus Christi pushed a pair of runs across the plate to cut the gap to 3-2 and that's the way it stayed until the bottom of the ninth.

A leadoff walk to Ole Sheldon got the winning rally started. Then, an attempted sacrifice bunt by Val Majewski was misplayed by the pitcher and a wild throw to second base allowed both runners to move up. With the tying run at third and the winning run at second with nobody out, right fielder Eli Iorg then delivered the game winning runs with a bloop two-run single to right.



# NS Ingleside wins governor's Volunteer Award

Story, photo by Mike Antoine, NS Ingleside Public Affairs Specialist

Naval Station Ingleside was recognized June 4 at the 25th annual Governor's Volunteer Awards Program in Austin. CDR Bryce Gibb, NAVSTA Executive Officer, accepted the award on behalf of the base from Texas State Comptroller Susan Combs, who said, "volunteerism is at the core of good citizenship."

The Governor's Volunteer Awards recognize exceptional individuals and organizations committed to creating positive, long-lasting change.

After a three-tiered selection process that ended with voting by a committee appointed by Texas Governor, Rick Perry, Naval Station Ingleside was selected as winner in the "Community Motivator" category for government/public institutions. The Community Motivator category recognizes those who promote an ethic of service and have a true compassion for others.

"This recognition of our volunteers by the governor of Texas clearly validates what folks in South Texas have known for years," said CAPT B.T. Taylor, NAVSTA Commanding Officer, "that the Sailors and civilians who work aboard Naval Station Ingleside aren't just 'good neighbors,' they are 'great neighbors,' and they demonstrate it day after day, week after week, month after month."

Here's an overview of what personnel working aboard Naval Station Ingleside have been doing to make a difference in South Texas.

Throughout 2007, personnel aboard the station gave blood on 12 different occasions aboard the



NAVSTA XO, CDR Bryce Gibb, accepts the 2008 Governor's Volunteer Award on behalf of Naval Station Ingleside from Texas State Comptroller, Susan Combs.

base, including the second consecutive win in the annual Memorial Day Blood Drive Challenge. Thanks to the generosity of Naval Station Ingleside personnel, this command won the annual challenge arms down – donating a whopping 73 units of blood in a single drive – more than the combined share of the two other local bases.

In April, nearly two dozen Sailors from the station volunteered to help out during the annual Special Olympics Spring Games, helping more than 400 "Special Olympians" experience the "thrill of vic-

tory."

In May, nearly 30 Sailors from the station installed a roof on a local county's first Habitat for Humanity house.

In June, station personnel participated in the annual "American Cancer Relay for Life," held in Aransas Pass, helping to raise more than \$77,000 to help fund research and fight cancer.

In September, Navy Chief Petty Officer selectees visited a local children's hospital, bring toys, coloring books, and games to the dozens of young patients.

In November, a Navy Commander at the base participated in a biking event to raise awareness and help get donations for multiple sclerosis. The officer cycled for two days on a 150-mile trek from San Antonio to Corpus Christi.

Station personnel volunteered for a myriad of worthwhile endeavors in whatever capacity they are asked to serve: from manning ticket booths at area festivals, to serving dinner at Corpus Christi's annual "Feast of Sharing," to collecting coats for the needy during winter.

Personnel also gave of their time and talents on weekends or weekday afternoons coaching basketball, baseball, soccer, or any of a host of youth sporting activities.

Perhaps most remarkably, station personnel continue to give of their time and talent even as the base prepares for Congressionally-mandated closure in 2010.

## Kingsville Community Calendar

### 4th of July Concert by Kingsville Symphony (7/4/2008)

- Independence Day celebration concert on Friday, July 4 with our own Brian Shelton, Director of Bands, Texas A&M. Concert will be held in the Jones Auditorium on campus at 3 p.m.. Music will be patriotic pieces we all know and love honoring our country and military. A spectacular presentation of fireworks will be shown on the stage with music. Enlisted military and veterans in uniform free, tickets from \$5 to \$30 for all others. Military branches represented will be recognized during a special Armed Forces Salute. For more information go to [www.kingsvillesymphony.org](http://www.kingsvillesymphony.org) others.

**Old-Fashioned July 4th Celebration (7/4/2008)** - Plans are underway for an all-day 4th Celebration. Kingsville Symphony performing, Bicycle Parade, Pet Parade and other activities are being planned. NAS Kingsville to present Fireworks at dark for base personnel. Other spectators will be able to park outside of fenced area for viewing. Stay tuned to the Convention & Visitors Bureau site at [www.kingsvilletexas.com](http://www.kingsvilletexas.com) for more information. For parade entry information call 361.592.8516 or e-mail [cvb@kingsvilletexas.com](mailto:cvb@kingsvilletexas.com) or [visitors@kingsvilletexas.com](mailto:visitors@kingsvilletexas.com).

**Discovering Belly Dancing (7/7/2008 thru 7/17/2008)** - Youth 12 years and older might like to learn the art of belly dancing this summer. There are two sessions of Discovering Belly Dancing. The first session will be held Monday,



July 7 through Thursday, July 10. The second session will be held July 14-17. The cost is \$40 per session. For more information, call the Center for Distance Learning and Continuing Education at 361-593-2861.

**Kritter Camp (7/7/2008 thru 7/11/2008)** - The King Ranch Family Trust and the Center for Distance Learning and Continuing Education will sponsor Kritter Kamp for children ages 7 through 10, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday, July 7 through Friday, July 11. Campers will learn about the life cycle of the butterfly, tour three exhibits on campus, and take photos of Coastal Bend wildlife in their natural habitats. The cost is \$100 per camper \$85 for military dependents and children of A&M-Kingsville employees. The camp is limited to 20 students and 10 scholarships are available. For more information, call Jennifer McClaren, education coordinator, or Rhonda Camp, office manager, at 361-881-9316 or click More Info.

**Student Athletic Trainer Workshop (7/9/2008 thru 7/12/2008)** - The Student Athletic Trainer Workshop is a residential camp geared for the high school age student athletic trainer. It will be held Wednesday, July, 9 through

Saturday, July 12. Workshop tuition is \$250 and for groups of three or more it is \$225. The deadline to register for camp is Tuesday, July 1. For more information, call Ruben Cantu at 361-593-2493.

**Boy's Basketball Camp (7/14/2008 thru 7/18/2008)** - Javelina Men's Basketball Coach

Pete Peterson will host a boy's basketball camp for players 7 to 17 years old from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, July 14 through Friday, July, 18. Campers may commute or stay in the residence halls. The deadline to register is June, 27. The cost of the camp is \$160 for day campers and \$345 for overnight campers. For more information, call 361-516-0314.

**Girl's Basketball Camps (7/18/2008 thru 7/25/2008)** - There are three different camps available this summer. A mother/daughter shooting camp will be held Friday and Saturday, July 18-19, for grades 4 through 12 and cost \$175 for overnights and \$125 for commuters. The camp will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on July 18 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 19. A day camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, July 21 through Wednesday, July 23, for kindergarten to eighth grade and cost \$90 per camper. A Post/Perimeter Camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, July 24-25 and cost \$75 for grades 7-12. For more information, call Crystal Oates at 361-593-2499.

# Navy Announces New Sport Bike Rider Course

By MC1(SW) Waldemar B. Swoboda, Fleet Public Affairs Center Atlantic

NORFOLK, Va. – The Naval Safety Center (NSC) and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) unveiled the new Military Sport Bike Course (MSBC) designed specifically for high-performance motorcycles, at a June 11 press conference at Naval Station Norfolk.

ADM Jonathan Greenert, Commander, U. S. Fleet Forces Command and RADM Arthur J. Johnson, Commander, Naval Safety Center, both lauded the effort involved in bringing this to the fleet.

According to Greenert, too many service members are getting injured or killed on this kind of high-performance motorcycle. “We need to arrest that trend,” said Greenert.

Sport bikes, many weighing less than 450 pounds and producing up to 190 horsepower, are built for speed and high maneuverability. It’s estimated that 94 percent of traffic fatalities occurred among first year riders, who average 24 years old.

“We (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) wanted to develop something with the Navy where we were able to help the rider become more aware of what’s going on inside their head not just their skill,” said Charlie Fernandez, general manager, for the MSF. “Our hope and anticipation is to help riders become more aware of the decisions they’re making and to make wiser choices out there.”

According to the NSC, there are approximately 25,000 Sailors and Marines licensed to drive motorcycles; of those nearly 12,500 ride sport bikes. With 32 motorcycle fatalities this fiscal year - 30 involv-

ing sport bikes - it is easy to see why the Navy takes this issue seriously.

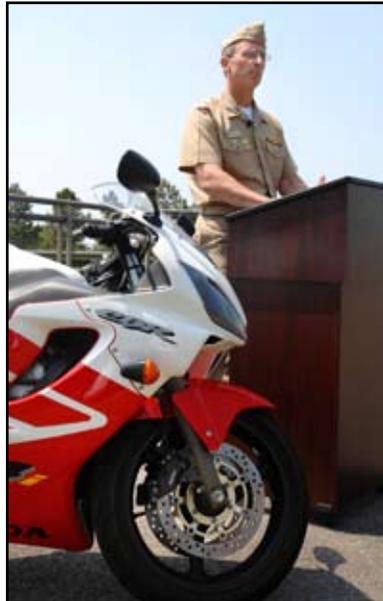
“It’s kind of alarming that these are the type of bikes that are having the fatalities,” said Don Borkoski, the motorcycle safety manager at the NSC, adding that the number of riders continues to rise.

Borkoski, a 30-year retired Navy veteran, was instrumental in creating the MSBC. An avid rider, Borkoski is familiar with the high fatality rate involved with sport bikes. Soon after arriving at the Safety Center, he briefed leadership about the need for specific training on these high-performance machines. It took less than a year for the concept to reach fruition, making its way up to the Secretary of the Navy.

“It’s not the machine,” explained Borkoski. “What we

were doing was providing training on these bikes as if it were a propeller airplane, when in all actuality this is a jet fighter.”

The MSBC began in fleet concentration areas earlier this month, including San Diego, Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Jacksonville, Fla., and is expected to spread rapidly throughout Navy and Marine Corps installations world-wide. The vision for the MSBC for 2009 is a full service contract where trainer motorcycles are available to all interested riders, so service members can make a more informed decision before purchasing their own motorcycle.



ADM Jonathan Greenert

“This is increasing our capabilities and skills on the road,” said LCDR Thomas Clark, from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 136 who attended this first ever course. “As a Navy member, this course tells me the Navy actually cares about their people, to take the time and spend the resources allowing us the opportunity to come out here.”

The one-day, eight-hour course, focuses on the speed and cornering characteristics of sport bikes with three hours of classroom instruction followed by four hours of range exercise. Students are able to apply the skills they have just learned under strict supervision in a controlled atmosphere. The MSBC is limited to 12 students per class. For more information on motorcycle safety and this course go to <http://safetycenter.navy.mil/ashore/motorvehicle/motorcycle>.



NORFOLK, Va. (June 11, 2008) Volunteer motorcycle safety instructor Nick Brunney gives the command for riders to shut down their bikes after completing the morning session of the first Naval Safety Center-sponsored Military Sport Bike Course at Naval Station Norfolk. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kristopher S. Wilson.



**WELCOME ABOARD!**

*The following personnel have reported*



<p><b>Ensign Andrew N. Mitchell, USN</b> Student Naval Aviator, VT-21 Middleton, Wis.</p>	<p><b>Lt. Moses Smith, USN</b> Instructor Pilot, VT-21 Chino, Calif.</p>
<p><b>Capt. Matthew E. Halbert, USMC</b> Instructor Pilot, VT-22 Marietta, Ga.</p>	<p><b>Ensign Clayton A. Johnson, USN</b> Student Naval Aviator, VT-21 Crawford, Texas</p>



(2) lazyboy-type recliners: (1) taupe, (1) chocolate, faux-suede, new. \$200 EA-OBO

(2) slider-rocker-recliners w/ottomans, new, (1) still in box, both taupe. \$200 OBO Call cell (361) 765-9840 for questions/negotiations...

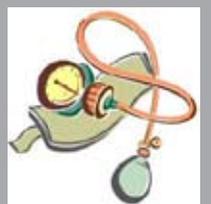
For Sale: Used side-by-side refrigerator, dishwasher, conventional oven and table top stove. All in working order and good condition. \$350 for all. Call 592-6776.

## Free cholesterol, blood pressure and diabetes screening!

**Who: All active duty military and retirees**

**When: Saturday, July 12 (9 a.m. to 12 p.m.)**

**Where: HEB Pharmacy, Kingsville**





*NAS Kingsville  
Branch Health Clinic Corner*



**Season of the Snake**

Summer has officially begun! Time to get out there and play in the garden, cut the grass, and do those things that you don't have to do during the winter months.

The summer sun is out and the temperature is rising. With this, brings snakes. Here are just a few things to remember if you happen upon a snake.

- Keep your distance. Most snakes can strike about half of their length.
- When walking in high grass make sure you wear thick leather shoes.
- Try not to put your hands or feet in areas that you can't see.

Most importantly, if you stumble upon a snake, be sure to keep your distance. Most people get bit because they try to kill the snake or because they want to get a better look at it. And if something happens and you do get bit, here are a couple things you can do.

- Wash the area, if possible, with soap and water.
- Splint the area and try to keep it below the heart
- **SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION!!!**

It is most important to get any snake bite victim to a hospital as soon as possible. Also, try to get a good look at the snake that bit you so that when you get to the hospital you can give them a proper description of the snake you so that the hospital can give you the proper anti-venom.

If you have any further questions in regards to how to treat a snake bite, you can go to [www.bitesandstings-online.com](http://www.bitesandstings-online.com) for more information.

By HM3(FMF) Jacob Welch

## Navy Ball Car Wash



*Above: Navy Ball committee members ABH3 Emilio Ortiz works the pressure washer while AC2 Wallace Edwards washes. Below: RP3 Norman Otters (left) and ABE1 Andre Kizzie scrub-a-dub another vehicle.*



## Where Did I Leave My Toes?

By April Phillips, Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

There's so much to love about summer – the beach, the sun, warm weather and long days. Mowing the grass usually doesn't rank too high on the list, but it has to be done. The only thing worse than interrupting an afternoon of good times to take care of this chore is losing a toe or two in the process. A third class petty officer found this out the hard way last summer, when he was dutifully tackling a yard full of crabgrass. He came to a downhill slope and the mower got stuck. He tried to plant his left foot on the back of the mower but he slipped and shoved the mower forward. This caused the back of the mower to lift and his big toe and part of another were sheared off by the still-spinning blade. He wasn't wearing boots, but if he has any interest in keeping the other eight toes, he probably will when he mows the grass this year.

The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that nearly 70,000 people a year wind up in hospital emergency rooms due to lawnmower injuries and nearly 10,000 of those are children.

According to the Naval Safety Center's website, a lawnmower blade can travel at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour. When materials such as toys, stones, and sticks encounter the blade, they too can travel 200 mph as they leave the discharge chute. That's why the blade isn't the only danger.

In addition to cutting and projectile dangers,

mowers also cause burns. The muffler and cylinder head heat-up during operation and remain hot for a while after the engine has been shut off.

However, these risks don't give you an excuse to stay inside where it's air conditioned and let your grass grow up to the rooftop. Mowing the lawn can be accomplished without mishap as long as you follow a few simple precautions:

- (1) Prepare your lawn for mowing. This means checking for sticks, rocks, toys, sports equipment, dog bones, and anything else that might be hiding in tall grass. Also look for immovable objects such as pipes and partially buried rocks or tree roots. Running into objects like these could shatter the mower's blade and send chunks of metal flying.
- (2) Handle fuel with caution. Never fill the tank when the mower is hot. Vapors from the gasoline can be ignited by a hot muffler. Wipe up any spills.
- (3) Wear appropriate clothes. Close-fitting clothes are less likely to get caught on moving parts. Long pants and sturdy shoes protect you from flying objects. Shoes should also provide good traction. Consider hearing protection when mowing for long periods of time.
- (4) Make sure other people – especially children – are clear of the area.

(5) Do not mow wet grass. It's slippery, which could cause you to lose traction. Wet grass also clogs the discharge chute and can cause the engine to stall.

(6) Use care on inclines. Always push walk-behind mowers across slopes to avoid coming in contact with the mower. Drive riding mowers up and down slopes.

(7) Never leave a running mower unattended.

For more information, contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's website at <http://www.cpsc.gov/>.



Safety is no laughing matter!



### Summer Reading Clubs

The Base Library is still taking registrations for its summer reading clubs, which started on June 2. There are three clubs, ages 5-6, 7-9 and 10-12.

The meeting times are Thursdays at 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. for ages 4-5, 2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. for ages 7-9 and 3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. for ages 10-12. Each club has a limit of seven children. Club activities include: reading, crafts, games, etc. Smaller children should have their guardians nearby. Older children may stay at the library without their guardian during the meeting times but must be picked up right after the meeting is over. On July 31 there will be a pizza party and certificates will be handed out. Volunteers are welcomed to help out with these clubs. For more information, contact the Base Library at 516-6271.

**“GET IN THE GAME” Summer Reading Program (ongoing summer program)** - “Get in the Game” is the theme for this year’s summer reading program. Starting on June 2, children 5-15 can register and receive a reading log. As they read age-appropriate books, they will receive prizes, ranging from bookmarks to sports bags. The Librarian may ask questions about books read. On July 31 the program will conclude with a pizza party at 4 p.m. for all the participants and certificates will be handed out. For more information, contact the Library at 516-6271.

**Fourth of July Celebration!** - Summer is heating up, and so is our schedule of exciting events. At the top of the list is our Fourth of July Celebration scheduled on Friday, July 4. The celebration will kick off at 5 p.m., and will be filled with food, fun, live entertainment, and the largest fireworks display in Kleberg County. The celebration will be open to all base personnel and their guests, and include something for all ages. For more information, contact MWR Special Events at 516-6626, or look for complete details in any MWR facility.

**The Base pool (North) is now open** - Time to beat the heat in the cool waters of the North Pool. Regular hours will be: Mon-Fri 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. for lap swimming, 1 p.m. – 8 p.m. for recreational swimming. Saturday, Sunday, and holiday hours will be 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.. For more information, contact the MWR Pool at 516-6113.

**Learn to swim program** - Below is a full lineup of Learn to Swim programs scheduled at the Base Pool this Summer. There is something for all ages, and abilities. Call the MWR Gym at 516-6113 for more information, or stop by the pool.

#### **Session II – 7-18 July.**

9 a.m.–9:30 a.m.	Level I & II
9:40 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.	Level III
10:20 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Level IV & V
11:10 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Mom, Pop, Tot
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Adult Swim Class

#### **Session III – 25 Jul-5 Aug**

9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Level I & II
9:40 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Level III & IV
10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Level V & VI
11:10 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Mom, Pop, Tot
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Adult Swim Class

Level I – Introduction to water skills.

Level II – Fundamental aquatic skills.

Level III – Stroke Development

Level IV – Stroke Improvement

Level V – Stroke Refinement

Level VI – Advanced swimming techniques & diving.

**New hours for Outdoor Recreation** - Outdoor Recreation is now open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stop by and check out all the great equipment available to make your next outdoor adventure a great one, or call 516-6191 for more information.

**Fishing Ponds temporarily closed** - The fishing ponds aboard NASK are temporarily closed to allow a fresh batch of catfish to settle into their new home. Each of the two ponds has been stocked with 500 new fish. For more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at 516-6191.

**Fishing fees aboard NASK are now \$10** - Fishing fees aboard NASK have been reduced from \$35 to \$10 for all fishermen wishing to try their luck in one of the two stocked ponds on base, in addition, those wishing to just fish, there is no longer a requirement to join the NASK Hunting Club. A current Texas state fishing license is required to purchase the permit, which all active duty can get for free from any store that sells the license. Permits are available at ITT, located in The Captain’s Club. For more information, contact ITT at 516-6449.

**July 1 – Air Conditioning Special** - Get ready for that summer heat by stopping by the Auto Skills Center and have your air conditioner checked and serviced. Specials will be running all week. For more information, contact the Auto Skills Center at 516-6248.

**July 3 - Happy Birthday/Bowling/Refreshments** - Come celebrate your birthday on us with bowling and refreshments. The first pin will be knocked down at 6 p.m.. Call ITT for more information at 516-6449.

**July 7 – Summer Softball League Begins** - Time to lace up the cleats, and dust off the glove. MWR is currently looking for NASK teams to compete in its summer league. All teams affiliated with NASK are eligible, including: Active Duty, Retirees, Dependents, Contractors, and DOD. For more information, contact the Total Fitness Connection (Base Gym) at 516-6171.

**July 10 – Texas Hold’em Tournament at ITT** - Come sharpen your skills and go all in at this Texas Hold’em Tournament at the Liberty Center. Shuffle up and deal will kick off at 6 p.m.. For more information call ITT at 516-6449.

**July 14-18 – Indoor Triathlon at Total Fitness Connection (BASE GYM)** - Event consist of a 4000-meters on rowing machine, 8-miles on stationary bike, and a 2-mile treadmill run/walk. Participation is by appointment only between the hours of 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday - Friday. Medals will be awarded to top three in each age group, and water bottle will be given to all finishers. Call Angela Cupp at 516-4386 for more information.

*“Get in the game, READ!”*

**Samantha Crisman once again has reached the limit first for prizes in the Library’s summer reading program.**

**Some of the prizes she received were a thumb wrestling ring, a pennant, a T-shirt and a sports bag.**

**There is still time to sign up your child for the program which ends the July 30. For more information call the library at 516-6271.**

## HOG PEN



Former Texas A&M-Kingsville football players Jeff Chase, Brent Holmes, Eddie Moten and Van Nelson are all preparing for the postseason in the Arena Football League while playing for teams that posted the top two regular season records in the league.

Holmes and Moten are part of a Philadelphia Soul squad that posted a 13-3 regular season record and won the team’s Eastern Division, clinching a first round playoff bye and home field advantage throughout the playoffs. Holmes and Moten both played at Texas A&M-Kingsville in 2002 and 2003.

Both Holmes and Moten started their indoor football careers close to home in 2004. Holmes played with the Corpus Christi Hammerheads and Moten with the Rio Grande Valley Dorados, earning All-AFL2 honors.

Chase and Nelson are both offensive linemen for the Dallas Desperados. Dallas (12-4) will play host to the New York Dragons (8-8) in an AFL National Conference wild-card playoff game 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 27 at American Airlines Center.

Holmes has caught 69 passes for 734 yards and 11 touchdowns in just 10 games this season while playing for three different teams.

Holmes played in his first game for the Soul on May 17 and in the five games he has played in, he has 36 receptions for 343 yards and six scores.

He had 11 catches for 125 yards and two touchdowns against Cleveland and in the final minute of the game against Dallas the previous week, forced a fumble on a kickoff return and then made a 10-yard sideline grab for a first down to clinch a 71-64 victory.

Moten, one of the best defensive players in the AFL, leads the Soul with 93.5 total tackles and six interceptions.

Chase is in his fifth year as the starting center for Dallas, while Nelson was claimed off the Soul practice squad on May 20.

Ironically, these two teams met in one of the biggest AFL regular season games in league history when the Soul beat the Desperados 57-28 in a game marking the latest (Week 9) battle of undefeated teams in Arena Football League history.



**Eddie Moten**