



Volume 67, Number 3

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

"The World's Best Pilots are Trained Here!"

February 6, 2009

## Commander, Navy Installations Command conducts Change of Command

By Commander Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) hosted a change of command ceremony Jan. 30 at the Washington Navy Yard. Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale relieved Vice Adm. Bob Conway, Jr., as the officer leading the Navy's shore infrastructure.

The guest speaker for the change of command was Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead. Roughead spoke of what Conway and CNIC meant to the Navy.

"They were the integrator for all things related to the readiness of our fleet while the fleet is in port and our Sailors are ashore. Bob knew what to, how to do it, how to explain it, and how to get the most out of every dollar," said Roughead.

Conway credited his staff of Sailors and civilians for overcoming the many challenges and finding new solutions to increase their support to the fleet.

"I do consider myself blessed, to be afforded both the opportunity and the

challenge to once again command," Conway said, "(and) the opportunity to work alongside many talented professionals both military and civilian throughout the world; the challenge to change the shore establishment into an adaptive enterprise supporting the maritime strategy, the fleet, our Sailors, and their families; and I enjoyed every minute of it."

Conway, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal during the ceremony, is retiring after 35 years of distinguished service.

Vitale said he looked forward to the challenges of taking over CNIC.

"Today as I proudly take the helm of CNIC, I can tell you several things about the way we will do business. We will always do our best and we will do it with class and style. We will always do the right thing no matter how hard it is, no matter how long it takes or no matter how much it costs. We will treat everyone with dignity and respect. We will always look for a better way,

always trying to improve. Lastly we will remember to enjoy ourselves while we are meeting those challenges because we belong to the world's greatest Navy."

CNIC is an Echelon II command responsible for the providing base and operating services to the Navy's 13 regions and 73 installations. CNIC oversees a \$9-billion budget, more than 52,000 facilities and more than 53,000 personnel, managed from a single enterprise.

Upon assuming command of CNIC, Vitale posted his vision for the command on the CNIC Web site, encouraging all CNIC personnel and civilian employees to view the video. In an e-mail to Navy installations, Vitale wrote:

"Having just taken command today, I wanted to introduce myself, tell you where I think CNIC is positioned today, what the future looks like, and as a result, where our shore readiness needs to go to ensure we, as a Navy, are ready when it gets here. In order to do that



Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale

efficiently and effectively, I have attached a CNIC Gateway link below to a short video that will provide our way ahead."

To view the video, visit <https://cnic-gateway.cnic.navy.mil>. For more news from Navy Installations Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/cni](http://www.navy.mil/local/cni).

### Chapel team to coordinate base assistance as

## NAS Kingsville personnel asked to assist local fire victims

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Three local families were left homeless after a fire destroyed their homes Tuesday, Feb. 4 in the 600 section of Nettie Avenue in Kingsville. None of the family members were injured in the afternoon fire, according to news reports.

The fire started at about 2:15 p.m. Tuesday due to an electrical spark from

a power line according to Kingsville fire officials. The fire spread quickly, from one house to the next, eventually burning six homes. Only three of the homes were occupied.

"By the time our fire fighters got to the scene to help two homes were already on fire," said NAS Kingsville Fire Chief Ruben Perez. "Our Engine

5 crew stayed at the site for about an hour assisting the City Fire Department and volunteer fire fighters. According to our team, the fire moved very quickly."

The NAS Kingsville fire

(Continued on page 5)



A Kingsville fire fighter moves in to provide assistance as flames surround one of the homes on the 600 block of Nettie Ave. Courtesy photo by Noa Longoria, Texas A&M University on assignment for the Kingsville Record & Bishop News.

The Flying K is now available online in pdf format on our command Web site at: <https://cnic.navy.mil/kingsville>



**Capt. Phil Waddingham**  
Commanding Officer,  
NAS Kingsville



Greetings, NAS Kingsville! Last edition I gave you a head's up that in the near future I will be providing a "State of the Station" brief. This brief will address current and future plans for NAS Kingsville from the shore installation perspective. Well, we are diligently putting the brief together, and I fully expect to publish a schedule before the end of the month on when the

presentation will take place. Expect it to be at the Captain's Club and Convention Center initially, most likely during the week after 5 p.m. so interested personnel can attend. I highly encourage all military, dependents, DoD civilian, NAF, and contractor employees to come learn about what is going on at NAS Kingsville, and what projects we have planned for the future. There will also be an opportunity for a Q&A session, so if there is something you want to bring to my attention, this will be your opportunity. After my brief to station personnel, I will turn my attention to community leaders, as I plan to provide the same brief to the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce, as well as Economic Development Council and local Service Organizations.

My goal will be to educate all concerned on the truly exciting initiatives that are taking place here at NAS Kingsville. Many of these projects will strengthen our ability to serve our customers both inside and outside the fence line, support our tenants in accomplishing their assigned missions, and also to sustain our ability to improve quality of life, quality of service and readiness of our people. I hope to see you there.

Finally, I want to take a moment to share information I have received from our Air Operations Officer, LCDR Pat Paddock, after his return from a Regional Air Operations Conference last week at Jacksonville, Fla. According to Pat, NAS Kingsville was singled out on several occasions as the Station that keeps getting it right. Specifically, the

move from worst to first with regard to our E-28 arresting gear systems and procedures, the overhaul of our infrastructure maintenance, innovative test equipment calibration program, and micro miniature electronics repair innovations are the model for all to emulate. Furthermore, our base BASH program was touted as the most progressive in the Navy and very likely will become the model for all of CNIC. It goes without saying, these actions from our hard-working Air Ops and Publics Works Team is an striking example of Kingsville PRIDE. My hat is off to each and every member and I congratulate you on making a strong impression and doing the job right. Well done! Skipper Waddz sends.

## In the Break



**Capt. Mark Brooks**  
Deputy Commander,  
Training Air Wing TWO



Good day Training Wing TWO and NAS Kingsville. I am the acting Deputy to Commodore Davis, scheduled to take over as the Commander this coming summer. My bride Melissa and I arrived last year from USPACOM, Camp Smith, Hawaii. She hails from Melbourne, Australia, and I grew up following another naval aviator around the USA (Mom and Dad passed through Kingsville in '58 - '59). I graduated from USNA in 1985. After getting my wings at NAS Beeville, I spent the better part of 20 years flying F/A-18 A/B/C/D Hornets on both coasts. Melissa and I truly appreciate the welcome from everyone here—inside the lifelines on the Air Station and within the Kingsville civilian community. Hospitality in South Texas is well known and we are very glad to be here!

For my first Flying K article, here are my views on a few subjects. I have

shared the following thoughts with the TW-2 staff, NASK CO/XO, VT-21 and VT-22. While supporting the Commodore as the TW-2 Deputy my intent is to lead us in a concerted effort focusing on the basics and attention to detail. Two plus decades of service in Naval Aviation — and the Tailhook community in particular — have made it crystal clear to me that we must have that focus; and, if our training wing/air station team that trains one half of the finest tactical aviators in the world doesn't have that mindset, then we have missed the mark. Three areas of interest (objectives) are: mission accomplishment, improvement, and a mindset I borrowed from a previous boss—"tighten up."

First, we have a luxury here in that our primary mission is the training of Tailhook tactical aviators. I call it a luxury because many of us have experienced mission assignments that were far less defined. If we aren't contributing to that primary mission, then we need to step back and assess why not. The basics of training have been well-defined over nearly 100 years of Naval Aviation — our job is to concentrate on those basics despite the seemingly endless distractions of 21st Century life.

Second, my professional (and per-

sonal) opinion is that we should seek to make improvements in every tour while we serve. I ask that you first find the time for improvement... for yourself. And you know best what you need to do to improve yourself. Put your best foot forward to improve your organization, be that department, squadron, wing, or the Navy as a whole. Look for areas to improve our community, inside the fence, out in town, or both.

Third, "tighten up" reflects the attention to detail aspect. The volume of training that goes on day in-and day-out here at NAS Kingsville is impressive. You all clearly execute the mission superbly. That said, we can always find room for improvement. Tightening up in those areas that need it is what I'm asking you to do. And again, you as the subject matter experts already know what to do. I'm here to help (really, I am...).

Finally, as I write we are barely a month into 2009: a new year marked by the beginning of a new administration and the need for positive change in our country. Regardless of our political views, those of us in uniform and those in civil service swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. That oath

seems lost on some that I hear spouting the same old tired political rhetoric. My view is that we in the profession of arms ought to be apolitical. If you don't agree, consider a recent article by Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff (JFQ, Issue 50, 3rd Quarter 2008), describing his views: "... the U.S. military must remain apolitical at all times and in all ways. It is and must always be a neutral instrument of the state, no matter which party holds sway."

ADM Mullen added, "as the Nation prepares to elect a new President, we would all do well to remember the promises we made: to obey civilian authority, to support and defend the Constitution, and to do our duty at all times." (Excerpt from Joint Force Quarterly, 3rd Qtr. 2008)

During the inauguration barely two weeks ago, I heard my Commander-in-Chief tell us, the citizens of the USA, to "... pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of re-making America." That is exactly the spirit I am asking you all to exemplify because the armed forces of this nation have always—always—led the way.

Thanks for your time. Respectful Regards,  
Fingers.

## Training Air Wing TWO



**Saturday, Feb. 7:** Javelina Men's Basketball: 7 -9 p.m. Javelinas vs Angelo State at the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Steinke Physical Education Center.

**Sunday, Feb. 8:** Women's Club "Salute by the Music Club of Kingsville" 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Jones Auditorium, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Admission: FREE

**Tuesday, Feb. 10:** Curves of Kingsville Offers Free Weight Management Classes 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. For info call 592-7800.

**Tuesday, Feb. 10:** 5-8 p.m. Javelina girl's softball doubleheader against St. Mary's University. Softball complex, Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

**Tuesday, Feb. 10:** 6-8 p.m. Javelina men's baseball game against St. Mary's University. Nolan Ryan Field, Texas A&M University-Kingsville Baseball.

**Wednesday, Feb. 11:** Jazz Band Performance 7-9 p.m. Lila Cockrell Theatre in San Antonio. Admission: FREE. For information call 593-2803.

**Saturday, Feb. 14:** Team Roping & Intocable Concert JK Northway. For more information, call Jason Garcia at 956-878-4029.

**Monday, Feb. 16:** Naomi Senzer - Flute Recital 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Frank C. Smith Recital Hall - Bellamah Music Building Texas A&M University-Kingsville. The public is invited to a free performance by flutist Naomi Senzer. Performing with Senzer on the piano will be Joachim Reinhuber, assistant professor of music at A&M-Kingsville. For more information call 361-593-4562.

**Saturday, Feb. 28:** 2nd Annual Third Coast Kayak Fishing Series Rivera. The 2nd Annual Third Coast Kayak Fishing Series will kick off their first event of the season in Riviera Feb. 28

benefiting the Costal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program. Social and team captain's meeting will be held Feb. 27 at the Riviera Volunteer Fire Department. Social starts at 7:30 with the Captain's Meeting at 8:30. Format for this series is Catch, Photo & Release with cash prizes. \$1000.00 for Largest Stringer. Entry Fee per event is \$75.00 up to 15 days before Captains Meeting, \$100.00 late entry up to 2 days before the Captains Meeting. Junior Entry (13 and under) \$25. There are 5 stops in the Series. For more information contact Debi Book, tournament director, at 361-244-2161 or email [thirdcoastkay-akfishing@yahoo.com](mailto:thirdcoastkay-akfishing@yahoo.com).

*Coming soon!*

*NAS Kingsville*

*Volunteer Income*

*Tax and Assistance*

*Center*

## The Flying K

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.

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## Welcome Aboard



*The following personnel  
have reported for duty!*



*CS3 Erick A. Soliz, USN  
Combined Bachelor Housing  
Pasadena, Texas*



*2nd Lt. Jordan Brock, USMC  
Student Naval Aviator, TW-2  
Wasilla, Alaska*



*Capt. Brian Beck, USMC  
Student Naval Aviator, TW-2  
San Diego, Calif.*



*2nd Lt. Adam T. Young, USMC  
Student Naval Aviator, TW-2  
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### CAPTAIN'S LINE:

**(Info for the Commanding Officer)  
Send email to: [KNGV-PAO@navy.mil](mailto:KNGV-PAO@navy.mil).  
On the subject line type:  
ATTN: CAPTAIN'S LINE**

## Two officers climb the promotion ladder

Security personnel watched as MAC Michael Estok (right) and MAC Dwayne Carpenter (left) each pin Lt. j.g. bars on Force Protection Officer Malvin Fikes. Photo by Maryann Shramko, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs.



Staff personnel of the NAS Kingsville Branch Health Clinic held a brief promotion ceremony Jan. 28 for Lt. Cmdr. Angela Stallworth. The ceremony included remarks by NAS Corpus Christi Health Clinic Commanding Officer Capt. Robert Sorenson. Right, Stallworth's husband Robert Ethridge pins on the new collar devices. Photo by EN3 Brenda Acevedo, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs.



## Obama thanks troops, pledges support following meeting with Joint Chiefs

By John J. Kruzal, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 2009 – In his first visit to the Pentagon as commander in chief, President Barack Obama today thanked U.S. troops and pledged to provide the resources they need to accomplish their missions.

Obama spoke to reporters here after meeting with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates to discuss military readiness, “difficult decisions” on Iraq and Afghanistan and other national security threats and objectives.

“I want to first of all thank all of the men and women in uniform who are represented here. They are the best that this country has to offer,” Obama said after he and Vice President Joe Biden shook hands with a row of troops from all service branches who lined an E-ring Pentagon hallway.

“All of you who are serving in the U.S. armed forces are going to have my full support, and one of my duties as president is going to be to make sure that you have what you need to accomplish your missions,” he said.

Obama said the first point he addressed with the Joint Chiefs -- the senior-ranking officers of each military service branch -- was gratitude for the service and sacrifice of troops and military families, who he said were responsible for national freedoms that sometimes are taken for granted.

He also suggested that he would re-

lieve some of the pressure placed on the military by more evenly distributing responsibility among other U.S. government elements.

“We have for a long time put enormous pressure on our military to carry out a whole set of missions, sometimes not with the sort of strategic support and the use of all aspects of American power to make sure that they’re not carrying the full load,” he said. “And that’s something that I spoke to the chiefs about and that I intend to change as president of the United States.”

The president added that those involved in this afternoon’s meeting in “The Tank,” the secure area in the Joint Chiefs of Staff wing of the Pentagon, agreed to make sure “the health of our force is always in our sights.” Participants included Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps. The commandant of the Coast Guard, though not a member of the Joint Chiefs, also participated.

“I know [they] are constantly thinking about what we need to do to make sure that people who are in uniform for the United States are getting the kinds of support that they need and that [their families need], and that’s something that I absolutely am committed to, and I know that Vice President Biden is as well,” he said.

Some of the most urgent issues facing White House and Pentagon officials include the ways forward in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We’re going to have some difficult decisions that we’re going to have to make surrounding Iraq and Afghanistan most immediately,” Obama said. “Ob-



President Barack Obama waves goodbye after greeting service members during his first visit to the Pentagon, Jan. 28, 2009. Obama and Vice President Joe Biden met with Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and all the service chiefs, getting their input on the way ahead in Afghanistan and Iraq. (DoD photo)

viously, our efforts to continue to go after extremist organizations that would do harm to the homeland is uppermost in our minds.

“I have every confidence that our military is going to do their job, and I intend to make sure that the civilian

side of the ledger does its job to support what they are doing,” he added.

Obama added that he had a “wonderful discussion” with the Joint Chiefs about short- and long-term threats facing the United States.

“We talked about some of the broader, global risks that may arise, and the kind of planning and coordination that’s going to be required between our military and our civilian forces in order to accomplish our long term national security agendas,” he said.

The president has been engaged with Defense Department and military officials since taking office Jan. 20.

During a meeting at the White House on his first full day in office, Obama directed key defense and military officials to plan for a “responsible military drawdown in Iraq.” The participants included Gates and Mullen, as well as Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of U.S. Central Command.

Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, commander of Multinational Force Iraq, also joined the Jan. 21 meeting via teleconference. U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker, key Cabinet members and senior national security officials also participated, collectively providing what Obama called “a full update on the situation in Iraq.”

*(Fire continued from page 1)*

department has a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Kingsville for providing fire fighting assistance.

The Kingsville Chamber of Commerce is spearheading a relief drive for the families and the NAS Kingsville Chaplain's Office and Public Affairs staff are providing assistance as directed by NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham. Items needed include clothes, food, toys, and financial assistance.

"I have asked the Chaplain's Office and Public Affairs staff to assist the city with relief efforts," Waddingham said. "Our role will be to support the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce in helping the families affected. I encourage base personnel to do what they can to help these families recover from this tragedy."

The Chaplain's Office will serve as the base-wide collection point for donations to assist the families. Personnel who would

like to help the families can make donations of clothes, food, and supplies during normal work hours. Donations will be accepted through Wednesday, Feb. 11.

All monetary donations should be dropped off at the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce on King Ave. For more information on assisting the families, contact the Kingsville Chamber of



*NAS Kingsville fire fighters from Engine 5 get their breathing apparatuses ready before heading in to assist local fire fighters. Courtesy photo by Maria Rodriguez, Kingsville Record & Bishop News.*

## Naval Air Station Kingsville Sweetheart Bowling Tournament

*Saturday, Feb. 14*

*NASK Bowling Center*

*\$10 per couple*

*Grand Prize*

*Dinner for two at Chili's*

*Prizes for first and second place*

### *Rules:*

1. *Team will consist of 1 male and 1 female. (Must be at least 18- yrs old)*
2. *Winner will be determined by total score of three (3) games. In the event of a tie, winner will be decided by a one ball roll-off or roll until a winner is determined.*
3. *No handicap. Scratch games only.*
4. *League Rules apply.*
5. *Entry forms must be completed and turned in by Feb. 13.*

*Note: Cash prize amounts will depend on participation.*

*Sign up at the bowling center*



## *NEX rewards students with A-OK Reward Program*

The Navy Exchange wants to help its customers pay for their children's college education through its A-OK Student Reward Program. Four times per school year, four students will be the recipients of a \$5,000, \$3,000 \$2,000 or \$1,000 U.S. savings bond at maturity. The next drawing will be held at the end of February 2009.

Any eligible full-time student that has a B-grade point average equivalent or better, as determined by their school system, may enter the drawing. Eligible students include dependent children of active duty military members, reservists and military retirees enrolled in first through 12th grade. Dependent children without an individual Dependent Identification Card must be accompanied by their sponsor to submit their entry. Each student

may enter only once each grading period and must re-enter with each qualifying report card.

To enter the drawing, stop by any NEX with a current report card and have a NEX associate verify the minimum grade average. Then fill out an entry card and obtain an A-OK ID, which entitles the student to discount coupons for NEX products and services.

The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) has been offering students a chance to win a savings bond through its A-OK Student Reward Program since 1998. Since the program began, NEXCOM has awarded \$460,000 in savings bonds to 152 students with the help of its generous vendor partners.

**CHOOSE ONE  
TO RIDE WITH.**

No matter what style you choose to wear,  
just making the decision to wear a helmet can save your life.

## Future looks bright for NAS Kingsville

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs Officer

There is no doubt 2008 was a banner year for Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas. Among the many highlights was the highly successful "Wings Over South Texas" air show, attended by more than 45,000 people over a three-day period, and a number of major facility upgrades. As the New Year unfolds, NAS Kingsville's role as a functional air station remains on solid ground.

"NAS Kingsville has been a vital part of the economic structure of Kingsville and Kleberg County for the last 57 years," Waddingham said. "Throughout that period our mission has been to support the Naval Air Training Command by providing personnel and facilities for training Navy and Marine Corps student aviators. NAS Kingsville has performed that mission in an exemplary manner. I don't see that role changing. In fact, I believe the future of this air station is rock solid, and if anything I see our mission footprint expanding."

Plans are already in the works to welcome a U.S.



"Wings Over South Texas" air show

Army Reserve Medivac helicopter squadron, continued expansion of the U.S. Border Patrol headquarters unit aboard the air station, increased Army Reserve operations, and the addition of 20 new Instructor pilots needed to meet the Naval Air Training Command's increased pilot throughput.

The Medivac squadron alone could bring six UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, more than 110 aircrew and support personnel, a company headquarters and associated maintenance and logistics equipment to the air station. As many as 200 dependents could also be included with the move.

Also on the agenda is the construction of an \$18 million Army Reserve Center (with an estimated completion date of 2011), a \$12 million Aviation Training Facility (2013), and a possible \$20 million complex for the U.S. Border patrol. These projects are in addition to a number of facility upgrades in 2008.

"Over the last year," Waddingham added, "we have broken ground on a new, \$12.7 million jet engine test cell facility, received funding for a new \$14 million Fitness Center to be completed by 2010, and completed more than \$5 million in upgrades to our roads and base facilities. In addition, we completed a \$5.5 million lighting project at our outlying field in Orange Grove, and have broken ground on an \$11 million Digital Aerial Surveillance Radar system here that will be operational in just a few months. Our Branch Health Clinic is nearing completion of a 14-month renovation at a cost of \$4.5 million, and we've spent more than \$800,000 refurbishing one of our barracks buildings.



NAS Kingsville Executive Officer Cmdr. Scott Allen, right, and NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham, center, explain encroachment issues to Asst. Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment) BJ Penn during his visit to the base Oct. 2.

These projects," Waddingham added, "show a commitment to growth on the Navy's part, and reflect a trend that is going to continue as the air station develops its master plan for the future.

"We're also fortunate that encroachment is not a problem here," Waddingham added, "thanks to an ongoing joint program of air space and land management with the City of Kingsville known as a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). Just this week, the Office of Economic Adjustment approved funding of \$345,000 for the City of Kingsville to implement the JLUS. This is a good news story for the Navy and the community. The communities here in Kleberg, Jim Wells, and McMullen counties have been and continue to be the Navy's biggest supporters."

With more than 36,000 square miles of unencumbered air space, and no threat of encroachment or noise issues, it looks like the skies over Kingsville will be ideal for flying for many years to come.

## Symtech employee receives national "Employee of the Year Award"

By Brenda Acevedo, Public Affairs

A retired Chief Yeoman and current Symtech employee contracted by Training Air Wing Two (TW2) has received the highest civilian award the company has to offer.

On Jan. 18 Linda Boulware, command pass coordinator, was announced as the national winner of the "Symtech Employee of the Year" award. The plaque was accepted on her behalf by Patricia Burton, Symtech TW-2 site manager, during the company's annual manager meeting in Atlanta, Ga..

"Linda goes above and beyond, she not only does her duties within her job, but takes the initiative to train others when needed," said Burton.

After retiring from the Navy, Boulware and her husband moved to Kingsville where she later started working as a contractor providing administrative services to student pilots and coordinating message traf-

fic. She has been with Symtech since May 2003 continuing to provide support to the student pilots and her co-workers.

"I like being a contractor," said Boulware, "It's like being in the military under a different role but not having to wear the uniform every day."

Nominated Symtech employees throughout the United States were judged in five categories and the corporate office in Sarasota, Fla. selected Boulware as their "Symtech Employee of the Year."

Symtech is a certified women/veteran-owned and service-disabled-business providing complete government contract support. The company offers scientific research consulting, website development/maintenance, office administrative services and more. For more information on Symtech, visit <http://www.symtech-corp.com/>



Linda Boulware

## Air Force 'ace' is guest speaker as 5 get Wings at Training Air Wing TWO ceremony

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Five students were designated as Naval Aviators Jan. 30 during Training Air Wing TWO's second winging ceremony of the New Year. Special guest speaker for the ceremony was retired Air Force Brig. Gen R. Stephen Ritchie, a native of Reidsville, N.C..

"It's an honor to have Brig. Gen Ritchie with us today," said Training Air Wing TWO Commander Capt. Bill Davis. "He is a distinguished and tested aviator, and our nation's last combat 'ace'. We welcome him back to South Texas."

Ritchie is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy (Class of 1964) and began his aviation career in 1965 - eventually graduating at the top of his class in undergraduate pilot training in Laredo, Texas. He then transitioned to Flight Test Operations at Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton, Fla.. Two years later, he moved on the Tactical Air Command at Homestead Air Force Base, Fla., flying the F-104 Starfighter, an aircraft that is still around today.

"It's truly an honor for me to be here today," Ritchie told the audience. "I've been flying now for nearly 50 years and I have to say that I'm pretty grateful, pretty fortunate. I'd like to congratulate the folks we are winging today because they are joining a unique group."

Ritchie focused his remarks on the trials and tribulations that he faced during his Air Force career, which included two tours of duty in the skies over Vietnam, where he recorded five MiG-21 victories in aerial combat, becoming the first Air Force pilot ace since the Korean War and the only American pilot in history to shoot down five MiG-21s. His resume includes more than 3,000 flight hours, including over 800 combat hours and 339 missions in the F-4 Phantom. His decorations include the Air Force Cross, four Silver Stars, 10 Distinguished Fly-



**Brig. Gen. R. Stephen Ritchie**

ing Crosses, and 25 Air Medals.

Ritchie left the Air Force in 1974 to run for Congress representing his home state of North Carolina, but continued to serve in the Air Force Reserves. He was promoted the brigadier general in 1994.

Ritchie spoke about the challenges the America faces in the world today and how important it is for our nation to be prepared to go into harm's way. Being at war and taking the fight to the enemy, he said, is vital to our nation's security.

"I boarded a commercial airplane a couple of months ago," Ritchie said, "and I was wearing my Air Force flight jacket. One of the flight attendants came up to me and didn't ask what branch of the service I had been in or anything like that. She simply said to me, 'I don't like war.'"

"Well, that's how she felt, and many people feel that way. But the truth is, whether or not we like it or not, or whether or not the media likes it, or the republicans of democrats like it or not, we are in combat. It's right versus wrong, civilization versus chaos. And we must not fail."

Receiving their Wings of Gold were:

Maj. Mark D. Bortnem, USMC (VT-21):

A native of Detroit, Mich., Bortnem enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1991. He was selected for the Marine

Corps Enlisted Commissioning Program in 1994 and attended Ohio State University. After graduating Magna Cum Laude with a degree in political science, Bortnem was accepted into the Marine Corps aviation program as a Naval Flight Officer.

Bortnem was selected for transition training in 2006 and completed primary training at NAS Corpus Christi



**Front row (from left) Capt. Mark Brooks, Deputy Commander, TW-2; Cmdr. John Kelsey, Executive Officer, VT-21; Lt. j.g. Michael R. Farley; Lt. j.g. Michael Feagans; Lt. j.g. Keith R. Robison; Capt. Bill Davis, Commander, TW2 and Lt. Col. Dave Portillo, Operations Officer, MATSG-22. Back row (from left) Cmdr. Chris Kirby, Commanding Officer, VT-22; Cmdr. William A. Bulis, Commanding Officer, VT-21; 1st Lt. Timothy D. Otten; Maj. Mark D. Bortnem; Capt. Phil Waddingham, Commanding Officer, NASK; and Cmdr. Timothy Carr, Chief Staff Officer, TW-2.**

with the "Boomers" of VT-27, and then reported to NAS Kingsville. During advanced jet training Bortnem earned E's in bombing excellence and combat maneuvering. He also made the Commodore's list. His next assignment will be flying the FA-18D Hornet.

Lt. j.g. Michael R. Farley, USN (VT-21):

A native of Danville, Va., Farley reached a lifetime goal when he was accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy in 2002. Upon his graduation in 2006, he reported to NAS Pensacola for aviation indoctrination, followed by primary training at NAS Corpus Christi with the VT-27 Boomers." Farley was selected to fly the FA-18C Hornet.

Lt. j.g. Michael Feagans, USN (VT-21):

A Gross Valley, Calif. native, Feagans is a 2006 graduate of the Naval Academy, graduating in 2006 with a degree in systems engineering. He completed primary training with VT-28 "Rangers" at NAS Corpus Christi. During advanced training with VT-21, Feagans earned E's in bombing excellence and combat maneuvering. He was selected to fly the FA-18 E/F.

1st Lt. Timothy D. Otten, USMC

(VT-22):

A native of Norfolk, Va., Otten is a 2003 graduate of the University of Arizona where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in interdisciplinary studies of communication, sociology, and history. He received his commission in 2005 and completed primary flight training at NAS Corpus Christi with VT-28. His fleet aircraft will be the AV-8 Harrier.

Lt. j.g. Keith R. Robison, USN, (VT-22):

Born at Camp Pendleton, Calif. in 1984 and a native of Dunkert, Md., Robison grew up surrounded by Naval Aviation. He attended the Naval Academy, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in mechanical engineering, and completed his primary flight training at NAS Corpus Christi with the VT-27 "Boomers."

Robison was selected to fly the F/A-18 Hornet.



## MCPON West discusses NWU and force shaping in Newport

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (EXW) Jennifer A. Villalovos, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick West visited the Senior Enlisted Academy (SEA) Jan. 14, his first trip to Newport since taking office Dec. 12.

West started the day by joining SEA Class 143 for a morning physical training session then talked to the students about issues he will be focusing on, including force shaping.

"In the next several months I'm going to be working to determine the best means to ensure those of you working the hardest on behalf of our Sailors have strong opportunities to advance," said West.

West emphasized quality over quantity and said the time had come to determine who the performers are. He said that the Navy's end strength was close to the intended level and that greater focus will now be on different means to ensure excellence across the CPO community.

"That means force shaping or molding at the senior enlisted level."

West said there are too many "hard chargers" not getting promoted from the senior enlisted level down to the youngest petty officers, and that he expects opportunities for them to open up as the senior ranks thin from the top

down.

Aside from addressing the SEA students, West also spoke with officers attending the Prospective CO (commanding officer) and XO (executive officer) course, as well as the Surface Warfare Officer School (SWOS). The most common topic of discussion among the three groups was the Navy Working Uniform (NWU) and the guidelines for wearing it. West stressed how important it is that Sailors know how to properly wear the NWU, especially since this uniform change is the most drastic in recent memory.

"Chief Petty Officers must be the ones who train our Sailors to wear the NWU and to demonstrate to us all the way it should be worn," he said. "This new uniform is going to represent who we are as United States Sailors."

West said he has received negative feedback about the restrictions currently in place which prohibit wear of the NWU off base, then explained the reasoning behind the deliberate approach. He said it was critical that Sailors learn how to wear the uniform before unveiling it to the American public in our



WASHINGTON -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West speaks with the Senior Enlisted Academy (SEA) class 143 at Naval Station Newport. The SEA focus is to strengthen the senior enlisted commitment through education. Class 143 has 88 students including members of the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jennifer A. Villalovos.

schools and communities.

MCPON stressed that if Sailors want the policy changed, it's up to them to prove they're ready.

"When the force and fleet master chiefs come back to me and say our Sailors know how to wear the NWU, then I will go to the chief of naval operations (CNO) and ask him to re-visit the policy on manner of wear. I have no

problem with that."

West also discussed a standardized Disciplinary Review Board process called the Standards and Conduct Board. Recently approved for expanded use as a pilot, the instruction is scheduled to be available for fleet use soon. As part of the program, chiefs will have the opportunity to mentor and counsel Sailors proactively instead of in reaction to a problem.

"It puts the power back in the Chiefs' Mess."

That power, West said, will also rest with the Sailors, themselves. One key element of the Standards and Conduct Board is the opportunity for personnel to choose for "voluntary diversion" to correct the deficiency. In that case, each Sailor will work with the board to determine a means

to correct potential problem areas.

More information regarding the Standard and Conduct board will be disseminated via Navy message this spring.

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

## Afghanistan troop buildup a 'delicate' endeavor, spokesman says

By Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29, 2009 -- Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates is expected to present the Pentagon's proposal for a U.S. troop increase in Afghanistan to President Barack Obama in the near future, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said today.

"I think everybody's committed to doing this as quickly and responsibly as possible," Morrell told Pentagon reporters. "In the coming days, the secretary hopes to present the president with his recommendation."

Army Gen. David D. McKiernan, who commands U.S. forces in Afghanistan as well as NATO's International

Security Assistance Force, has asked his bosses for a 30,000-troop increase, which effectively would double the U.S. military contingent in Afghanistan.

Gates and other senior civilian and military officials at the Pentagon have said they believe it is necessary to send more troops to Afghanistan to suppress resurgent Taliban fighters and al-Qaida terrorists.

The White House is reviewing U.S. strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan, Morrell said. Any U.S. troop increase for Afghanistan, he said, needs the approval of the new commander in chief.

Increased violence in Afghanistan and Pakistan threatens global security and constitutes "the central front in our enduring struggle against terrorism," Obama said during a Jan. 22 visit to the State Department.

Obama also is studying several options presented to him by Pentagon officials for a drawdown of U.S. combat troops from Iraq.

During his Jan. 27 testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Gates said if Obama approves the Afghanistan troop increase, that most of those extra forces could be provided to McKiernan by midsummer.

Gates is mindful of the balancing of risk regarding U.S. troop strength in Iraq and Afghanistan, Morrell said, noting that the Iraq drawdown affects the numbers of additional troops available for deployment to Afghanistan.

Additionally, any increase of combat troops for Afghanistan, Morrell said, would require additional support forces as well.

"It's a delicate plus-up, because you've got to do it commensurate to the infrastructure that exists" in austere Afghanistan, Morrell said.

# Continuation Board allows Navy to retain top performers

*From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs*

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) announced the establishment of senior enlisted continuation boards Jan. 24 as a means to help shape the force.

"In an effort to stabilize and shape the force, ensure continued advancement opportunity, and retain our top performers, a continuation board for enlisted Sailors with over 20 years of active service will be held for active and FTS (full time support). The board will be focused on retaining our top performers serving in our most demanding billets while also ensuring continued advancement opportunity," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, CNP.

The annual board, along with several other force-shaping measures, has been introduced as the Navy strives to meet its congressionally mandated end strength of 329,000 active duty Sailors.

"Our intention is to stabilize our personnel end strength at 329,000 from our current level of 331,000," said Ferguson.

According to the message, the fiscal year (FY) 2010 E7-E9 Senior Enlisted Continuation Board convenes Sept. 21 at Navy Personnel Command. Members not selected for continuation will transfer to the fleet reserve or retire no later than June 30, 2010.

The board will review the records of active-duty and FTS E7 through E9 personnel with at least 20 years of active service and three years time-in-rate as of Sept. 1, 2009.

Exemptions to the FY-10 Senior Enlisted Continuation Board include Sailors with approved fleet Reserve/retirement dates effective on or before June 30, 2010, those with high-year tenure dates on or before June 30, 2010, frocked personnel, those selected for advancement in FY-10 boards, personnel selected for command senior chief/master chief programs from the FY-10 board, personnel with orders to or serving in the first two years of an overseas or DoD area tours at the time of the board convening date, and Safe Harbor participants. Addition-



**GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba (Sept. 16, 2008)** Newly pinned chiefs stand at attention during Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's Chief Pinning Ceremony. (U.S. Navy photo)

ally, personnel holding a nuclear, SEAL (special warfare boat operator, special warfare operator), explosive ordnance disposal technician or diver enlisted classification code, plus fleet, force and command master chiefs are exempt from the board.

Each eligible member is responsible for ensuring their record is correct

and up to date with latest evaluations, awards and other appropriate information. Candidates may communicate with the continuation board by submitting a board package. Selection board packages provide candidates the opportunity to submit any missing documents from the sections of their records that are viewed by the continuation boards. Packages must be post marked not later than Aug. 17, 2009. Packages submitted to the E7 through E9 advancement selection boards will not be presented to the continuation board. Further guidance on submitting a board package can be found in the NAVADMIN.

Commanding officers with personnel not selected for continuation will be notified so they may personally and confidentially notify the members.

For more information read NAVADMIN 030/09 available at [www.npc.navy.mil/channels](http://www.npc.navy.mil/channels).

For more news from Navy Personnel Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/npc/](http://www.navy.mil/local/npc/).

## *Around the Navy in 60 seconds.....*



**BAHRAIN (Jan. 5, 2009)** Sailors play video games at the newly-renovated Liberty Center at Naval Support Activity Bahrain. This game room was upgraded with new flat-screen monitors and game chairs as part of a Morale, Welfare and Recreation \$100,000 renovation project. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Stephen Murphy/Released).



**PACIFIC OCEAN (Feb. 2, 2009)** An F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the "Kestrels" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 137 belts fire as it launches from the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Lincoln is on a scheduled work-up conducting sustainment training and carrier qualifications. (U.S. Navy photo).



**WASHINGTON (Feb. 4, 2009)** Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West, right, testifies before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Veteran's Affairs and Military Construction on Capitol Hill in Washington as Sgt. Major of the Marine Corps Carlton Kent writes notes for his own testimony. West and Kent appeared before Congress with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jennifer A. Villalovos/Released).



## Tews' Views

Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.)  
Mark Tews  
NAS Kingsville,  
Religious Ministries

### *The Greatest of These Is Love* -- 1 Corinthians 13

With Valentine's Day just around the corner and all the talk of love that comes with it, consider the following. Have you ever taken time to think about what love really means?

It seems most people would define love as a very special feeling or emotion. I would suggest to you though, love is an action and it is so much more than an emotion. If it were only a feeling, we would stop loving everybody and anybody the moment we don't feel "loving". No mother would ever last past the first few weeks following the birth of her child, because once the "awwww" is over, the "shock" sets in. It begins with morning sickness, aches, pain, and the discomfort of being "great with child". Of course that's just the beginning, then comes diapers, crying in the night, midnight feedings, whining, demanding, constant vigilance, discipline, unending worry, and nevertheless, through it all, love, for you and your dad. How can that be? Love has to be much, much more than an emotion or a feeling. Love, is a total commitment of the will to do whatever is in the best interest of the other person, no matter how you feel about it or how it is going to affect you. That's real love. That's what our mothers and fathers have given us, that is what one spouse gives to another when their love is true and they follow the example of the Lord. True love,

is love without strings, without conditions, without limits.

Before you celebrate with your "Valentine" this year, take a few moments to read through 1 Corinthians 13 and study it well. Commit to love those dearest to you in the same way that God and your mother loves you. In fact to make it easy for you here it is:

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."



## Active duty dental treatment bulletin



Service members who have been referred to the private sector for any dental specialty treatment must have all treatment completed by July 31, 2009. If any treatment is provided after July 31, the service member may be responsible for any cost. A new Active Duty Dental Program (ADDP) through United Concordia will be replacing the old dental specialty program. The new program will take effect Aug. 1.

How the new program will be working is not known at this time. Once we obtain all required information we will ensure that it will be available for all our active duty personnel. The following are examples which may have qualified a member to be sent to the private sector:

- Implants
- Crowns & Bridges
- Periodontal treatment
- Tooth extraction
- Fillings with the use of sedation

Members who were sent to the private sector and know that treatment will not be completed by the July 31 deadline can be re-evaluated once the new program is established for future treatment. The NAS Kingsville Branch Health Clinic apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause but would like to ensure that our service members do not have to endure a very costly dental expense. If there are any questions or concerns the Point of Contact will be Mr. Jimenez at the Dental Department at 516-6266.

## NAS Corpus Christi Health Clinic February hours

The Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi will be closed each Saturday in February in order to maintain continuity of patient care in our primary care setting, and to meet access standards for NHCCC during the week. The closure will affect all health care services, including pharmacy refill.

Patient healthcare remains a top priority for the Clinic. For acute or urgent medical issues contact (361) 961-2688 and ask to speak with the Medical Officer of the Day. The Health Clinic is anticipated to resume normal Saturday hours of operation on March 7th. Triage remains available on the weekends for urgent and emergent care via the Quarterdeck Medical Officer of the Day, (361) 961-2688. If you have an emergency, call 911.

## Sunday worship Services

Protestant service  
10:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass  
12:30 p.m.





**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.



**Weight Room Orientation** - So you've jumped into your new years resolution of getting back in shape with both feet, but feeling a little overwhelmed with all the equipment options at the Total Fitness Connection? Take advantage of this free weight room orientation by the MWR Fitness Staff. Orientations are scheduled for Mar. 5, Apr. 2, and May 7. Times will be announced. Please register by 5 p.m., the day before the orientation you wish to attend. For more information, please call 516-4386.



**Body Transformation Challenge** - Need to lose some weight, or trying to get in shape for your next PRT? How about just looking to get in shape by summer? Here's your chance to meet all those goals, win some prizes, and earn some bragging rights. Team's of two will hit the scales for an initial weigh-in on Feb. 6 from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. All

teams must have a team name. Before and after pictures will be taken if desired. A mid-point weigh-in is scheduled for March 6 and the final weigh-in will be held on April 3. For more information, contact Angela Cupp at 516-4386.

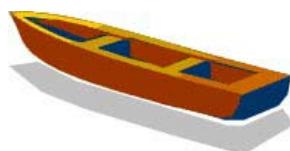
**Valentine's Day 6-Mile Relay** - See how well those New Year's workout programs are working in this 6-mile relay. Teams can be made up with 2-4 runners. Award will be given to the top team. Race scheduled to start at 11:30 a.m.. For more information, contact Angela Cupp at 516-4386.

**Cycling Time Trial** - This event will be the second of our winter/spring time trial series. To participate, you will need to schedule a time for your ride at the Total Fitness Connection. Riders can complete the ride anytime between 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. on event day. Other dates remaining in the series: March 26, April 30 & May 28.



**"Read Across America" Day Storytime** - The Station Library will host a guest reader on March 3 at 4 p.m. for a special reading of "The Cat in the Hat". The reading will be in the honor of Dr. Seuss' (aka Theodor Geisel) birthday anniversary (March 2, 1904). Please preregister before COB March 2, 2009 by calling 516-6271. There will be cookies and drinks served. If you have a "Cat in the Hat" hat, this will be a rare chance to wear it, without a lot of stares.

**Boat Building Class** - Have you ever wanted to build your own boat? If so, here's your chance. Sign up now for this two-day boat building class where every participant will walk away with an eight-foot dinghy. All tools and materials are included. Class is scheduled for March 7-8 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m... Cost per person is \$225 each and there must be a minimum of 10 students registered by Feb. 28. Everything will be furnished. For more information call 516-6191.



**Late Night at the Library** - Are you a night owl? Join the Station Library on March 27 for extended operating hours. If you live on base ...come on by. The doors will be open until midnight, and there will be some pizza and prizes to make it even better. For more information, contact the Station Library at 516-6271.



Entertainment Center (3 pc wall unit)  
\$600 OBO

Contact Norma at (361) 522-5668

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Electric wall oven; Electric glass cook-top stove; side-by-side refrigerator \$100 for all. Good working condition.

Contact Jon at 592-6776.

## Bowling Leagues



### In the Dog House Spring League

Pos. Team	Won	Lost	GB
1. 3 Minds in the Gutter	15.0	5.0	0.0
2. Pin-Heads	12.0	8.0	3.0
3. Thumbalos	11.0	9.0	4.0
4. Gorilla Glue Gang	10.0	10.0	5.0
5. Lane Brakers	9.0	11.0	6.0
6. Hounds	3.0	13.0	12.0

### Wednesday Nite Mixed League

Pos. Team	Won	Lost	GB
2. Laugh Out Loud	47.0	29.0	0.0
1. Tidy Bowlers	46.0	30.0	1.0
3. Petes Angels	45.0	31.0	2.0
4. DUH's	43.0	33.0	4.0
7. Guttermouths	40.0	36.0	7.0
6. Sixty Forty	38.0	38.0	9.0
5. Big K Rollers	37.0	39.0	10.0
8. Ghost	0.0	0.0	47.0



## HOG PEN



Behind the solid pitching of senior Courtney Rigamonti, the Texas A&M-Kingsville softball team got two wins against visiting Texas A&M International on Sunday at Hubert

Field, 5-4 and 3-1.

In the first game of the twinbill, Rigamonti struggled with her control in the early going as the Dustdevils (0-2) jumped out to a 4-2 lead after three innings. She found her rhythm midway through the game and retired 14 of the last 15 batters she faced.

Meanwhile, the Javelinas (2-0) took advantage of a Dustdevil error in the bottom of the fourth inning to tie the score.

Rigamonti picked up the win for the Javs allowing five hits, three earned runs and five walks while striking out five batters. Anderson, Bryan and freshman Yvette Berlanga each went 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Brumley was credited with two runs batted in for the game.

In the second game, the Javelinas got two quick runs in the first inning when Rigamonti drove in two runners with a double to left field. That would prove to be all the runs the Hoggies would need.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, Javelina starting pitcher Jessica Schneider helped her own cause with a single to lead off the inning. She would eventually come around to score on Berlanga's sacrifice fly.

Rigamonti came on to pitch the final two innings and she slammed the door allowing just one hit while striking out two batters to earn the save. She finished the day with a win, a save and a 2-for-3 performance at the plate.

## Escondido Ranch hosts Wounded Warrior Hunt

Escondido Ranch hosted a group of "Wounded Warriors" from Brooke Army Medical Center January 13-15 for a special two-day hunt. The warriors, all Marines, are being treated at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio for wounds suffered in combat while assigned to duty in the Persian Gulf in support of the Global War on Terror.

The Ranch staff threw out the red carpet for the hunters, treating them to a special barbecue, setting up accommodations, and scheduling several hunts to get the Warriors out on the hunting stands in search of prey.

"As it turned out, the guys definitely made the most of the trip," said MWR Marketing Director Wayne Short, "taking seven nice doe, a huge feral sow hog, a pair of bobcats, and a 120 1/4-class

Boone & Crockett buck."

The Escondido Ranch staff also wanted to pass along thanks to Master Gunnery Sgt. Arturo Garcia, and veteran Navy pilot Lt. Cmdr. Bob Pariseau for coordinating the trip and bringing the wounded Marines out to the Ranch. "We very much appreciate the opportunity they gave us to host these great Americans" Short said. "It was pure

joy to do something for those who've given so much."

Below are the results from their great hunt. (Photos by Wayne Short, MWR)



### Successful Hunters:

Zach Briseno - Trophy Buck (122 1/4), Doe (100 lbs.), 2 Bobcats  
 Jose A. Martinez III - 3 Doe  
 Jose Luiz Ruiz - 1 Doe, 1 Hog (180 lbs.)  
 Andrew Quansnitshka - 2 Doe



*Jose Luiz Ruiz*



### My View

By Jon Gagné  
 Public Affairs Officer

#### Protect your family chariot

I like to keep a lot of junk inside my truck - just ask the Securiguards officers at the inspection station near the front gate. On any given day, you could probably find a set of golf clubs, a brief case, a couple of cell phones, and other items of personal interest out in plain view. For any crook looking to make a quick haul, my stuff is there for the taking. I know (through trial and error) that it's not a good idea to do that, but I

do it anyway. It's a habit I'm about to change.

Another habit I'm about to change is leaving my vehicle unlocked while I'm on base. I do lock my doors when I travel off base to places like Corpus Christi and downtown Kingsville, but I find that I've become too comfortable with my surroundings and leaving my truck unlocked while I'm at work justifies me leaving it unlocked while I make a quick stop at the convenient store, or, fast food shop. I believe I'm a victim waiting to be victimized. Maybe you are, too.

According to Kingsville Police Chief Robert Torres and NAS Kingsville Security Officer Cesar Cavazos there has been an alarming rise in the number of vehicle break-ins throughout South Texas in the last few weeks. Even here

in small town USA. The crooks are mostly looking for easy targets - those with valuables in plain view. Cavazos calls it a "crime of opportunity," for these criminals. In other words - more for the taking, with limited risk.

Torres feels the economic downturn is what is causing the increase in vehicle break-ins, and he's probably right. Even the criminals have to put food on their table and money in their pocket. So, if we're going to be unsafe with our valuables, why shouldn't the crooks help themselves and teach us a lesson the hard way?

We all like to feel secure in our surroundings - at the job, at home, and during our quick stops out in town. But we know that with security comes complacency, and complacency can lead to being careless. And that's exactly what

the crooks are counting on.

So let's not make it so easy for the criminals to take advantage of us. Store your valuables in your vehicle's trunk and out of sight. Lock your doors to your POVs when you park - even on base. And set your vehicle alarms if you have them. At home, make sure you're not leaving your valuables outside when you secure for the evening or during the day when you're not home. At night, turn on an outside light, and lock your doors.

Kingsville is a pretty safe town to live in, but criminals could care less about that. They're only looking for a quick haul and a fast getaway. Let's not make it so easy for them.