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NAVAL AIR STATION KINGSVILLE, TX

“WE TRAIN THE WORLD’S BEST PILOTS HERE!”

MAY 1, 2009

Murphy assumes command of VT-22; 5 students designated Naval Aviators

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Cmdr. Gerald Murphy assumed command of Training Squadron 22 (VT-22) April 17 during an official Change of Command and Winging Ceremony conducted in the VT-22 Hangar. Murphy relieved Cmdr. Christopher T. Kirby, who had served as VT-22 Skipper since February 2008. Training Air Wing TWO Commander, Capt. Bill Davis, presided over the ceremony.

“For all of the young officers in the crowd” Davis said during his remarks, “this ceremony is about what you should aspire to – Command. Selection for Aviation Command is the result of sustained superior performance, exceptional judgment and most importantly outstanding leadership and aviation skills. Cmdr. Kirby and Cmdr. Murphy epitomize these traits.”

Turning his comments to the outgoing squadron commander, Davis preferred to use his call sign. “Cmdr. Chris “Kirbo” Kirby has been at the helm of VT-22 for the last 15 months doing an extraordinary job taking them to new heights and instilling in them a profound sense of pride and professionalism. Kirbo has been an outstanding leader and one of the finest officers I have had the opportunity to work with.

“During his tour as Commanding Officer Kirbo has led VT-22 to new heights. He understands the training process better than anyone, and the result has been a squadron that has led the way in CNATRA on how to effectively and efficiently train students.

“Like Kirbo, Cmdr. Gerry Murphy also comes from the Hornet community, though he carries some extra bag-

gage being a former LSO – landing signal officer. He has been Kirbo’s right hand man for the last 15 months, and we all look forward to his leadership and energy that I know will continue to move VT-22 forward to bigger and better things. Taking over as Gerry’s right hand man is Lt. Col. Terry Lattore, coming to Kingsville from a tour in Europe. I welcome Terry and his family to South Texas and to NAS Kingsville.”

Murphy is a 1991 graduate of Villanova University and received his commission via the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) program. He completed advanced jet/strike training at NAS Kingsville with VT-22 in 1994. Following several fleet assignments, Murphy reported back to Training Air Wing TWO and VT-22 as Executive Officer in February 2008.

“It’s a complete privilege and honor to take the reigns of this squadron from Cmdr. Kirby,” Murphy said. “He has been a mentor to me and one of the finest leaders I’ve worked with. I hope and intend to keep up the fine standards and level of professionalism he has imparted to the Golden Eagles. I really am lucky to be here among the great officers and civilians of VT-22 training the next generation of Navy, Marine Corps, Indian, and Brazilian aviators.”

Kirby, a native of Milton, Fla., is a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Lemoore, Calif. He also completed advanced jet/strike training at NAS Kingsville (1989) and earned his commission via the Naval Aviation



Guests and military personnel stand at attention as the NAS Color Guard presents the colors in the VT-22 hangar April 17 during a dual Change of Command and Winging Ceremony. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA)



Cmdr. Gerald Murphy, right, reads his official orders that direct him to relieve Cmdr. Chris Kirby (left) as VT-22 Commanding Officer Friday, April 17 during an official TW-2 Change of Command and Winging Ceremony in the VT-22 hangar. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA)

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Capt. Phil Waddingham
Commanding Officer,
NAS Kingsville



Greetings, NAS Kingsville. I started out this morning wanting to write about air shows, and wingings, and awards ceremonies, but I have just spent the last 30 minutes reading about H1N1 Flu outbreak. Since that is clearly a subject of great interest of late, allow me to share some information on what your base and the regional headquarters are doing as we develop response plans to ensure we are prepared for any contingency.

First, let me say that (as of this writing) we are not in a situation requiring urgent or emergency action. To put this situation in context, the H1N1 Flu outbreak does not compare with the normal amount of typical flu cases seen each year. It is indeed smart to be prepared and remain informed, but let me emphasize, there is no need for significant concern at this time. Our priorities at this time are to remain vigilant, and stay informed.

Last Tuesday, I distributed a Health Protection Advisory for the H1N1 Flu Outbreak via e-mail to All Hands. The

message outlines some common sense precautions which should be taken by all personnel to prevent and mitigate the spread of flu viruses. These recommendations include frequent hand washing with soap and hot warm water to kill germs, covering of the nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, avoid close contact with people who are sick, and if sick, stay home from work, or school and social gatherings. All of these measures will help to spread infection. As usual, notify your command and health provider if you develop any flu-like symptoms right away. Additional information on flu season is available on the Centers for Disease Control Web site, at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Congratulations to all the military and civilian awardees recognized at the All Hands Quarters held on Thursday, April 29. You continue to make a difference and make the base a better place! And, congratulations to our newest Navy and Marine Corps Aviators winged on board the historic USS Lexington on Thursday as well. You can all be proud of your accomplishments, and all of us wish you well as you go on to fly in the Fleet.

Welcome Aboard greetings go out to our new Command Master Chief, CMD-CM (SW/AW/FMF) Charlie Ratliff! Master Chief comes to NAS Kingsville from duty in San Diego, but he's a native Tex-

an and he's actually returning to his first command (NAS Kingsville) for his final Navy assignment. I'm happy to have him on board and part of our command leadership. I know he's excited about being here, and ready to serve his Sailors.

With Master Chief Ratliff's arrival comes the retirement ceremony of our acting Command Master Chief, ETCM (SW/AW) Isaias Gamez. His retirement ceremony is scheduled for May 8 at the Captain's Club and I hope to see the Club filled for his farewell ceremony. Master Chief Gamez has served the command well as acting CMC and he has played a key role in our Community Outreach programs in the local community throughout his tour here. He will be sorely missed and on behalf of everyone aboard the base I wish him the traditional "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

Finally, I'd like to pass on a "Bravo Zulu" to NAS Corpus Christi for their South Texas Shootout Air Show April 18-19 at NAS Corpus Christi. With their last tent folded up, and their last static display aircraft airborne and safely heading home, NAS Kingsville now has the baton firmly in our hand to head to the finish line which marks our Wings Over South Texas Air Show in April, 2010. I look forward to planning and preparing for our best air show ever! See you there!

Skipper Waddz sends.

Welcome Aboard CMC! CMDCM (SW/SW/FMF) C.V. Ratliff

NAS Kingsville's new Command Master Chief, CMDCM (SW/AW/FMF) Charlie Ratliff, officially checked on board April 21. A native Texan and Hospital Corpsman by trade, Ratliff has served five previous Command Master Chief billets, including one sea tour.

At his first department head meeting last week, Ratliff said he was looking forward to his new assignment. "I'm happy to be back in South Texas. I am excited to be back at NAS Kingsville and I look forward to working with our Sailors and civilians."

A native of Fort Worth, Ratliff enlisted in the Navy in July 1982. He completed Recruit Training and graduated from Hospital Corps "A" School at Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill. He is also a graduate of Operating Room Technician School and Surface Force Independent Duty Corps School, both in Portsmouth, Va.

Ratliff's assignments include: Branch Medical Clinic, Naval Air Station, Kingsville, Texas; 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, Okinawa,

Japan; USS Semmes (DDG 18) in Charleston, S.C.; USS Richmond K. Turner (CG 20) in Charleston, S.C.; Branch Medical Clinic, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.; and 1st Battalion, 10th Marines & 10th Marine Regiment at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

His Command Master Chief (CMC) tours include: U.S. Naval Hospital, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; Halyburton Naval Hospital, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C.; Sea Control Squadron THREE FIVE in Coronado, Calif.; USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) in San Diego, Calif.; and Beachmaster Unit ONE in Coronado, Calif. He reported to his current assignment as Command Master Chief, Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas in April 2009.

Ratliff has earned a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts from Excelsior College and a Master of Arts in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix. He is also a graduate of the United States Navy's Senior Enlisted Academy (Class 89 Khaki).

His personal awards include the Meri-



torious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (four awards), and various other personal and unit awards.

Awards & Recognition

The following NAS Kingsville personnel were presented awards by NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham during an all hands ceremony April 30.

Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal:

*Lt. Joe Heuser, Air Operations
Air Traffic Control Officer*

*HTC (SW) Kenneth Semlinger,
MWR Department
from USS Kitty Hawk*

Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal:

*CS2 (SW) Montreon Smith,
Navy Gateway Inns & Suites,
from RLSO Southeast*

Letters of Commendation:

*AC1 (AW/SW) Israel Luera
from Commander, Naval Air Atlantic
ET2 (SW) Joseph Bishop
from Commander, Naval Air Atlantic*

Commander, Navy Region SE Letters of Commendation

*AC2 (AW) Wallace Edwards
CS2 (SW) Bernice Meno
ABE2 (AW) Brushun Samuel
CS2 Kenturia Laidlaw
CS2 Holly Clow
CS1 (SW) Erasmo Guerrero*

Sailors of the Quarter

*AC1 (AW/SW) William Bowman
CS2 Montreon Smith
AC3 John Crawford*

Civilian of the Qtr/Year Awards

*Shirley Brzenski, COQ 4th Qtr
and 2008 Civilian of the Year*

*Dennis Keeton, Air Operations
2008 Employee of the Year*

*Maryann Shramko, Admin
Employee of the Qtr*

10-Year Length of Service Awards

*Armando Buentello, Fire & Rescue
Peter Gonzalez, Fire & Rescue
Joe Hastings, Fire & Rescue
Francisco Vallejo Jr, Fire & Rescue*

Kirby turns over command of VT-22 to Murphy during Winging-COC ceremony (from page 1)

Cadet (NAVCAD) Program.

An F/A-18C Hornet pilot, Kirby completed two deployments to the Arabian Gulf with VFA 147, home-based at NAS Lemoore, Calif., in support of *Operations Desert Storm* and *Southern Watch*. Following this tour Kirby returned to NAS Kingsville where he participated in the operational evaluation of the T-45A Goshawk, and performed instructor pilot duty with VT-21. He later served as the Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) Air-to-Air Gunnery and Air Combat Maneuvering Stage head for the T-45. After receiving his Master of Aeronautical Science – Management degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at Kingsville in 1996, Kirby returned to NAS Lemoore to complete his CAT III syllabus in the F/A-18 Hornet and joined CVW-11 as their Strike Operations Officer in 1997.

Kirby returned to NAS Kingsville in May 2001 where he served as Training Air Wing TWO's Standardization and Operations Officer. In 2002, he was redesignated a Training and Administration of Reserves (TAR) Officer in the newly-expanded CNATRA TAR community. He served as the OIC of Training Air Wing TWO's Reserve Component from September 2003 to August

2004. He served as VT-22 executive officer from February 2007 to February 2008, and assumed command of the squadron on Feb. 22, 2008.

Kirby, who is retiring from the Navy after 20 years of service, was presented the Navy-Marine Corps Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony for outstanding performance. Capt Davis made the presentation and cited Kirby's leadership guiding VT-22 to more than 19,000 flight hours, 17,600 sorties, completing 9,300 syllabus events, and designating 93 combat aviation professionals."

Like Kirby, Murphy is also no stranger to South Texas. After receiving his Wings of Gold in 1994, and fleet replacement training in the F/A-18C Hornet at VFA-125, NAS Lemoore, Calif., he was assigned to the "Mighty Shrikes" of VFA-94, where he deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of *Operation Southern Watch* on board USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63). Following this tour he was assigned to VFA-106, NAS Cecil Field, Fla., and NAS Oceana, Va., where he served as a Fleet Replacement Instructor and Landing Signals Officer (LSO) in the F/A-18.

In January 2001, Cmdr. Murphy accepted an assignment as Carrier Air Wing 7 (CVW-7) Air Wing LSO. While

assigned to CVW-7 he deployed aboard USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Cmdr. Murphy remained in CVW-7 during his subsequent tour, assigned to the "Knighthawks" of VFA-136 as a squadron department head. During this tour he deployed aboard USS George Washington (CVN 73) in support of *Operation Iraqi Freedom*.

The Change of Command was preceded by a Winging Ceremony, at which, five Navy and Marine pilots were designated as Naval Aviators and awarded their coveted Wings of Gold. Cmdr. Kirby, and his VT-21 counterpart Cmdr. Bill Bulis presided over the ceremony. VT-21 personnel receiving their Wings were 1st Lt. Christopher Paulin and Lt. j.g. Christopher Viernes. VT-22 graduates included 1st Lt. Seth Byrum; Lt. j.g. John G. Keith; and 1st Lt. James T. Ragsdale.

The Winging Ceremony marked the end of nearly 14 months of advanced jet/strike training at NAS Kingsville for the pilots, who will now move on to Fleet Replacement Squadrons where they begin their fleet assignments by learning their new aircraft.

Nearly 200 friends, shipmates and family members attended the ceremonies in the VT-22 hangar.



VT-21 Fighting Redhawks: (L-R) VT-21 Skipper Cmdr. Bill Bulis; 1st Lt. Christopher W. Paulin; Lt. j.g. Christopher A. Viernes; and VT-21 Executive Officer Cmdr. John Kelsey pose for a photo following the Winging Ceremony. Lt. j.g. Christopher was also named to the Commodore's List for having the highest grade point average during his advanced jet/strike training. Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA.



VT-22 Golden Eagles: (L-R) Incoming VT-22 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Gerald Murphy; 1st Lt. James T. Ragsdale; Lt. j.g. John G. Keith; 1st Lt. Seth D. Byrum; and Cmdr. Chris Kirby, outgoing VT-22 Commanding Officer, pose for a group photo. 1st Lt. Ragsdale was also presented the Training Air Wing TWO "Top Hook" award for earning the highest score during recent carrier landing quals.

The Flying K

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Navy commissions USS Truxtun (DDG 103)

By MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead delivered the principal address at the commissioning of the Navy's 53rd Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, USS Truxtun (DDG 103), April 25.

CNO said the utility and importance of the Arleigh Burke class of guided missile destroyers has been clear in the decision to restart the production line and increase the number of ballistic missile upgrades to the existing DDGs. He said Truxtun is in the most advanced, capable and versatile surface combatant class in the world.

"Two weeks ago, it was an Aegis destroyer, USS Bainbridge (DDG 96), that successfully rescued an American merchant captain from pirates off Somalia. A week before that it was the AEGIS destroyers [USS] Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54), [USS] Stetham (DDG 63), and [USS] Fitzgerald (DDG 62) that tracked the North Korean ballistic missile and last year it was the Aegis destroyer [USS] McFaul (DDG 74) that first docked in Georgia after it was invaded by Russian

forces," Roughead said.

Truxtun contains a myriad of offensive and defensive weapons designed to apply maritime power to protect U.S. vital interests. She will be able to conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence to sea control and will be capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously.

CNO emphasized that it took years of hard work and collaboration with industry to bring the Truxtun to life again to sail in defense of the nation's interests

"To all who brought us to this day, you are a vital part of our Navy and our nation. We would not have the strength and power we need without it," Roughead said. "To the Sailors who will sail in this great ship, you are the most important crew that this ship will ever have. You will set the course for this ship for the next 35 years."

The ship is named after Commodore Thomas Truxtun who was selected as one of the Navy's first six captains in 1798. He was assigned command to USS Constellation during the unde-



The crew of the USS Truxtun (DDG 103) man the rails after bring the ship to life at the ship's commissioning ceremony in Charleston, S.C. April 15.

clared naval war with revolutionary France. Roughead said the spirit of the ship's namesake, Commodore Thomas Truxtun is alive and well in the Navy today.

"We continue to span the globe in support of our Nation's interests, and

despite his valiant efforts, we continue to fight the scourge of piracy. But most of all, we believe, like Commodore Truxtun, that while we must endeavor to maintain peace, we must be prepared for war in every respect," Roughead said.

VBSS: Evolving with the mission

By Ed Barker, Naval Education and Training Command

Whether it's searching a Dhow in the Persian Gulf for hidden weapons, or boarding and inspecting a suspected pirate mothership off the coast of Somalia, Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) teams are playing an important part in the Navy's 21st century Maritime Strategy.

Managed by the Center for Security Forces (CENSECFOR) in Norfolk, Va., formal VBSS training was created following the first Gulf War in 1990 as a way to standardize and continue the Maritime Interception Operations introduced there as a result of U.N. Resolutions.

"The course was designed to standardize what was previously done through on-the-job training and passdown," said Kurt Martin, Anti-Terrorism Program Manager for CENSECFOR. "We introduced the curriculum in 1998 and updated it in 2005 to reflect what the teams would be facing in the fleet."

Initial VBSS skills training is delivered by CENSECFOR at four locations: Chesapeake, Va., Mayport, Fla., San Diego, Calif., and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The initial training continuum includes three courses lasting a total of eight weeks, with some team members receiving additional follow-on training. Skills taught in the

VBSS courses include tactical movement and shooting, defensive tactics, repelling, searching and other team skills.

The center's training covers both VBSS Level I, which focuses on ships that comply with the instructions of the inspection team, and Level II, which addresses the tactics used to board vessels that are non-compliant. Level II ships have freeboard (the distance between the waterline and the main deck of the ship) of 25 feet or less above the water. Non-compliant vessels that have greater than 25 feet of freeboard, or that are actively opposing the boarding, are handled by teams of Special Operations Forces (SOF).

Cmdr. Steve Murphy, commanding officer of USS Mahan (DDG 72), is currently operating as part of Combined Task Force (CTF) 151, a multi-national task force conducting counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. "Time and again on this deployment, the investment in training of my VBSS team has paid off," said Murphy. "Whether in support of the counter-narcotics mission or our new, more aggressive approach to stopping piracy, extensive training and the teamwork and principles of risk management that it has instilled has resulted in safe mission



accomplishment."

Although anti-piracy operations are getting the lion's share of the news coverage, Martin notes that VBSS teams are not specifically trained for an anti-piracy mission. "You won't find the term 'anti-piracy' in any of the CENSECFOR VBSS training curriculum," added Martin. "The fact that the ships depend on the VBSS teams is a by-product of the cohesive unit that forms, and their ability to deliver the team via Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boats (RHIBs), board vessels and, if necessary, defend themselves should the situation arise. VBSS teams are on Navy ships throughout the world 24/7, keeping the bad guys from smuggling everything from

guns to cocaine."

"VBSS teams are an all-volunteer force, and generally consist of young, athletic Sailors that are gung-ho," said Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Michael Edwards, training and readiness action officer for Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic. "It's an intense program that is challenging to complete, but the experience and results are worth it. The missions are interesting and varied; as a VBSS team member afloat, life is never dull."

For information on the Center for Security Forces, visit: <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/csf>. For information on the Naval Education and Training Command, visit: <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

35 years and going strong, Brzenski is NAS Kingsville's '08 Civilian of the Year



When Shirley Brzenski began working at NAS Kingsville a few years back, life was similar to what it is today. The world was dealing with rising oil prices and gasoline shortages, there was a change of charge in the White House, and computer

technology was taking center stage. But this was 1974, and the presidential change was the first of its kind (Richard M. Nixon resigns), oil prices were reaching a record \$11 a barrel (today it's 10 times that amount), and the B chip micro processor introduced by Zilog outperformed Intel's 8080 micro chip processor (signifying the start of the computer revolution).

One thing that has remained constant over that time period has been the outstanding performance of Shirley Brzenski, NAS Kingsville's Agency Program Coordinator (APC). On April 30, Brzenski was recognized by NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham during an all hands awards ceremony, and presented Civilian of the Quarter and Civilian of the Year awards for 2008. Brzenski, who will mark 36 years of service on board NAS Kingsville in October, has served as the Agency Program Coordinator at NASK since the Navywide government credit card program came into existence in 1996. A former NASK Manager of the Year (2002), Brzenski is again praised for a job well done.

Brzenski first worked at the Navy Exchange as a clerk, and later worked for MWR as a clerk typist. She then bridged into civil service with Public Works as a property clerk, and later moved to NAS Supply as the purchasing supervisor. When the Navywide credit card program came into existence, she moved into the role of Agency Program Coordinator.

Managing the APC program for the command involves overseeing over 140 travel cards, 18 purchase cards and 11 authorizing officials. Brzenski also handled APC duties for NAS Corpus Christi and Naval Station Ingleside for more than 18 months, adding more than 250 additional purchase and travel cards to her work load. Brzenski is a tireless worker who continues to train recently-hired counterparts at NAS Corpus Christi and Naval Station Ingleside. She makes herself available 24 hours a day, serving as a positive ethical model for federal employees.

Brzenski's Letter of Commendation recognized her professional ability, personal initiative and loyal devotion to duty by providing invaluable training support

to our neighboring Navy installations.

"It takes many people to run a successful program," Brzenski said. "There are many people that deserve awards for being team players. My primary goal as an APC is to make sure all card holders do the right thing, I am here to answer any questions and to help protect the CO and the command."

During the 4th qtr 2008 Brzenski completed the NASK travel program's transition from Bank of America to CITI Bank smooth and seamless for over 140 card holders. Her performance during this time was exceptionally professional as her workload continued to grow.

"Shirley has been and continues to be a dedicated professional employee," Waddingham said during the ceremony. "And to be here at NAS Kingsville for 36 years is an amazing accomplishment. The role she plays for "Team Kingsville" is as important today as it was when she first started working here in 1974. That's saying an awful lot about her dedication and her performance. She has never lost her focus on the command or the mission."

NAS Kingsville Civilians of the Quarter / Civilians of the Year



Dennis Keeton, Air Operations Employee of the Year

NAS Kingsville's Employee of the Year for 2008 is Dennis Keeton, a retired Navy Chief and a 3-year employee civil service employee. He completed his active duty career as a Chief Electronics Technician with the NASK Ground Electronics Division in 2005, and accepted a civilian position with the command in April 2006.

Keeton's present position is as an Electronics Technician (RADAR) and Ground Electronics/McMullen Target site liaison. He and his wife Ronita reside in Portland.

His contributions to "Team Kingsville" have been consistently praised by coworkers and Air Operations Department Head Lt. Cmdr. Pat Paddock.

"All of the extra work that Dennis has accomplished both here at NAS Kingsville and the McMullen Target Site is what got him nominated for this award," Paddock said recently. "Without Dennis, a number of significant accomplishments within the Air Operations Department over the past year would not have been possible. He oversaw the installation of our new tower at McMullen, [and] he researched all of the info on the Weapons Impact Scoring System. He can simply fix anything. And if it hadn't been for him, SPAWAR (Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command) would never have been able to make the temporary RADAR facility up and operational on time to reopen the field."

Paddock's remarks are typical when it comes to discussing Keeton's performance, but Keeton says it's just his job.

"Wow, what a tremendous honor!" Keeton said upon learning of his selection as Employee of the Year. "I know most of the civilian employees at NAS Kingsville and I know how hard everyone works and the pride they take in our station and in doing a good job. To even be nominated by my department, much less selected as

the station Employee of the Year is quite a humbling experience. I know it takes a true TEAM effort to make things happen. {And} I am very fortunate to work with some of the best ET's I've ever seen in my 24 years of experience. It's a true show of confidence in me from my department and the base leadership and I will do my absolute best to continue to perform and try to become an even better representative of Air Operations and NAS Kingsville."



Maryann Shramko

Admin Dept. Supervisor
Employee of the Quarter 4th Qtr

Maryann Shramko, a retired Senior Chief Yeoman, was selected as the Employee of the Quarter for the 4th Qtr CY08. Shramko was recognized for her outstanding performance as Deputy Public Affairs Officer and Flying K editor.

"I don't think people realize how much work goes into doing the command newspaper on a regular basis," said Jon Gagné, command Public Affairs Officer. "It's a job that requires a lot of pre-planning and often times reacting to events that occur on very short notice. Maryann has been a great editor, and an invaluable member of the Public Affairs Office for the last 18 months. She is truly deserving of this recognition."

Shortly after Shramko's selection as Employee of the Quarter she was moved to NAS Kingsville Administrative Department to fill a critical billet as Admin Supervisor/Acting Admin Officer.

Focus on BASH: Part 2 of a 3-part Series:

Risk management, awareness key tools for NAS Kingsville BASH Program

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

In our last issue, we presented part one of our series on the NAS Kingsville Bird/Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Program, and how the Navy is taking a positive approach to managing the risks associated with flying. In Part 2 of our series, we get an overview of how BASH Coordinator Eddie Earwood limits the threat in-and-around-the air station.

When NAS Kingsville BASH Coordinator Eddie Earwood first came to work in South Texas in 2006, he knew that BASH was an issue of concern for military air fields. As a biologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Earwood has a solid background in studying bird migration and habitats, facility management, and encroachment. Shortly after reporting aboard NAS Kingsville in April 2006, he began to get knee-deep, literally, into some of the issues that the air station was facing.

One of the most important aspects of any BASH program is to identify the risks associated with flying aircraft, develop a plan to control the property around the airfield to limit habitat opportunities, and provide a safe flying environment to accomplish the mission.

"I don't think there is any air field - civilian or military- that doesn't deal with BASH issues," Earwood said recently. "But birds and aircraft have always pre-



Providing a safe flying environment is one of the most important elements of any BASH program.

sented issues. In fact, I recently read an article that stated that the very first bird strike ever reported was by the Wright Brothers during their first week of flying. So, aircraft and bird strikes are not new by any stretch. My role as the BASH coordinator at NAS Kingsville and Navy Auxiliary Landing Field Orange Grove is to play an active role in indentifying potential habitat and roosting hazards and mitigate the threat that these animals present to our mission and flight operations."

When Earwood arrived here he pointed out some issues on base that were creating problems. The grass at the end of the runways was too high, and the brush areas hadn't been contained. Maintaining grass height, Earwood explained, is a critical part of habitat modification to reduce the

attractiveness to wildlife species including raptors, rabbits, nesting morning dove, and everything else.

"We also have a jurisdictional wet land area near the base," Earwood said, "which means that the Army Corps of Engineers has responsibility for it and authority over it so we can't just go in and fill it up. It's a concern of ours, but we've able to keep a close watch over it and control the water fowl that utilize the area. It also serves as a water source for mammals as well."

And then there's bird migration which occurs in South Texas two times a year, during the first part of spring and the first part of fall. "I think that all the conservation efforts that have been going on in relation to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act have really helped a lot of bird species to become more prolific," Earwood said. "Because of that, we're seeing an increase the migratory bird populations."

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, the upper coast of Texas is in a truly unique position to observe migration. The state occurs directly in the center of the Central Flyway. Most birds that move along this route travel through Texas and eventually through the Upper Coast of Texas. Birds traveling the Atlantic Flyway during the fall reach the Florida panhandle, then may turn west and follow the Gulf Coast to Texas. Birds of the Mississippi Flyway follow that great river system to the Gulf then either cross it or turn west as well. The Pacific Flyway funnels birds between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. The Rockies end at Big Bend in Texas. Birds may be funneled to Big Bend where they can cross over the state and follow the Rio Grande or other watercourses to the Coast. Texas has recorded 615 species of birds, more than any other state. These are mostly migrant birds that have followed one or more of these flyways into the state.

Earwood is a knowledgeable man with a keen insight into the patterns that birds and animals follow. He knows, for example, that a lot of time it's the elements that attract birds and mammals to certain locations. And Earwood added, a lot of the time these 'elements' are man-made, and the problems that come along with them are never even considered.

"Encroachment issues," Earwood explained, "are always a problem with an airfield. Not necessarily encroachment by



KIII TV3 reporter Sabrina Hall talks with NAS Kingsville BASH Coordinator Eddie Earwood on the NASK flightline for a story on BASH.

humans, but by birds and mammals. The different land uses around the airfield and how land owners choose to utilize their property play a key role in this. That's why it's important that we get to know our neighbors and that they understand the problems that we have with birds and wild life. And what I've discovered is they've all been receptive to this. We enlighten them on things that they do which could be advantageous to us, and we listen to their concerns.

"For instance, out at our Outlying Field in Orange Grove where there is a lot of ranch land surrounding the field, hunting is allowed. It's one of the main sources of income for the ranchers, and they certainly have every right to hunt their land. But when hunters utilize the ranch land for hunting it's usually during the weekend when the Navy is not conducting flight operations. So the hunters are not thinking about 'what happens when I shoot this deer or hog and I gut them right here?' The problem, of course, comes along after the hunters have left and the vultures zoom in and feast on the meat left behind."

What happens is, while the birds fly around the site and wait their turn at the carcasses, they pose a threat to flight operations. And that, Earwood feels, is where educating local land owners comes in as a tool in controlling BASH.

Sometimes, BASH control involves shooting pyrotechnics into the air to move birds away from the airfield. "The shells act like firecrackers," Earwood says, "and the loud pop scares the birds away. Other times, we may just concentrate on remov-



NAS Kingsville BASH Coordinator Eddie Earwood takes one of his routine trips around the airfield looking for issues that could prevent safe flying on - and over the airfield. Earwood takes several tours of the fence line each day to monitor bird and animal risks aboard the air station.

Continued on page 12

Retirement ceremony marks the end of 20-year career for Chief Electronics Mate

By Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs

Senior Chief Electronics Technician (Surface/Air Warfare) Howard “Ross” Baillie marked the end of a successful 24-year Navy career Friday, April 17 with an official retirement ceremony held at the Captain’s Club. NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham was the residing officer for the ceremony, while NAS Kingsville Executive Officer, Cmdr. Scott Allen, served as guest speaker. More than 100 shipmates, friends and family members attended the ceremony.

Baillie reported aboard NAS Kingsville in February 2008 and served as the leading chief petty officer at the air station’s outlying airfield in Orange Grove.

Originally from Liberty, Ill., Baillie enlisted in the Navy in 1985. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in engineering technology from the University of West Florida, completing his degree requirements while assigned to NAS Pensacola in 2008.

During his career, Baillie served



ETC (SW/AW) Ross Baillie and his wife Rosa pose for a photo in the K-BAR following the ceremony. Middle: ET1 (AW/SW) Heath Britt mans the bell for “The Watch” as ACC (AW/SW) William Hornbeak narrates. Right: Chief Hornbeak assumes the watch as ETC Baillie returns the salute. Photos by Jon Gagné.

aboard five ships, including USS Belknap (CG 26), USS Inchon (MSC 12), USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62), USS O'Brien (DD 975), and USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). He also served overseas tours in Italy and Bahrain.

Baillie’s ceremony included the traditional passing of the flag and reliev-

ing the watch, and letters and awards presentations, and Baillie’s daughter joined AC2 Ann Marie Wood in singing the national anthem. Special awards included Capt. Waddingham presented Baillie a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his service to the command, and a the crew of NALF

Orange Grove presented Baillie with a shaved baby javelina named “Chief Ross” in his honor. “I think he’ll be better off at the Grove,” Baillie said as he avoided getting too close to the animal.

Master of ceremonies for the event was ETCM (SW/AW) Isaias Gamez.

Master at Arms’ retirement ceremony marks 20 years of dedicated service

Master at Arms 1st Class (Surface warfare) Matthew W. Brackeen closed the log books on a highly successful 20-year Navy career April 17 with an official retirement ceremony held at the Captain’s Club. On hand for the ceremony were Brackeen’s parents, Walter and Barbara Brackeen of San Antonio, and a host of other family members, friends and shipmates.

Brackeen’s 20-year career included duty assignments aboard three aircraft carriers (USS Midway CV 41), USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) and two stints aboard USS Independence (CV 62), an overseas assignment in Yokosuka, Japan, instructor duty at Naval Training Command Lackland Air Force Base, and a 13-month assignment to Iraq as part of *Operation Iraqi Freedom*. He reported to NAS Kingsville in December 2005, serving as Operations Chief and Command Investigator.

Brackeen’s retirement ceremony included a number of fellow Security Department personnel. GM1 (SW) Kevin Hooks served as master of ceremonies,



MA1 (SW) Matthew Brackeen requests “Permission to Go Ashore” from Asst. Security Officer Lt. j.g. Malvin Fikes at the conclusion of the retirement ceremony held April 17 at the Captain’s Club. Middle: Lt. j.g. Fikes presents Brackeen with a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal recognizing superior performance. Right: GSM1 (SW/AW) Larry McCracken, with help from Brackeen’s daughter Jessica, H.M. King high school JROTC Cadet, present MA1 Brackeen with a shadow box shaped in the form of a Security Badge. McCracken made the shadow box using the MA Badge as a design. Photos by Jon Gagné.

MAC (SW) Dwayne Carpenter, GSM1 Larry McCracken, MA2 Anthony Johnson and MA3 Russell Myers participate in the Old Glory ceremony, and McCracken and MA3 Jessica Altamirano participated in “Relieving the Watch.” Sideboys included members of the NAS Kingsville First Class Petty Officers’ As-

sociation. Honor Boatswains were BM2 Lowell Brown and BMSN Michael Powell, and Asst. Security Officer Lt. j.g. Malvin Fikes served as Retiring Officer. During the ceremony, Fikes presented Brackeen with a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for outstanding performance during his tour of duty

aboard NAS Kingsville.

Retirement plans for Brackeen, his wife Miho and their children, include remaining in South Texas, within driving distance of his hometown of San Antonio. He hopes of landing a job in the Physical Security field, which he has mastered through 20 years of Navy service.

Raymondville 12-year old is April's TW2, NAS Kingsville Pilot For a Day

By EN3 Brenda Acevedo, NASK Public Affairs

Training Air Wing TWO and Naval Air Station Kingsville welcomed their 25th "Pilot for a Day" Thursday, April 23. Fidencio Hernandez, 12, from Raymondville, Texas, arrived on board with his parents Maria and Martin, sisters Jennifer and Jessica and brothers Juan and Michael Hernandez. The tour began at the VT-22 "Golden Eagles" ready room and quickly proceeded through the squadron to try on flight suits and hang from a simulated parachute.

Fidencio, born with kidney problems, received a kidney transplant last year at Driscoll Children's Hospital (DCH) in Corpus Christi. He is one of 27 children so far to have received transplants at Driscoll, since the program began two years ago. According to his mother, "Fidencio is now doing 100-percent better receiving check ups at Driscoll once every two months."

The "Pilot for a Day" program is a joint community relations project between Training Air Wing TWO and Driscoll Children's Hospital. The program allows children who are being treated at the hospital a day away from

their personal struggles and enjoy a day of pampering by the Navy.

KIII TV-3 was on hand to cover the event, and reporter Manny De La Rosa interviewed Fidencio, PFAD sponsor pilot Lt. Tim Tushinski, and DCH representative Mike Bracken about the program. The two-minute reported aired on TV3 later that evening.

Fidencio and his family seemed to enjoy touring various aspects of flight training and helping assist personnel in the radar room and air traffic control tower. The second half of the day kicked off with a visit to the Fire Department where Fidencio was treated to a tour of the facilities, a ride in a fire truck, and strawberry-iced cake and ice cream with the crew. The family also received an escort in a fire truck to base Security where Fidencio was fingerprinted and was then able to handcuff his brother. "That was fun," Fidencio said.

The day ended with a demonstration of the Military Working Dogs and a trip back to VT-22, where VT-22 squadron skipper Cmdr. Gerald Murphy presented him a certificate of completion, designating him as an honorary VT-22 "Golden Eagle" pilot.



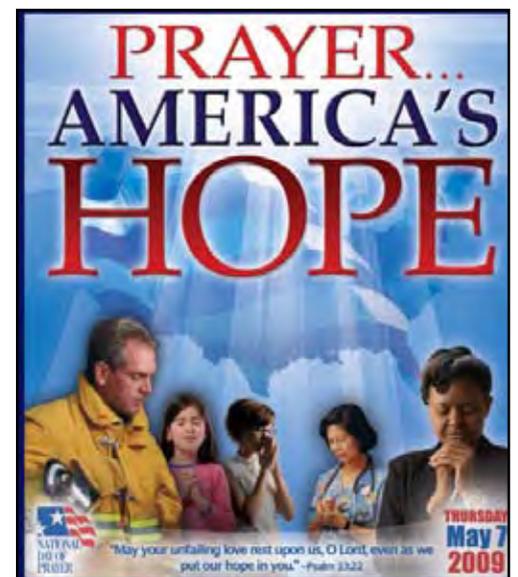
VT-22 sponsor pilot Lt. Tim Tushinski explains the makeup of the T-45 Goshawk on the NAS Kingsville tarmac. Below left, firefighter Juan Saenz presents mementos from the Fire Department that includes an autographed fire helmet. Photos by EN3 Brenda Acevedo, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs.

NAS Kingsville Religious Ministries to celebrate National Day of Prayer May 7

Thursday, May 7 marks the 58th annual National Day of Prayer. Once again Americans have a unique opportunity to unite in heart and mind as we stand against those forces that endanger the well-being of our country and all we hold dear.

Base personnel are encouraged to take the time to join with the millions of individuals who will come before God to intercede for this great land and its citizens. The National Day of Prayer's mission is to communicate with every individual the need for prayer, mobilizing the praying community to intercede for America and its leadership in the seven centers of power: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family.

The theme for this year is "Prayer... America's Hope" and is based on the verse from Psalm 33:22 which states: "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you." Everyone is invited to attend the NASK National Day of Prayer gathering that



NAS Kingsville Flag Pole, Noon, May 7 followed by prayer run/walk

will be held at the flag pole 1200 on May 7, 2009. In an effort to surround the base with a spirit of prayer there will be a 1 or 2 mile (your choice) prayer walk/run after the prayers at the flagpole. So if you plan to join in on the walk/run come in your PT gear, walking shoes, etc.



Focus on Safety: It's getting hot out there

Summer is almost here so it's time to start thinking about the three kinds of heat related illness. Heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat strokes are all possible during hot weather. All heat related injuries need prompt medical attention.

Heat cramps are muscle cramps. Usually these cramps occur in the arms or legs but may be in the abdominal or chest muscles as well. These cramps are caused by excessive body fluid loss through sweating. First aid includes moving the victim to a cool place, resting the cramping muscle and giving the person cool water.

Heat exhaustion signs include heavy sweating, weakness, fast pulse, normal body temperature, headache and dizziness, nausea and vomiting. First aid for heat exhaustion requires the worker to be moved to a cool place. Keep them lying down with their legs straight and elevated 8 to 12 inches. Apply cold packs, wet towels, or just wet their clothing to cool them. Give the victim cold water

only if he or she is conscious. If the victim loses consciousness or if no improvement is noted within 30 minutes, seek professional medical attention.

Heat stroke is a true emergency! Signs and symptoms include high body temperature, unconsciousness, hot skin, rapid pulse and breathing, weakness, and dizziness or headache. Immediate first aid is required. Move the victim to a cool place and immediately cool the worker by any available means (use ice and water from a jobsite cooler for example). Keep the head and shoulders slightly elevated. Monitor the airway, check to be sure the victim is breathing. Call for professional help or rush the heat stroke victim to a hospital immediately.

Prevention of heat illness is very important. Gradual adaptation to working in hot weather is a start. As the weather heats up, take a few short breaks during the day; and, if possible, schedule heavy work so that it does not have to be accomplished during the hottest part

of the day. Dress sensibly and drink plenty of water. Keep a sharp eye out for potential heat injuries in co-workers. Try to practice prevention - it's the name of the game - and it will keep you from becoming a victim of a heat related illness.

The Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature Index (WBGTI) takes into account four variables: air temperature, humidity, radiant heat and air movement. This reading gives a more accurate measurement of heat stress than any one reading alone.

Heat Index and Physical Exercise Chart

WBGT Index Flag Color Intensity of Physical Exercise

Less than 80 White Extremely intense physical exertion may precipitate heat exhaustion or heat stroke, therefore, caution must be taken.

80-84.9 Green Discretion is required in planning heavy exercise for un-acclimatized personnel. Marginal heat stress limit for all personnel.

85-87.9 Yellow(Amber) Strenuous exercise and activity must be curtailed for new and un-acclimatized personnel during the first 3 weeks of heat exposure. Outdoor classes in the sun must be avoided when the WBGT index exceeds 85.

88-89.9 Red Strenuous exercise must be curtailed for all personnel with less than 12 weeks training in hot weather.

90 or Above Black Physical training and strenuous exercise must be suspended for all personnel. (excludes operational commitment not for training purposes).

Wearing body armor or NBC protective uniforms adds approximately 10 points to the measured WBGTI. Limits of exposure should be adjusted accordingly.

Kingsville Chamber of Commerce hosts Young Leaders Forum

There was quite an exciting buzz of ideas from local young leaders coming from the Multi-Purpose room at Coastal Bend College on Thursday, April 23. The Kingsville Chamber of Commerce hosted a Young Leaders Forum in which over 25 local young adult participants, including eight from NAS Kingsville, came with the understanding that this forum was designed to gain insight from them on the critical issues that face the Kingsville community today and what steps can be done to become more involved in solving these issues.

The President of the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce, Ode Moreno, took one look at the room full of enthusiastic young participants and said she was "so excited to see them here and passionate about the opportunity to make a difference in their community, I just know they are going to contribute a great deal to Kingsville". The attendees present represented various employers such as Texas A&M University Kingsville, NAS Kingsville, Kleberg Bank,

Coldwell Banker, City of Kingsville, Kleberg County and others.

The facilitator for this event was John Wiley Fox, a retired Evangelical Lutheran pastor with over thirty years in the church. Fox is currently completing his ninth year teaching at Coastal Bend College, and has always had a passion for working with young people to help them navigate the world that they live in. Fox had the participants break into groups of about five and had each group come up with a list of Kingsville's strengths and weaknesses. Each group came up with answers on their lists, and this led the participants into a discussion of all the different issues. Every individual voiced their opinions and stances on different issues, and ways in which they can contribute and be more involved. The forum was an overall great success, and every participant gave positive feedback on their experience.

Prior to the forum, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Alice Byers stated, "We are hoping that in



Story and photo by Stephanie Yuma, City of Kingsville Chamber of Com-

the process of this forum, these young leaders will want to continue meeting in some form of fashion, and take their ideas and excitement beyond this". Coincidentally, at the conclusion of the forum, the young leaders were so excited about the possibilities of their ideas. They have decided to meet regularly in the hopes of showing Kingsville new

and innovative ways to meet current and future challenges.

NAS Kingsville participants included RP2 Norman Otters, MM2 Jaana Hahn, ET2 John Fuller, ET2 Joseph Morin, CS1 Anthony Court, HM1 Steven McKinley, and ABF2 Eugenio Palacios .



Tews' Views

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

Effective Prayer – (Daniel 9: 3-19)

Daniel was definitely a prayer warrior. Here was a man who knew how to pray. First he fasted, denying himself the physical comfort of food. He humbled himself before God wearing sackcloth and covered with ashes rather than his "Sunday Best." He was totally open and honest with God, speaking exactly what was on his heart, holding nothing back, confessing every sin and begging God's forgiveness. Then, and only then, did he plead with God for His will to be revealed. Daniel truly, and with all humility, wanted to know what God thought. He wanted to know what God's will was. And, more importantly, he was completely resolved, in his humility, to surrender to God's will, whatever it might be. Notice, that the surrendering to God's will, before knowing what it is, comes first, followed by the revelation. Because Daniel was so humble, so open, so willing to accept whatever God had to say to him, it was easy for Daniel to hear when God spoke.

How's your prayer life? How many answers are you getting? When God speaks to you, do you hear Him? Prayer is so much more than those cursory, all too often mindless, thoughtless, going through the motions, repetitive prayers many of us are familiar with. It is so much more than bowing our heads and speaking a few words to God about what we want Him to do for us. There is so much more to this special communication with the Almighty than a "wish list", after all, it is not Santa Claus we are talking to here.

Prayer is direct communication and communion with God. It is spending the time with Him, because we want to. It is opening ourselves to Him, surrendering our will to His, and pleading with Him to show us what He wants us to know. Prayer is our most effective link with our Lord, the best way possible we can stay in contact with Him – and thereby constantly within His will. Take a look at your prayer life today. Are you getting strong, obvious answers like Daniel did? If not, take a close look at the quality of

your prayer life – are you humbling yourself before the Lord? Are you comfortable in His presence? Remember, He wants to spend time with you. He loves you more than you or I will ever be able to fully comprehend. So, come to the Lord, speak to Him, commune with Him – "...*be very careful to keep the commandments and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to obey His commands, to hold fast to Him and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul.*" (Joshua 22:5)

Sometimes we get so wrapped up in what we are doing for God that we might forget why we are doing it. Sometimes it seems as if the Church makes "the what" more important than "the why." Apparently the people of Israel had the same problem. So Joshua reminds them why they are obedient, because they love the Lord their God.

"*Love the Lord your God...serve Him with all your heart and all your soul.*" That's why you and I are obedient. That's why we follow God's commandments, reach out to others, read, study and learn His Word. That's why we come before our God in prayer. Not because it is going to get us somewhere or gain points with God, or influence Him to favor us financially or socially. No, we do what we do because it is our response to love him who first loved us.

"*Prayer...is the recovery of the soul's breathing.*" ~ **Gerald Heard**

"*If we truly love people, we will desire for them far more than it is within our power to give them, and this leads us to prayer. Intercession is a way of loving others.*" ~ **Richard Foster**

"*Prayer is not eloquence, but earnestness; not the definition of helplessness, but the feeling of it; not figures of speech; earnestness of the soul.*" ~ **Hannah More**

National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 7. The NASK observance of the day will take place at the command flagpole that day at noon. After a brief time of prayer at the flagpole there will also be an opportunity to surround the base with the spirit of prayer with a prayer run/walk along your choice of either a 1 or 2 mile course. Please feel free to join in this observance whether joining in on the run/walk or not. Those choosing to run/walk should come prepared in appropriate PT attire.



Medical Corner



Is snacking a bad habit? Not necessarily.
By *HM3 Cyrus Cunningham Branch Health Clinic*

If you go for more than four hours without eating you may need a energy boost until your next meal. Some snack choices are better than others.

Tips that stick:

Think FOOD When You Snack. Low-fat yogurt, a piece of fruit, a handful of nuts and raisins, a snack size cottage cheese (4 oz), ½ of a turkey, ham or peanut butter and jelly sandwich or a hard-boiled egg are healthy snack choices that supply important nutrients your body needs such as protein, carbohydrates, calcium, vitamins, minerals, healthy fats or fiber. These choices are also low in empty calories from sugar and fat.

Pack Your Own Snacks. Packing your own snacks ensures that you will make better choices. Plan ahead for this when you go shopping and buy those healthy snacks you need. Remember to bring them to work with you. Most of the snacks listed above don't need to be refrigerated.

Choose Low-Fat Snacks. Typical "snack foods" such as potato chips, candy bars and pastries are very high in fat and calories. The vending machines here at NNMC use a "healthy alternative" sticker to help snackers identify items that are lower in calories or fat. At most vending machines you can find some of these healthier alternatives including animal crackers, baked chips, peanuts, granola bars, Newton raspberry and yogurt bars, pretzels and Nabisco Mixed Berry Fruit Snacks.

Better Beverage Choices. Water and fruit juices are your best, and healthiest, thirst quenchers. 100% fruit juices still contain over 200 calories per serving but they also provide vitamins and minerals. Sodas and fruit drinks sugared and flavored water with no nutritional value. A 12 oz. can of soda has about 10 teaspoons of sugar.

Choose Healthy Snacks For the Whole Family. Growing children will benefit most if they are given food as snacks not sweets and high fat junk foods. A "sweet" or "fat" tooth starts to develop at a young age. Give low-fat milk or 100% fruit juices instead of soda. In addition, children can have cereal and milk, cheese and crackers, bite size carrots with low-fat dip or see the suggestions in Tip #1 for more ideas.

Religious Ministries Sunday Worship Services

Catholic Mass
12:30 p.m.

(Wednesdays at Noon during Lent)

Protestant service

10:30 a.m.

Chaplain's Multi-Purpose Room,
Bldg. 2741

NOTE: The Our Daily Bread devotional can be read daily online at: <http://www.rbc.org/odb/odb.html> There's even an option to listen to the devotional.

Trading Post

For Sale:
2004 Silver Dodge Stratus
Auto / V6 / 50,000 miles / Power
Windows, Locks/ Keyless Entry /
Great Condition/ Good on Gas
\$8000 OBO 361-228-1223

For Sale:
2005 Red GMC Canyon / Off Road
Auto / Like New / 1 Owner
Call for Price 417-631-2888

To place an ad, send an e-mail the NASK Public Affairs Office at KNGV-PAO@navy.mil. All ads will run for two issues.



Comics on Duty World Tour

Join us once again for this one night only comedy show. The comedy of Steve Bills, Keith Alberstadt, Tom Foss, and Don Barnhart promises to make this a memorable evening. Call 516-6449 for more details.

No Limit Texas Hold'em Tournament

Go ALL IN at the monthly No Limit Texas Hold'em tournament, May 8. The action kicks off at 7 p.m. in the ballroom of *The Captain's Club*. You can pre-register at ITT, or register on tournament day up until 15 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. Your \$10 registration fee covers tournament entry, non-alcoholic drinks, and dinner. An optional entry of \$20 will get you entry into the tournament, the dinner package, an extra 500 chips, and a \$5 token for the K-BAR. Tournament limited to the first 40 entries. Call Shirley at 516-6734 for more info.

Summer Teen Employment Program

Job Fair, May 15 at the Fitness Center. Teens 14-18 may attend and apply for various jobs at base facilities at the first Teen Job Fair. Come prepared to fill out applications and interview for your summer job. For more info, contact 516-4388.

"Hamburger Cook-off" to celebrate National Hamburger Month

The library will be sponsoring a "Hamburger Cook-off" May 15. Entry registration is now underway through May 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. On May 15, will start on the 1st of May 2009 at the Library. Starting at 1100-1300 on the 15th of May contestants may bring in their hamburger meat, buns, etc. Condiments such as pickles, lettuce, tomato, mustard, and ketchup will be provided. There will be a charcoal grill (outdoor Recreation) in the front of the Library. The judging will start at noon. There will be a panel of four judges inside the Library. Each judge will get a quarter of an unidentified hamburger and grade it from 1 to 10 with 10 being the best. The winner will receive a plaque or small trophy.

Babysitter's Training

Saturday, May 16, (0900-1700) The purpose of the American Red Cross Babysitter's Training course is to provide individuals ages 11 to 15 with the information and skills necessary to provide safe and responsible care for children in the absence of parents or adult guardians. Fee for class will be \$40.00 at time of registration. *Bring a sack lunch

Doubles Racquetball Tournament

Tuesday May 19 at 4:30 p.m. Sign-up at the MWR Fitness Center. Teams of 2 will compete in double elimination play. Participants may use MWR equipment or bring their own. Open to all competition levels and all on base personnel with MWR membership. Sign-up sheet will be at MWR Gym. For more information contact Renee Hill at 516-6371.

Father's Day Overnight Boat Trip

on board 80 ft. long "Scat Cat" for 12 Hours over-Night. Fish to be caught will be Amberjack, Ling, Shark, and of course Snapper. Rod and reel and bait furnished. Will need a Texas Fishing License. Boat will go 35-50 miles off-shore. Departure time at 8 p.m. at Outdoor Rec, will return at noon. Cost of trip-\$110, Kids 12 & under ½ price, FMI call Frank at x6191.

Bowling Leagues



In the Dog House Spring League As of April 29

Pos.	Team	Won	Lost	GB
1.	Lane Breakers	40.5	27.5	0.0
2.	3 Minds	40.0	28.0	0.5
3.	Pin-Heads	37.0	31.0	4.5
4.	Tumbalos	30.0	38.0	10.5
5.	Gorilla Gang	30.0	38.0	10.5
6.	Hounds	26.5	37.5	14.5

Weekly High Scores:

Ben Gonzalez 184 game, 430 series
John Nunez, 204 game 535 set
Team high game: Lanebreakers 515
Team high series: Tumbalos, 1640

League Leaders

High Avg. Lindy Conner 183
High Series: Lindy Conner 672
High Game: Vic Kuntscher 236
High HC Series: Rodney Malin 696
High HC Game: Darren Griggs 267
Most Improved: JD Monroe +18.69
Kirk Hyndman +15.93

Wednesday Nite Mixed League As of April 30

Pos.	Team	Won	Lost	GB
1.	Pete's Angels	79.0	45.0	0.0
2.	LOL	76.5	47.5	2.5
3.	Tidy Bowlers	76.5	47.5	2.5
4.	Guttermouths	69.5	54.5	9.5
5.	Big K Rollers	62.0	62.0	17.0
6.	DUHs	60.5	63.5	18.5
7.	60/40	60.0	64.0	19.0
8.	Ghost	0.0	0.0	79.0

Weekly High Scores:

Rodney Malin 203 game, 511 series
Ben Gonzalez 194 game, 504 series
Andy Richardson 186 game, 457 series

League Leaders:

High Avg. Men: Isaac Vidaurri, 170
High Avg. Women: Delia Monroe, 156
High Series Men: Monty Bryant 612
High Series Women: C Rodriguez 571
High Game Men: Monty Bryant 288
High Game Women: C Rodriguez 241
High HC Series Men: JD Monroe 718
High HC Series Women: A.Goff 715
Most Improved:
Johnny Robertson +11 Tide Hyndman +6
JD Monroe "10 Amelia Goff +5.94

Celebrating Earth Day aboard NAS Kingsville



Above: Members of FISC Jacksonville Det Kingsville stand in front of three trees planted near the Supply Building. Shown are (L-R) Lt. Brent Simmons, Supply Officer; MM3 (SW) Dadrain Coleman; MM2 (SW/AW) Jaana Hahn; MM2 (SW) Martin Hernandez; ABF1 (AW) Joel Matos; and ABF2 (AW) Eugenio Palacios. Not shown: Paul Boyd.

Ret Lt. Cmdrs Babe Crouch and Suzy Williams of the Kingsville Navy League donated more than 200 baby palm trees to the Air Station to celebrate Earth Day. Above; Crouch joins Capt. Phil Waddingham and NASK Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff in the ground breaking ceremony. Below, Crouch places the first palm tree in the ground in front of Bldg. 3740. Photos by EN3 Brenda Acevedo.

NAS Kingsville BASH Program (from page 6)



BASH Coordinator Eddie Earwood calls in a potential BASH problem to Air Ops.

ing what has attracted them to the airfield in the first place. BASH is more ‘management’ than anything else.”

Management and awareness, according to Earwood, are the keys to the command BASH Program. Sharing information with base personnel and neighboring land owners, and paying close attention to Navy facilities, is vital to controlling potential hazards.

“When we can educate land owners on how something like that could affect us

as a functioning air field, or maybe work along side them to show them how animal remains should be properly disposed of so that they don’t attract birds and wildlife, it becomes a joint concern. And the land owners around NAS Kingsville and Orange Grove have been very open to this; it had just never occurred to them that something like that could be important to providing a safe flying environment. That’s where communication comes in.”

Controlling Navy property in-and-around the airfield plays an important role, too. This entails a lot more than just monitoring the nesting habits of birds and their migration. It involves routine tours of the airfield and close monitoring of the fence line, roadways, and fields. “There’s always a chance that something is out there to attract birds or wildlife,” Earwood said. “Then there are the times when there are dead carcasses on the roads that surround the base and we’ll notice vultures flying around. When we see this type of action we’ll simply drive out to the location, locate the dead animal and pick it up



Above: San Fernando Creek runs adjacent to the north portion of NAS Kingsville and is used as a water hole by wildlife. Below left, a gap under a fence is a perfect entry point for mammals, Right: A drainage ditch is screened to prevent large animals for entering.



Above: Netting around the hangars dissuades birds from building nests in the roof of the hangars. Below: Removing overgrowth from areas on base eliminates habitat n



and then the vultures will go some place else.”

Earwood takes routine trips around the base fence line each day to check for holes in fences, washed-out areas that have created gaps where animals can crawl under and get onto the airfield, and drainage lines that are left open. These are perfect openings for javelinas, coyotes, deer and other animals to enter the base and pose a threat to aircraft, and if Earwood spots something that needs attention he’ll either jot it down, or, call it in to Air Operations.

Ken Moses, NAS Kingsville Airfield and BASH Manager said birds aren’t the only problem. “When people think of BASH they think of birds. But it’s a lot more than that - especially here in South Texas. BASH can be birds, wildlife, dead animals, and a lot more.”

Moses added that fixing areas that are allowing access to the base by mammals, is an on-going process. “Skirting our fence line is something we’re in the process of doing right now to alleviate the problem,” Moses stated. “Another thing that we’ve

done to control access is to put wire around all the drainage lines around the base.”

Keeping the land around the runways cleared is another important BASH management tool that Earwood and Moses have utilized. Over the last two years, they have taken steps to ensure the grass near the runways is continually mowed, and trees, brush and vegetation are maintained. The thought process is to control the areas where birds and animals might roost.

“Brush control and habitat modification that we have done on the airfield really has removed several layers including nesting habitat, perching sites, and cover for these animals,” Earwood added. “We’re making a lot of progress with our BASH program, but it’s truly a never-ending process.”

Editor’s note: In our next issue of the Flying K we’ll take a look at how the air station is turning to advanced technology to monitor birds and provide a safe flying environment.