



VOL. 67, NO.11 NAVAL AIR STATION KINGSVILLE, TX "WE TRAIN THE WORLD'S BEST PILOTS HERE!" MAY 29, 2009



Officials from NAS Kingsville, Training Air Wing TWO, and the U.S. Army Reserve 11th Aviation Command pose for a group photo in front of an HH60 Blackhawk MEDEVAC helicopter parked on the NAS Kingsville tarmac. The Army contingent visited the air station May 13 to discuss basing an Army Reserve MEDEVAC squadron at NAS Kingsville. Photo by Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs.

Safety and Health Fair covers all corners

By Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs

Whether you were looking for information on home safety, fire prevention, dental health, heart disease, or even preparing for a new arrival to the family, the 2nd annual NAS Kingsville / Training Air Wing TWO Health & Safety Fair had you covered. The Fair, held at the Captain's Club and Convention Center Friday, May 22, included more than 40 static displays that promoted safety and health, and more than 500 base personnel turned out for the event. All NAS Kingsville activities participated, including the Border Patrol, and participating community units came from as far away as San Antonio. L-3 Vertex employee Scott Ellis was the event coordinator, along with personnel from the NAS Kingsville and TW2 safety offices.

"The turnout was good, and a lot of our

Sailors and Marines walked away with some cool giveaways," said NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham. "Our intention with this Fair was to promote the "Critical Days of Summer" and cover all the events that people get involved in during the summer months. We've got everything from bike and motorcycle safety, to auto care, heart and diabetes awareness, hunting safety, to information on our Bird/Aircraft Strike Hazard program and financial planning. I think our Safety folks have done a great job putting this together."

At each static display, personnel were provided information packages and free giveaways. Handouts included brochures and information packets, pencils and pens, cups and coozies, hats and helmets, and a lot more. Individuals were also eligible to win door prizes just for participating.

(Photos, page 6)

Mabus sworn in as new Navy Secretary

From Department of Defense

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Ray Mabus, former Mississippi governor and U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, was sworn in May 19 as the 75th secretary of the Navy.

Leading the Navy and Marine Corps, Mabus will be responsible for an annual budget in excess of \$150 billion and almost 900,000 people.

The Secretary of the Navy is responsible for conducting all the affairs of the Department of the Navy, including recruiting, organizing, supplying, equipping, training and mobilizing. Additionally, he oversees the construction, outfitting and repair of naval ships, equipment and facilities and is responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies and programs that are consistent with the national security policies and objectives established by the president and the sec-

retary of defense.

Prior to joining the administration of President Barack Obama, Mabus served in a variety of top posts in government and the private sector. In 1988, Mabus was elected governor of Mississippi where he stressed education and job creation. In 1994, he was appointed ambassador to Saudi Arabia, where during his tenure, the Kingdom officially abandoned the boycott of U.S. businesses that trade with Israel. Mabus also was chairman and chief executive officer of Foamex, a large manufacturing company, and also served as a Navy surface warfare officer aboard the cruiser USS Little Rock (CLG-4).

Mabus is a native of Ackerman, Miss., and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi, a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University, and a law degree from Harvard Law School.



WASHINGTON (May 19, 2009) The Honorable Ray Mabus (right) is sworn in as the 75th Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) by Jeh Johnson, General Counsel for the Department of Defense, during a ceremony at the Pentagon. Holding the Bible for Mabus is Yeoman 1st Class Timothy James, a member of the Secretary of the Navy staff. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Kevin S. O'Brien).



Capt. Phil Waddingham
Commanding Officer,
NAS Kingsville



From The Bridge

Greetings NAS Kingsville!

I write this edition's input from the visiting quarters at Naval Station Great Lakes. I am on travel this week to attend a Regional Commander/Commanding Officer conference. This annual event is attended by all regional commanders and base COs from across the globe to discuss issues important in the world of shore installation management. This year's theme is innovation, and I can tell you this: the Boss' goal is to provide better service to the customer for each dollar spent. I

intend to bring back what I learn and relay new ideas to our installation's three integrated performance teams, Quality, Readiness, and Long Range Plans. By the way, if you haven't been to Naval Station Great Lakes before, the base is beautiful and I plan to bring back some ideas related to that, too. As we continue to put finishing touches on our base Facility Master Plan and Installation Appearance Plan, there are good ideas to be found on bases like Great Lakes and other prestige installations which merit inclusion in our vision.

In the meantime, I wish to thank the NAS Kingsville Safety Department for putting on another great Safety Fair last Friday. I appreciate the tremendous support and participation from all TW-2 and other assigned tenants TW-2 took the day off from flying to emphasize safety and standardized procedures, and this also allowed for Air Operations per-

sonnel to conduct needed training--another example of how Team Kingsville works together to get the job done.

Finally, June 1st is the first official day of hurricane season (which lasts through November). As always, we plan to provide important information in the coming days and weeks, but as individuals, it is incumbent for you to take stock of your own personal plan, and make sure you are ready.

Keep doing what you do to make a difference--it shows everyday. See you when I get back, Skipper Waddz

Upcoming Events:

June 5: Winging Ceremony, Club

June 6-13: TW2 Carrier Qualifications aboard USS George H.W. Bush

June 8-12: Cubs Scout Summer Day Camp on Base

July 4: Independence Day Celebration (This is going to be a spectacular show and you won't want to miss it!)

CMC Corner



CMDCM (AW/SW/FMF)
Charlie Ratliff
Command Master Chief



Congratulations again to our Sailors who were selected for advancement! Naval Air Station Sailors AC1 (sel) Jim Dunlap, AC2 (sel) Cody Clubb, AC3 (sel) Christy Collins, MA3 (sel) Alejandro Abreu, MR2 (sel) Jonathan Cruz, and RP2 (sel) Kenneth Greathouse, as well as Branch Health Clinic Sailors HM2 (sel) Steve McKinley, HM2 (sel) Sean Harris, HM2 (sel) Brian Knight, HM2 (sel) Cyrus Cunningham, and HM3 (sel) Brian Jacobs, all worked hard and achieved the Final Multiple Score (FMS) required to advance. Well done shipmates!

While the Sailors mentioned above did indeed work hard and achieve advancement, many of you out there may have worked just as hard but unfortunately didn't advance. I have personally been in that situation. I can remember studying daily for months and still

missing the FMS required for advancement. During recent years, our Navy has undergone right sizing and force shaping initiatives that have reduced the total number of Sailors in inventory and have made advancement even more difficult.

I want to provide some words of encouragement to those of you who worked hard studying for the March examination but didn't reach the required FMS. If your Standard Score (SS) and/or Performance Mark Average (PMA) were high enough, you should have earned Passed Not Advanced (PNA) points that will be used in computing your FMS for the September advancement cycle. You will also have more Time in Pay Grade points. The bottom line is, you'll have more points going into the September exam cycle than you had going into the March exam cycle simply based on PNA and Time in Pay Grade points.

Ok, now's the time to develop a good plan of action to prepare for the September exam. First, go to the Navy's Enlisted Advancement Exam Strategy Guide website at <https://www2.netc.navy.mil/advancement/aesg/index.htm> to obtain the September exam bibliography for your rate. The bibliography lists every resource that was used to develop rating-specific and profession-

al military knowledge test questions. Print that bibliography and get your hands on *every document* listed.

Now that you know *what* to study, it's time to determine *how* to study. Every person is different. Some study best by themselves while others prefer to study in groups. Some like listening to music while others prefer a quiet environment. Some people use both self-study and group-study. Determine what method works best for you and put yourself in the proper mindset to succeed in this endeavor.

You have now determined *what* to study and *how* to study. All that's left is to determine *when* to study. As you develop a timeline for your study plan of action you may ask yourself, "When should I start studying?" Let me answer that question for you- *today!* The more material you study, and the longer period of time you spend covering that material, the higher your test score will be. Commit yourself to studying one hour a day, five days a week or studying 30 minutes a day, six days a week. Whatever time line you establish, commit yourself to it.

Best of luck on the September advancement exam!

CMC

The Flying K

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Cmdr. Tim Carr
Chief Staff Officer
Training Air Wing TWO



In The Break

Greeting Team Kingsville!

I hope you all had a fantastic Memorial Day Weekend. As another Memorial Day passed, I was flooded with memories of those brothers-in-arms that gave their all in the service of our nation. I wasn't primarily focused on those heroes from ages past and from the great wars, but on those I have actually known and flown with.

Since entering flight training over 20 years ago, 32 of my friends have paid the ultimate price of service. It was averaging two a year for the first ten or so years, but I guess as we get older and wiser our odds improve. Also, safety programs and

equipment have all been steadily improving during that time, so I hope when you reach this stage of your careers your list of lost friends will be much shorter than mine.

Trying to remember the names of all 32 has gotten more difficult with age, and even the causes of their accidents are becoming blurry, but I do remember most of them. The first was a student who got too slow behind the ship in a T-2 and lost control. Soon after leaving Kingsville, a Marine friend flew and AV-8 into the water off North Carolina. Paul and Kenny tried to get an Intruder down on a low-level route in West Virginia in really bad weather. A flight control problem in an FA-18 got Glenn after a night cat shot. Two more friends in an A-6 didn't turn hard enough at a checkpoint in a valley in Japan. Plumb flew into the Med, along with Craig and a couple of other aviators who failed to return overhead the ship on different occasions. Rhino was lost after a mid-air. A whole cluster of friends

was lost during Strike-Fighter Weapons Training as a result of one mid-air off the coast of San Diego.

Of all the friends lost, only one was in combat operations and even that wasn't a result of enemy fire. What we do is inherently dangerous, and the reason we don't routinely hear of accidents, why each one is such a significant event, is that we focus so much on attention to detail and professional excellence. You may wonder why some Instructor is harping on you to be perfect in every single aspect of a training hop, but it is because we have all seen the consequences of inattention to detail, and complacency.

Almost every one of the aviators involved in the accidents I remember was a fantastic pilot. In truth, you can't become a Naval Aviator without being a fantastic pilot. Not one of them knew they were going to have their last flight on the day they died. Yet in almost every case, it was a slight miscalculation, a very small error in judgment or a very short lapse in

concentration that caused them to perish. In almost every one, I could put myself in their cockpit and figure out how the accident could have been prevented.

I miss the company of those friends. They would be great to sit around the ready room or K-Bar and talk with. Were they heroes? Who knows? I think they were. They may not have ever flown into combat or slain our nation's enemies, but they willingly put themselves into harm's way every time they manned-up. I honor their memory, but I also remember the lessons of their short lives. Each one was too tragic to be wasted. Naval Aviation is an avocation for dedicated professionals who confidently man-up, knowing that they have prepared in every possible way – physically and mentally – to meet the challenges of that day. It isn't for the weak-bodied or weak-minded. Timid souls need not apply.

Study hard. Stay sharp.

God bless you.

Cowboy

Civilian Service Awards

Firefighter Margarito M. Garza
Fire & Emergency Rescue
35 years of Federal Service

Ms. Janie Ramos,
NASK Command Suite
25 years of Federal Service

Firefighter David Cavazos
Fire & Emergency Rescue
20 years of Federal service

Firefighter Francisco Vallejo Jr.
Fire & Emergency Rescue
10 Years of Federal Service

CBQ Room of the Month:
AZ2 Carlos Cantu

Navy College Office

Beginning Aug. 3 the NAS Kingsville Navy College Office will be open two days a week. New office hours will be: Mondays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Energy Note: Turning off the lights at the end of the day is a good start towards conserving energy. Flip the Switch!

From Your Command Ombudsman

Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program

With Congressional authorization in Public Law 110-417, the Department of Defense is implementing the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program (MyCAA), providing resources and assistance to spouses of active duty services members, Guard and Reserve with a spouse on orders for one year, supporting their pursuit of a successful, long-term, portable career.

MyCAA provides up to \$6,000 of financial assistance for eligible spouses directly to participating schools or other programs. If they are already listed in the MyCAA system, a spouse and his/her school or other program may proceed with their request for financial assistance. If not, the military spouse needs to click "Can't Find School" on the MyCAA website (<https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa/default.aspx>) to request that his/her school or other program be added. MyCAA financial assistance will pay for expenses such as post-secondary education and training tuition, licensing, and credentialing fees. It does not pay for computers, school application fees, graduation fees, student activity cards, child care, parking, transportation,

medical services or testing fees.

To access:

- Spouses should contact the Military OneSource (1.800.342.9647) and speak with a Career and Education Consultant.
- The Military OneSource Career and Education Consultant will assist spouses in selecting a career goal and entering a Career Plan into the online system "My Career Advancement Account."
- Upon approval of the spouse's Career Plan for education, training, certification, or licensure, the Department of Defense will provide direct payment to the payee (school, institution, or program) through the designated government portal.
- Spouses report back to Military OneSource upon completion of the plan and receipt of employment.

The Department of Defense-funded program became available last month. More information is available at www.militaryonesource.com or contact Mr. Mike Tevnan at 703.908.1237 or mike.tevnan@moscenter.us.

Awards & Recognition

**Navy-Marine Corps
Commendation Medal**

RP2 Norman Otters
Religious Ministries Department

**Navy-Marine Corps
Achievement Medal**
ET2 (SW) Samuel T. Babb

**Navy-Marine Corps
Achievement Medal**
ET2 (SW) Joseph Morin

September 09 Exam Cycle Advancements

AC1 (AW) Jim Dunlap, Air Ops

AC2 Cody Clubb, Air Ops / ATC
RP2 Kenneth Greathouse, Chapel
HM2 Cyrus Cunningham, BHCK
HM2 Sean E. Harris, BHCK
HM2 Brian E. Knight, BHCK
HM2 Steven J. McKinley, BHCK
HM2 Padraic M. Jordan, BHCK
MR2 Jonathan Cruz, MWR

AC3 Christy Collins, Air Ops/ATC
HM3 Brian K. Jacobs, BHCK
MA3 Alejandro Abreu, Security

Training Air Wing TWO has eyes set on carrier quals as Navy's newest carrier lands first aircraft

From USS George H.W. Bush Public Affairs
 USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH, At Sea (NNS) -- USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) made history May 19 after safely landing the first fixed-wing aircraft, an F/A-18F Super Hornet.

Lt. Patrick McKenna and Cmdr. Beau Duarte, from Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23 at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., piloted the Hornet and made the first arrested landing, known as a "trap," at 2:07 p.m. local time.

The aircraft carrier is underway performing flight deck certifications in the Atlantic Ocean. The ship is equipped with arresting wires which are capable of safely landing aircraft traveling at speeds of more than 200 miles per hour in about 300 feet.

"It takes a team of professionals to safely land an aircraft aboard a carrier at sea. The crew of USS George H.W. Bush has been working and training for this event for more than two years," said Capt. "Chip" Miller, Bush H.W. Bush commanding officer. "This is a tremendous moment for the crew."

Student aviators and Instructor Pilots



ATLANTIC OCEAN (May 19, 2009) An F/A-18F Super Hornet assigned to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23 makes the first arrested landing aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). George H.W. Bush is the tenth and final Nimitz-class aircraft carrier and is underway off the coast of Virginia conducting flight deck certification. (Navy photo by MCI Michael Tackitt).

from Training Air Wing TWO at NAS Kingsville will get their first look at the new carrier June 6-13 when they complete carrier qualifications off the coast of Florida.

Bush is the 10th and final Nimitz-class carrier. It was commissioned Jan. 10 at Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

Ike resumes flight ops after historic visit

By MC2 (SW) Adam Prince, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Public Affairs

ABOARD USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, At Sea (NNS) -- The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7 resumed flight operations May 23 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom after a completing a historic port visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

CVW-7 resumed close air-power support and reconnaissance missions supporting U.S. and to International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops on the ground in Afghanistan.

"I look forward to seeing the air wing executing its primary mission and the many parts that it takes working together that make the mission possible," said Cmdr. Bryan Williams, CVW-7 operations officer. "We get daily updates on individual actions, stopping enemy fire, and protecting our troops."

CVW-7 integrates closely with multinational coalition forces to prevent and counter Taliban attacks. Carrier aircraft provide close air-power support and deliver ordnance on enemy positions designated

by ground forces. In many cases, the show of presence and the sound of military aircraft overhead deter Taliban forces from carrying out attacks on coalition forces.

Since deploying, CVW-7 has flown 3,370 sorties accumulating nearly 10,500 flight hours. Since arriving in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations, CVW-7 has flown 6,750 hours in support of coalition forces operating on the ground in Afghanistan.

While in port, the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group hosted the King of Bahrain, His Majesty the King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa; the United States Ambassador to Bahrain J. Adam Ereli; Vice Adm. Bill Gortney, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, as well as other dignitaries and guests.

During the four-day visit Sailors participated in community relations (COMREL) projects and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) events.

The last carrier to moor pier side in Bahrain was the 11,373-ton Commencement Bay-class escort aircraft carrier USS Rendova (CVE 114) in 1948.

Story courtesy of Navy NewsStand

Summer Season Campaign focuses on keeping Sailors safe - on and off the road

From Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

NORFOLK (NNS) -- As the summer season kicks off with the approaching Memorial Day weekend, the Naval Safety Center (NSC) is making myriad resources available to commands so they can tailor their individual 2009 safety campaigns.

NSC's new campaign provides tools such as presentations, articles, videos and interactive discussion aids to promote the type of risk management that will allow Sailors to enjoy these activities successfully.

Campaign materials can be found at www.safetycenter.navy.mil/seasonal/summer09/index.asp.

The focus of this year's summer safety campaign is on enjoying off-duty time with family and friends. Many Sailors take advantage of the warm weather to plan vacations. They head to the beach or to the mountains. They fire up the motorcycle that sat idle in the garage all winter. But they need to do it smartly and safely.

"Risk management is largely com-

mon sense," said John Williams, a recreation safety specialist at the NSC.

"Make sure you're trained to participate in the activities you want to enjoy, and wear the right protective equipment."

In years past, the long Memorial Day weekend signified more than just an opportunity to honor fallen heroes and kick off the unofficial start to summer with a backyard barbecue. During the last decade, Memorial Day weekend began NSC's summer-long safety awareness campaign.

While this year's initiative doesn't have a catchy name as in years past, NSC is hoping the fleet can help change that for next year. The campaign website features a link that allows Sailors to offer their suggestions for a new name to the annual summer safety focus period.

The summer safety period runs through Labor Day, and NSC's website will be updated throughout the campaign with more resources for an enjoyable summer and safe season.

Story courtesy of Navy NewsStand

Chief of Naval Personnel says "Navy wants to become Top 50 Employer"

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) released a podcast May 19 discussing the Navy's innovative programs and policies designed to attract, recruit, develop and retain a high quality workforce.

Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, CNP, highlighted the Navy's efforts to be recognized as a Top 50 employer.

"We believe that a Top 50 organization is one that has innovative programs for its people, that recognizes people as their most valuable asset and rewards them with an environment that is personally and professionally rewarding and challenging, that promotes a climate of respect and trust, that encourages development and provides the rewarding work of service," said Ferguson.

The Navy has been recognized through national and international awards for innovative personnel policies and practices to include the Tele-Vision Award for the telework initiative and American Society for Training and Development's Excellence in Practice Award for diversity.



BAHRAIN - Vice Adm. Mark E. Ferguson III, Chief of Naval Personnel, thanks Operations Specialist 2nd Class Cassandra Thompson for her service during a visit to the Norfolk-based guided-missile destroyer USS Milius (DDG 69). Ferguson visited Sailors in Bahrain to discuss current Navy personnel issues and thank them for their service. Milius is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility supporting maritime security operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication 2nd Class Nathan Schaeffer).

NAS Kingsville looking to technology to maintain safe flying environment

Part 3 of 3-part series on the NAS Kingsville Bird/Aircraft Strike Hazard Program. Story and photos by Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

When U.S. Airways Flight 1549 crashed into the Hudson River January 15, people around the country learned about the dangers of bird strikes to jet engines. But bird strikes are not a new issue. The Navy has been aware of this danger in aviation for decades, and the Bird-Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) program is helping to create the awareness needed to reduce these mishaps and save lives and assets.

In our first two reports on the NAS Kingsville BASH Program (see the April 17 and May 1 editions of the Flying K on the NAS Kingsville Web site at www.cnic.navy.mil/kingsville Web site) we've focused on the methods and steps taken to reduce the threat of aircraft strikes in-and-around the airfield. We've learned that while bird strikes are the most common problem associated with aircraft, BASH includes a surprising list of other hazards.

"BASH is really about a lot more than birds," explained NAS Kingsville's BASH manager Eddie Earwood, a biologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "The program involves preventing access to the airfield for a host of animals, including birds, wild hogs, javelinas, deer, coyotes and more. "You'd really be surprised at the number of mammals we're talking about when we talk about BASH," Earwood added.

Addressing the BASH issue also involves managing the land that surrounds the airfield and removing potential habitat areas, repairing washed-away spaces near fence lines, consistent mowing of airfield grass, and keeping a close eye on the areas outside the base property that may become feeding or watering grounds for animals.

"Encroachment comes in many forms," Earwood explained. "When you hear the word you think of homes being built in close proximity to an airfield, but encroachment can also be overgrown vegetation, trees and water areas, animal habitat, and a lot more."

Over the last 18 months, Earwood added, NAS Kingsville has spent more than \$300,000 removing encroachment in-and-around the airfield and at Navy Auxiliary Landing Field Orange Grove. Trees and brush were taken down and

cleared away, perimeter fences were installed, reinforced or repaired (or scheduled to be), and grass mowing was increased.

"When I arrived here in 2006," Earwood said, "the grass at the end of the runway was about 18 inches high and there were a lot of snakes. My first project was to cut it back to a more controllable 7-10 inches and develop a plan to keep it from getting any higher. That alone has paid big dividends. Taking out overgrown trees and brush areas has also been key."

Earwood and NAS Kingsville Airfield Manager Ken Moses take routine trips around the airfield each day to assess the threat level and look for areas of concern. If bird flocks are hanging around a certain area of the airfield, Earwood and Moses attempt to locate what is attracting them. Sometimes, Earwood will use pyrotechnics (noise-makers fired from a handgun) to scare the birds away. If a dead animal is found to be what is attracting the birds, the carcass is removed.

The most frustrating part of managing the BASH program, Earwood said, "is that most people only think about the methods we take to remove the threat of bird strikes when it comes to BASH. But that's only part of what we do on a regular basis. We also develop a dialogue with our neighbors and explain to them that how they handle their property affects our flight training mission. And I have to say, they have all been very receptive."

Like a number of other programs within the Department of the Navy, BASH is developing into a multi-disciplinary approach involving more than just the natural resources and BASH managers as was the situation only a few years ago. Today's BASH program is a cooperative effort between the aviation safety, air operations, and the natural resource communities. Information exchange between these entities is essential in providing the safest flying conditions to enhance mission readiness.

Still, bird strikes remain the biggest threat to Navy aircraft. Since the Navy began keeping bird strike records in 1980, there have been more than 20,000 bird strikes, resulting in two deaths, 25

Continued on page 12)



BASH Manager Eddie Earwood explains how the NAS Kingsville BASH Program provides safer skies for training Navy and Marine Corps jet pilots.



During routine drives along the fence line of the base, Earwood looks for areas that may allow animals to enter the airfield.



If Earwood discovers a potential BASH issue while on patrol he calls it in to the Air Operations Department and Wing Duty Office to alert pilots.



Below, removing overgrown brush and trees helps eliminate possible habitat areas for birds and other mammals.



Left, an L-RAD B avian radar system similar to the one NAS Kingsville tested late last year. Units like these are being adopted by a number of military airfields to help reduce or contain the BASH threat and provide a safe-flying environment.



5 students designated Naval Aviators at Training Air Wing TWO Winging Ceremony

By Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs

Five student aviators received their Wings of Gold and were designated Naval Aviators during a Winging Ceremony held at the Captain's Club May 15. Training Air Wing TWO Commander Capt. Bill Davis presided over the ceremony along with Cmdr. Bill Bulis (VT-21) and Cmdr. Gerald Murphy (VT-22).

The ceremony marked the end of nearly 13 months of advanced jet/strike training at NAS Kingsville for the aviators. Each will now move on to Fleet Replacement squadrons to learn their fleet aircraft before reporting to the fleet.

Front row, from left: Cmdr. Gerald Murphy, Commanding Officer VT-22; Lt. j.g. David Mason, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Lt. j.g. Jonathan Robinson, Mountain View, Calif.; Capt. Bill Davis, Training Air Wing TWO; and Lt. Col Terrance LaTorre, Executive Officer VT-22. Back row, from left, Cmdr. Bill Bulis, Commanding Officer VT-21; Lt. j.g. James Olsen, Houston, Texas; Lt. j.g. Joshua Denning, Edmonds, Wash.; Lt. j.g. Joshua Bettis, Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Cmdr. John Kelsey, Executive Officer, VT-21. (Photo by Richard Stewart).



2nd Annual Safety & Health Fair (from page 1)



The NAS Kingsville Fire and Rescue Dept. handed out frisbees and fire hats to visitors along with information on fire prevention and home fire safety.



ABH1 (AW) Andre Kizzie, right, checks out the Homecare Dimensions of Kingsville display.



ACAN Sam Bivins and AC3 Ron Anderson talk with Dave Metcalf of the Texas Department of Public Safety Motorcycle Operator Training Program inside the traveling training trailer. Below, Capt. Waddingham receives bicycle safety helmet via special delivery from CBRAC, the Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council's Safety for Life mobile advisor.



L-3 Vertex employees view displays of medical bandages and supplies from Steele Home Medical Equipment, one of more than 40 vendors to set up displays for the Fair.



AM2 (AW) Arlie Chambers discusses bike riding safety with TW-2's ENS Taylor Brashear and ENS Joe Campbell of VT-22.



Branch Health Clinic celebrates Asian-Pacific Heritage Month *(By: EN3 Brenda Acevedo, Public Affairs Office)*

Thursday, April 30 was a day of celebration and remembrance for Asian Pacific Heritage at the NAS Kingsville Branch Health Clinic. It was a time to highlight some of the important contributions Asian Pacific Americans have made to our country and how the culture is continuously celebrated within our naval installations.

Welcoming remarks were read by Chief Hospital Corpsman (Fleet Marine Force) Tony LaFuentes and remarks commemorating the occasion from the Chief of Naval Operations remarks were read by HM3 Mike Garcia to start the event.

Following the opening remarks, a Tae Kwon Do demonstration by the Kingsville Tae Kwon Do Academy included NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham and NAS Corpus Christi Branch Health Clinic Commanding Officer Capt. Randal G. Kelley, when they proceeded to break wooden planks using their elbows when instructed by the



Sensei (instructor).

Next up was the Tinikling Dance, a traditional Filipino dance involving sticks, performed by the Kingsville FIL-AM Association. Master Chief Clarence Hodges couldn't resist joining-in and taking a turn at it with Lucy Clarkson from the Fleet and Family Support Center. The end of the program was culminated by a large spread of Asian-American foods donated by the NASK Branch Health Clinic, the Security Department, Fleet and Family Support, and MWR staff members that are part of the FIL-AM Association.



Left, dancers perform the traditional Filipino Tinikling Dance. Right, NAS Corpus Christi Health Clinic Command Master Chief Clarence Hodges gets dance advice from Lucy Clarkson.



Above: NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham uses a Tae Kwon Do technique to break a wooden plank with his elbow.

MWR hosts Teen Summer Job Fair



NAS Kingsville's MWR Department held a "Summer Teen Employment Job Fair" at the MWR Fitness Center Gymnasium Friday, May 15. Coupled with a "Teen Workshop" on May 5 led by Ramon Panganiban of the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) that focused on Interview Preparation and Resume Building, the program has already gone above and beyond expectations of base personnel, their dependents, and MWR employees. The workshop had an attendance of

15 teenagers with many looking to snag their first "real" job. Without skipping a beat, the teens came out in full force and the Job Fair had an attendance of 37 teens from various schools and grade levels. Some teens came from as far as Bishop and Robstown to apply and interview.

NAS Kingsville Youth Center director Brent Edwards organized the event for the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department. Edwards was pleased with the turnout and the enthusiasm displayed by

the teenagers.

"The first aspect of the Job Fair that surprised me was the level of dress these young women and men presented themselves in," Edwards said. "The flyer stated 'Dress Appropriately - Business Casual' and almost every single last teen did just that. They really carried themselves well. Many of the teens brought resumes to pass out to the different MWR facility managers. Plus, it was the teens' successfully interviewing by themselves, while parents simply sat on the side and waited. We even caught some parents biting their nails in hopes their teen would be selected. It was very exciting!"

This year's Summer Teen Employment Program on NASK will employ 12 teenagers at various MWR facilities. Yet, the program is really focused away from the employment and about the education and



development of the teenagers throughout the 8-week program, which will be highlighted with an emphasis on teen career education and job experience. Teens will attend MWR's Star Service Training, complete curriculum from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) Money Matters Program, Job Ready, and Career Launch, as well as have presenters on Stress Management, "How to buy a Car" by the Better Business Bureau, and many more topics.

"This is my second time around running this program and I already feel that it is set up for an unbelievable amount of success," Edwards added. "Just reading over some of the resumes of the selected teenagers, talking to the facility managers after interviews, and meeting the teens at the workshop and job fair has completely charged me up for the summer. Undoubtedly, it will fly by, but I know the teens' development will not."



NAS JRB Fort Worth Hosts Armed Forces Day Celebration and Air Show

By Rusty Baker, NAS JRB Fort Worth

Fort Worth, Texas, in appreciation to the local community, hosted its first Armed Forces Day Celebration with a free concert featuring Trace Adkins and demonstration of military air power at the installation, May 15 and 16.

The event is the first time the base has been opened to the public in three years, offering interested parties, be they country music fans or air-show enthusiasts, an opportunity to join service members in saluting America's heroes during the Armed Forces Day weekend.

"I've been all over the Metroplex talking about the strategic importance of NAS JRB Fort Worth," said installation Commanding Officer Navy Capt. T.D. Smyers, "but because Fort Worth is a town that supports military power, and each individual warrior, in our community, we thought it best to show the community with an event like this."

Kicking off the festivities was country music's big guy, Grammy-nominated, Trace Adkins.

Rising country-music star and local favorite, Emily West opened the night's show with an advantage that appealed to the military crowd – her brother, Matt Nemmers, is a Navy chief petty officer recently transferred from the installation.

Modern military aviation dominated the event, hence the noticeable removal of the term air show, with the replacement of the favored name, Air Power Demonstration.

"We're demonstrating U.S. military air power -- unrivaled [throughout the] world, and supported here by Fort Worth's spirit of community and teamwork. It is a celebration of our past, present and future – across all services," said Smyers.

Powerhouses of the day included the Navy F/A-18F Super Hornet tactical demonstration, Air Force B-52 Stratofortress bomber fly over, as well as a both the Lockheed Martin F-16C Fighting Falcon (Viper) aerial performance and the Air Force Air Combat Command West Coast Viper Demonstration Team combat capability demonstration of the F-16.



FORT WORTH, Texas (May 16, 2009) Moisture builds on the leading edges of an F/A-18F Super Hornet piloted by Lt. Brad "FID" Garms and Lt. Darin "Baghak" Dean, assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 122, perform a .98 Mach speed pass during the air power demonstration portion of the Armed Forces Day Celebration at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas. The aircraft was traveling approximately 725 mph. (U.S. Navy photo by Rusty Baker).

The JRB-based flying squadrons also showcased their static-display aircraft, including the Marine F/A-18 Hornet and KC-130 Hercules, Navy C-9 Skytrain, Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon, Army C-12

Huron and the Texas Air National Guard C-130 Hercules. Local pilots and crewmembers provided tours of their aircraft and answered questions from air-show and aviation enthusiasts visiting that day.



NAS Kingsville military and civilian personnel remember American sacrifices for freedom

Memorial Day 2009

NASK to host EMS team for annual environmental management audit

As mandated by Executive Order 13423 and OPNAVINST 5090.1C, all Navy installations are required to implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) by September 30, 2009. An effective EMS has several key components actions. It must:

- Integrate key environmental considerations related to the work that we do here at NAS Kingsville into day-to-day management decision making;
- Consistently address environmental issues before they become problems; and
- Establish measureable environmental objectives that lead to continual improvement.

The NAS Kingsville EMS has determined that the following significant environmental aspects need to be addressed first:

- Waste Generation – Expired shelf life of Hazardous Materials
- Potable Water – Water Quality

Since EMS is a continual improvement process, once objectives for these aspects are achieved, additional aspects

will be examined. Any ideas for environmental improvement on Station can be brought to the attention of the EMS Manager, Norma Barrera at (361) 516-6404.

All military, civilian and contractor personnel on the station should have read the station's Environmental Policy (see insert) and taken the EMS General Awareness training. The EMS General Awareness Training is a mandatory requirement of all NAS Kingsville personnel. This training is a web-based (www.cnrse-ems.org/env-kingsville/) PowerPoint® presentation that takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete. The Web site keeps track of personnel that have taken the training.

An external audit of our EMS program is scheduled for the week of June 1 and auditors will be asking random personnel questions about the station's EMS and Environmental Policy.

Note: The NAS Kingsville Command Environmental Policy Statement is now available on the command Web site. Visit: <https://cnic.navy.mil/kingsville>

Full House turns out for Navy League Casino Night at the Captain's Club

Despite a much-needed dose of rain throughout Kingsville Saturday, May 16, nearly 300 people turned out to the Captain's Club to honor Armed Forces Day and support the Kingsville Navy League at the annual Casino Night. The event included refreshments and musical entertainment, as well as the traditional silent auction and prize drawings for those who walked away from the tables with extra chips. As it turned out, the dealers went out of their way to ensure no one walked away without a chance to win something.

Volunteers from throughout the air station chipped in to assist the Navy League at the game tables. Guests were able to choose from familiar card and tables like 5-card draw and Blackjack, to Craps, Roulette, and Texas Hold "em.

Oldtimers like Fidelity Technologies' Lance "Lucky" Hamm, TW-2's 4-time Capt. Bill "Two Thumbs" Davis, and Charlie "Shorty" Michalk

even got a chance to play a little once their work as dealers was completed. But rubbing elbows with the "Big Daawgs" like CMC Charlie "No Luck" Ratliff, CDR Bill "Bite the Bullet" Bulis, Forrest "Go For broke" Patton and NASK 3-time Texas Hold'Em champ AC1 Dan "The Dog" Garza didn't make it any easier to stay on the plus side.

Fleet and Family Support Center's Lucy Clarkson, a regular volunteer at the annual event, spent most of her evening jumping from the dealer's table to the Silent Auction area. "I want to bid on something," she said, "I just can't decide on what."

For those that actually did have an idea of what they were doing the night didn't end when the final cards were dealt, the chips were put away, and the prizes were all handed out. For many, that's when the party actually started as the tables were pushed away to open the dance floor.

All in all, the event turned out to be a good time for all - and the Navy League.

Casino Night

There was something for everybody at the annual Navy League Casino Night Saturday May, 16 at the Captain's Club.

Some took their turn on the crap and roulette tables, while others tried their luck at cards. Either way, the dealers were on their side .. and the festivities benefited the Navy League.



"Mr. Garza, we should inform you that we have a camera watching your every move."



"Don't give me that cash until after the photographer leaves."



**Chaplain
(Lt. Cmdr)
Mark Tews**

**NAS Kingsville
Command Chaplain**

Earlier this month we observed the annual National Day of Prayer on May 7th, then a little more than two weeks later was Memorial Day. Both of which are significant events in the life of our nation, and hopefully in each of our lives individually. Perhaps, like me, you are a little concerned when it seems as if fewer and fewer of your fellow citizens observe or notice, or even forget about or care about such events anymore. I recently read a book from the small library we have here in the Chaplain's office titled *Unforgettable Men in Unforgettable Times* by Robert Boardman. I share with you the following excerpt from that book:

***"The Marine Who Didn't Know How to Pray"* by Robert Boardman**

On September 15, 1944, the First marine Division assaulted the coral island of Peleliu. Nineteen year old PFC Ivan Eims, a Marine radioman, manning a .30 caliber machine gun in B Company Third Armored Amphibious Tractor Battalion is in zero wave. That is before the first wave; the only people in front of him are the enemy.

The amphibs thunder across the coral reef and the Japanese begin firing and hitting. Previously placed stakes in the coral and out in the water mark off the exact distance for the Japanese mortar men. Eims' tank touches sand and dashes onto the beach. A Japanese artilleryman has the amphib squarely in his sights, the shell rips completely through the tank. Eims yells, "Let's get out of here!"

Eims is racing for cover, ready to do battle, now as an infantryman. The sand in front of him pops, pops, pops, as a hidden machine gunner sprays a burst of bullets at him.

"As soon as that strip was laid down, I ran for cover. I didn't get far when I saw what the machine gunner had just hit."

A Marine lays in a pool of blood. He had been riddled from his ankles to his throat. Lying there, about to die, the wounded Marine grabs Eims, "mate, I need help." Then the dying Marine says, "Do you know how to pray?"

"Pray? I didn't know how to pray. I didn't know anything about religion. Nothing. I looked around for someone else to

help. When I looked back to the wounded man, he died looking me straight in the eyes."

"I didn't know how to help him. That machine gunner could have gotten me. I began wondering what happens to a guy when he dies. I wondered where that dead Marine went when he died. I didn't know, but I was sure of one thing, I was going to find out."

But the battle rages on. Eims stumbles over another wounded Marine. This one has his upper lip shot off. No upper lip, yet he is trying to smoke a cigarette. While Eims and a corpsman help the man, a Jeep comes up behind them and is hit.

"That Jeep literally disappeared, and the two riders with it. There wasn't one large piece of anything left. Just smoke. Some of the shrapnel hit me; there was a hole in my knee the size of a lemon."

The corpsman he is with is hit too, his left arm blown off. He staggers over to Eims and says in an apologetic tone, "I'm sorry, but I don't think I'll be able to help you." Then he keels over. Dead. Eims is finally evacuated to a hospital ship. The Marines go on to take Peleliu. It turned out to be one of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific.

After the war, Eims got a job as a telegrapher in a railway depot in Harlan, Iowa. He never forgot those haunting eyes of that dying Marine on Peleliu. The war had quenched his thirst for adventure, but there was another, more gnawing thirst. What is life really all about? Eims eventually learned the meaning of life through reading the Bible he found faith and learned how to pray.

The question asked by the dying Marine, "Do you know how to pray?" is one we must all face. For him it was too late. For us, the living, even if in the twilight of life, it is never too late. The disciples said to Jesus, "Lord teach us to pray." He answered their request. "When you pray, pray like this; Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name..."

The author of the book, Robert Boardman, was wounded in the battle for Okinawa. I leave you with the following quote from him; "When it comes time to die, make sure all you have to do is die. Do all your soul preparation for that crucial, eternal moment. Get ready today, for tomorrow may be too late. Fortunately, I was ready. My flesh was fearful, but my inner being experienced the peace of God that passes human understanding, for I had come to faith just two years earlier when I read the pocket-sized Gideon's New Testament given to me back in boot camp.

Check out our library in the Chaplain's office for this book and many more. We will even give you a Bible if you need one.



Medical Corner

HM2 Cyrus Cunningham,
Branch Health Clinic Kingsville



Protect yourself this summer

As the summer days descend upon us it is important to remember the care of one of your most important body parts -- your eyes.

Research shows that only one in six Americans wear sunglasses when they are in the sun for long periods of time, yet people who spend excessive hours in the summer sun have an increased risk in later life of developing age-related eye conditions such as macular degeneration as well as cataracts and corneal problems.

Sunglasses are vital because they keep certain wavelengths of light from entering the eye. They can also reduce the amount of light entering the eye, protect against harmful UV light, decrease glare and increase contrast.

Here are 5 eye safety tips from the experts at Lighthouse International, a leading pioneer in vision health care.

1. Be sure to wear proper sunglasses - sunglasses that have 400 UV protection or more. A dark lens does not necessarily have UV protection. The key characteristic to look for is an

indication that the lenses absorb 99 to 100 percent of UV light, particularly UV-B. An ultraviolet-blocking coating can also be placed on any lens, regardless of the degree of tint. However, a coating does not block as much UV light as the protective lens.

2. Be sure to wear sun glasses especially during long hours on the beach or on the water when the water reflects and intensifies the sun.

3. To further minimize sun damage to the eyes people of all ages - from infants to seniors -- should wear hats or visors.

4. Be sure to wear proper eye protection that is fitted properly when playing any sport. Such protective lenses should be made of polycarbonate which can withstand high impact. Eye injuries are one of the leading causes of visual impairment in children.

5. Avoid blue tinted sun glasses - they may look cool but blue tint actually emits ultra violet light which is what you are supposed to be blocking out.

Religious Ministries Sunday Worship Services

**Catholic Mass
12:30 p.m.**

(Wednesdays at Noon during Lent)

**Protestant service
10:30 a.m.
Chaplain's Office
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: Oldtimer softball glove. Used for 40 plus years. Owner now 50 and in no shape to play. Held together with duct tape and prayer. Contact Chaplain Tews at 516-6618.

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

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

For Sale: Older model sewing machine with cabinet, White brand model 263, \$40. Sewing cabinet on casters, \$10. Call 361-592-3183.



Recruiting for Child Development Home Provider's

Child Development Homes (CDH) Provider's Training, always recruiting. Do you want to have your own business at home? Looking for Active Duty Military Spouses interested in becoming a certified Child Development Homes Provider. All training is free and a Lending Library is included. You must be 18 or older, be able to read, speak and write English, and pass an extensive background check. For more information contact Carmen Chapa at 361-516-6569.

Father's Day Overnight Fishing

June 20. "What better place to be on Father's Day and the rest of the Summer" than on a 12-hour Overnight Deep Sea Fishing Trip. MWR will be going aboard the 80 ft. "SCAT CAT" for 12 hours overnight. Fish to be caught will be Am-

berjack, Ling, Shark, and of course Snapper. Snapper Season this year is limited to only 30 days, and this trip will be during that time frame. Rod and reel and bait are furnished. Participants will need a Texas Fishing License. Boat will be going 35 to 50 miles offshore. Participants May NOT bring aboard food or drinks, but there is a concession stand aboard selling food, drinks, and adult beverages. Departure time 8 p.m. at Outdoor Rec, and return at noon. Cost of trip-\$110, Kids 12 & under ½ price. FMI call Frank at x6191

50 Mile Swim Club Registration

MWR will be starting their annual 50 mile swim 23 May 2009. Register at the MWR Pool front desk to start keeping record of your swim. Contestants will have all season to complete their 50 miles. For all registered contestants that complete their 50 mile swim they will receive a free t-shirt. Registration is free to all eligible patrons. For more information contact MWR pool at 361-516-6113 after 23 May.

"Read on the Wild Side"

This summer's reading program will be held June 1- July 31. Children can start registering on June 1. After registering,

the child will start reading books from a selected list to get prizes. The prizes start small, i.e. stickers, pencils, etc. but the more books they read the bigger the prizes get. Some of the big prizes are elephant am/fm radios and t-shirts. On Wednesday, there will be one hour programs for ages 5-8 (1-2 p.m.) and 8-up (2-3 p.m.). These programs will include animal face painting, animal crafts, a stuffed animal safari and other fun ideas. On July 31 at 4 p.m. there will be a pizza party and certificate award ceremony. To register stop by the library or call 516-6271.

Lifeguard Class

This class includes a Red cross certification in CPR and First Aid for the professional rescuer and a certification in water rescue. Must be 15 to take the course. This is a 30 hr certification class which begins on June 8, 5-9 p.m. for prerequisite swimming skills which include: 300 yrd swim using front crawl and back crawl, and a timed retrieval of a 10 lb. object from 10 ft.. at a 20 yard distance, class ends June 14. Class is \$80 for base personnel and \$100 for community.

For more information and registration call Kristy Lenzy at 361-516-6172 or MWR Pool at 361-516-6113.



Bowling Leagues

In the Dog House Spring League

Final Standings

Pos.	Team	Won	Lost	GB
1.	Lane Breakers	49.5	30.5	0.0
2.	3 Minds	45.0	35.0	3.5
3.	Pin-Heads	44.0	36.0	5.5
4.	Tumbalos	35.0	45.0	14.5
5.	Gorilla Gang	34.0	46.0	15.5
6.	Hounds	32.5	43.5	17.5

Final Week High Scores:

Team scratch game: Lane Breakers 583
Team scratch series: Lane Breakers 1548

High Scores:

Jerry Brooks 231 game, 582 series

John Zapalac 214 game

Lindy Conner 578 series

League Leaders

High Avg. Lindy Conner 182

High Series: Lindy Conner 662

High Game: Vic Kuntscher 236

High HC Series: Rodney Malin 696

High HC Game: Darren Griggs 267

Most Improved: JD Monroe +19.14

Kirk Hyndman +16.67

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

MWR Pool Season now open

Prices;

Navy League Members:

Daily Single \$2

Month Single \$15

Season Single \$50

Daily Family \$2

Month Family \$30

Season Family \$75

Family Members &

Authorized Civilians:

Daily Single \$1

Month Single \$10

Season Single \$20

Daily Family \$1

Month Family \$15

Season Family \$35

Guests \$3 each

MILITARY: Active Duty, Retirees and Reservists can use pool free of charge. Dependents and DOD/NAF employees can lap swim from 1100-1300 free of charge.

PARTIES: Private pool parties \$50 per hour with minimum of 2 hours. Public pool parties \$50 flat fee includes designated shaded area with table and chairs for 3 hrs. * Paid reservations must be made no later than two weeks prior to party.

USA and NASK birthdays top celebration

MWR to sponsor 4th of July Extravaganza

NAS Kingsville and MWR will once again be hosting an Independence Day celebration, complete with the largest fireworks display in Kleberg County. A celebration of the nation's 233rd birthday and the anniversary of the air station's official dedication in 1942, the event will be a great opportunity for family and friends of the air station to come together and enjoy a great day of food, fun, and entertainment.

Festivities will take place in the general area of the Captain's Club and Conference Center on 4 July, and are scheduled to get under way at 1800. Planned for the day is a variety of family-friendly games and activities, as well as a great lineup of live entertainment.

Featured on the main stage will be a patriotic performance by the Kingsville Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet, followed by local recording artist Ragged Company. Playing a blend of old favorites and excellent original music, Ragged Company has established itself as one of the most popular local bands. You don't

want to miss either of these performances.

For those who are more hands-on, MWR be organizing a number of games and contests for everyone to enjoy. Look for old standards like the egg toss, water balloon toss, three-legged races, as well as some new and creative events. And yes, there will be a pie eating contest. (CMC Ratliff is the early favorite).

In addition to the great entertainment, the MWR department will have food and drinks available. Menu items will be announced soon.

New this year will be the ability for air station personnel to invite immediate family and friends. Details regarding the issuing of vehicle passes to personnel are being finalized, and should be announced by the middle of June.

Additional details regarding the event will be published in the Flying K throughout the month of June. Event schedules will be available at all MWR facilities as they become available.

Stay tuned for more updates!



Capt. Phil Waddingham presents a Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal to RP2 Norman R. Otters for superior performance as a member of the Command Religious Ministries Department from June 2007 to June 2009. In addition to his regular duties, Otters also served as a member of the NAS Honor/Color Guard, Command Fitness Coordinator, and Community Outreach Coordinator, ensuring the Naval Air Station played an active role in supporting community functions and special events.



Capt. Phil Waddingham presents a Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal to ET2 (SW) Samuel E. Babb for superior performance from July to December 2008. Babb responded to a catastrophic casualty of the command's only Air Search Radar system, engineered an emergent repair to a downed ASR-8 antenna system, and immediately got them online, enabling the command to continue to meet critical mission requirements in support of TW-2.



Capt. Phil Waddingham presents to a Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal to ET2 (SW) Joseph Morin for superior performance from July 2008 to April 2009. Morin performed 7 mission critical repairs to the command's Precision Approach Radar system, ensuring student aviators could continue to train in precision landings. He also was recognized for his efforts during two successful FAA mandated flight checks.

BASH series, from page 5

aircraft destroyed, and over \$310 million in damage. And one of the most vulnerable areas for bird aircraft strikes is on the South Texas gulf coast, home to both NAS Corpus Christi and NAS Kingsville. Both installations use their Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMP) and Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Programs as key components for supporting active military aviation training and managing highly diverse migratory bird resources in the midst of one of the largest migratory bird flyway zones in North America.

The Central Flyway is the largest migratory flyway in North America and it's important to understand migratory bird resources and migration patterns and their potential to impact naval aviation training. During the spring and fall migration, millions of migratory birds glide along the South Texas Gulf Coast heading for warmer climates south of the equator. Some bird species winter along the South Texas Gulf Coast. Of the 338 species that are listed as Nearctic-Neotropical migrants in North America (north of Mexico), 333 or 98.5 percent have been recorded in Texas. Additionally, many more bird species are summer occupants or residents of South Texas, and resident birds such as the Green Jay and Pyrrhuloxia add to the high diversity of bird species found in south Texas, making it a bird watcher's paradise.

NAS Corpus Christi, located on Cor-

pus Christi Bay adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico, provides a variety of shoreline and upland habitat for migratory birds ranging from salt and freshwater wetlands and tidal flats to native prairie coastal grasslands. NAS Kingsville is located a little further inland but still within close proximity to the Laguna Madre, Baffin Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. It, along with Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Orange Grove and the installation-owned Escondido Ranch, provides inland habitat such as coastal grasslands, riparian stream habitat, isolated wetlands and south Texas thorn scrub brush for migratory birds.

While the encroachment reduction efforts have paid off in a big way for the Navy, the most technologically advanced tool available to BASH biologists and installation natural resource managers is the avian radar system. Avian radar systems can provide a cost-effective method for gathering extensive year-round data 24-7 on bird movements at and around airfields over extended periods of time (at least a year). The resultant data can then be analyzed and modeled in detail to assess avian activity levels and to determine seasonal activity and trends for BASH management and mitigation. In addition, this technology can provide real-time detection, risk assessment and warning for operating airports and airfields. NAS Kingsville tested one of these systems over a 90-day period in the fall of 2008 to track bird movements over and around the installation. According to Earwood,

it was also tested to see how the system would benefit a Naval Aviation Training Facility. "The results were pretty good," Earwood said. The Air Station plans to test another avian radar system in the coming months, and then compare the results between the two systems. Eventually, the air station will purchase a system for year-round use. A number of military airfields are testing avian systems for their BASH programs, but the same system that works in one part of the country may not be the best for an airfield 2,000 miles away. Getting the right tool at the right cost for the right reason is what is driving the test period.

Texas A&M University at Kingsville owns and operates two MERLIN avian radar systems at the school's Cesar-Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. The radars are being used to study migratory bird movements along with the South Texas coast, and NAS Kingsville will be conducting a joint, Legacy Grant study with the college beginning in 2010 to study bird migration in South Texas. It's a win-win situation for both parties. The University will be able to gather the data they need to track the migration routes, and the air station will use what they learn from the two-year study to enhance a BASH Program that is clearly on its way to becoming one of the best in the Navy.

"I don't know of a single airfield, civilian or military, that doesn't have BASH issues," Earwood said recently. "The most important element of the



A flock of pelicans fly over NAS Kingsville paying no attention to the aircraft below.

program for NAS Kingsville, though, is maintaining a working relationship with our neighbors and keeping our personnel informed that BASH is a program in which everyone participates in one way or another."

Editor's Note: Input from Rich Riddle, Eddie Earwood, and the Navy Safety Center was used to compile this three-part series. --

Focus on Air Operations: In our next issue of the Flying K, we'll present the first of a 4-part series on the Air Operations Department - including NALF Orange Grove - and the major accomplishments reached over the last 18 months that have transformed the Air Station into one of the most modern facilities in the Navy.