

THE FLYING K

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August 7, 2009

Navy, DoD identify remains of Navy Capt. Michael Scott Speicher

From the Department of the Navy

WASHINGTON -- Remains found last month in Iraq’s Anbar province are those of Navy Capt. Michael Scott Speicher, who was shot down flying a combat mission in an F/A-18 Hornet on Jan. 17, 1991, and whose fate until now had been uncertain, Defense Department officials reported Aug 4.

Acting on information provided by Iraqi civilians, Marines stationed in Anbar province went to a desert location believed to be the crash site of Speicher’s jet, and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology positively identified remains recovered there Speicher’s.

“The news that Capt. Speicher’s remains have been recovered is a reminder of the selfless service that led him to

make the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom,” President Barack Obama said in a statement released today. “As with all our servicemen and women considered missing in action, we remain steadfast in our determination to bring our American heroes home.

“I am grateful to the Marines who pursued the information that led to Capt. Speicher’s recovery so that he can now come home,” he continued. “My thoughts and prayers are with his family, and I hope that the recovery of his remains will bring them a needed sense of closure.”

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus also expressed his condolences. “Our thoughts and prayers are with Capt. Speicher’s family for the ultimate sacrifice he made for his country,” he said. “I am also extremely grateful to all those who have

worked so tirelessly over the last 18 years to bring Capt. Speicher home.”

The Navy’s top uniformed officer praised the effort to determine Speicher’s fate and expressed gratitude for the fallen aviator’s sacrifice. “Our Navy will never give up looking for a shipmate, regardless of how long or how difficult that search may be,” said Adm. Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations. “We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Capt. Speicher and his family for the sacrifice they have made for our nation and the example of strength they have set for all of us.”

In early July, an Iraqi civilian told Marines he knew two people who recalled an American jet crashing and the remains of the pilot being buried. One of those people said he was present when Bedouins found Speicher dead and buried his re-

mains. The Iraqis led Marines to the site, and the Marines searched the area. Remains were recovered over several days during the past week and were flown to Dover Air Force Base, Del., for scientific identification by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology’s Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner.

The recovered remains include bones and skeletal fragments. Positive identification was made by comparing Speicher’s dental records with the jawbone recovered at the site. The teeth are a match, both visually and radiographically, officials said.

Capt. Speicher will be laid to rest in Jacksonville. A memorial marker in his honor rests in a shaded area on board what once was NAS Cecil Field, Fla., just outside the Jacksonville city limits.



One of Our Own Capt. Michael Scott “Spike” Speicher

Rank at Loss: Lt.Cmdr./USN
In 2002: Commander, USN
Current: Captain, USN
Embarked Unit: USS Saratoga
Home base: NAS Cecil Field
Age at Loss: 33,
Born: July 12, 1957
Home: Jacksonville, Fla.
Status: Married / 2 children
Date of Loss: Jan. 17, 1991
Original Status: Missing in Action
Status Changed to KIA/BNR
May 1991
Remains Discovered: July 2009
Identified: Aug. 2, 2009



The U.S. Navy and Boeing unveiled the next maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, the P-8A Poseidon, during a rollout ceremony July 30 at Boeing’s manufacturing facility in Seattle. Above, a Boeing P-8A Poseidon test aircraft T-1 conducts a test flight April 25, 2009. The aircraft completed a series of tests during the 3 hour, 31 minute flight and reached an altitude of 25,000 feet before landing at Boeing Field in Seattle. (Photo courtesy Boeing).



Capt. Phil Waddingham
Commanding Officer,
NAS Kingsville



Greetings, NAS Kingsville.

Welcome aboard Capt. and Mrs. Mark "Fingers" Brooks!

No, you're not reading an old edition of the Flying K, and yes, the TW-2 Change of Command occurred over a month ago on July 2. What I am referring to is the fact that after patiently waiting the better part of a month, Fingers and Mel have finally moved into their new home located at Quarters "A" here on board NAS Kingsville.

The residence designated as Quarters "A" was built in the 1920s as a King Ranch farm house and was originally located at a different location. It was moved to its current location after the transfer of King Ranch property to the U.S. Navy for the development of Naval Air Auxiliary Station (NAAS) Kingsville in 1942, and it has remained here ever since. Over the years, it has served as the residence to both Wing Commanders and Base Commanding Officers, as well as other senior military officers

assigned to the base.

Today, it is once again home to Commander, Training Air Wing Two, and after a month-long period of renovation and upkeep, it looks better than ever thanks to the hard work of Lynn Early and the Housing staff, and Ken Mahaffey and his contractors from Public Works. Over the next two years, this home will be the site of many SNA and Winging socials, as well as other gatherings, and will serve as NAS Kingsville's flagship residence. To Fingers and Mel, enjoy your new home, and please leave a light on for us (a green one!).

I want to wrap up this edition's input by commenting on the recent discovery of the remains of Capt. Michael "Scott" Speicher near Al Asad, Iraq. Capt. Speicher, or "Spike" as those of us in his air wing knew him, was shot down on the opening night of Desert Storm on January 17, 1991. He was piloting his F/A-18 Hornet assigned to the VFA-81 Sunliners embarked on USS Saratoga on station in the Red Sea. I was on that strike, and Spike was chosen to set up his High Speed Anti-Radiation Missile combat air patrol (HARM CAP) on the northern most point of the strike package, tasked with delivering three pre-emptive HARM shots targeting enemy emitters in the western Baghdad area as part of a concurrent and sequential suppression of en-

emy air defenses mission.

Although I did not see the aftermath of his reported engagement with an Iraqi MiG-25, the resultant fireball in the vicinity of his aircraft which was viewed by a sister squadron Hornet driver, left little reason for us to believe he could have survived. The absence of news of his capture, or any other information which would have given us or his family hope, did not exist.

Not until many years later, after Operation Iraqi Freedom, did U.S. Forces have the opportunity to scour the crash site, and some evidence uncovered suggested he may have survived the crash. But again, no real evidence to indicate what actually happened to him. Until now.

We now know that then-Lt. Cmdr. Scott Speicher was found dead at the crash site by Bedouins and buried in the desert. Our Nation never forgets our fallen comrades, and this case proves the point. The first combat casualty of the Gulf War died serving his country doing what he was trained to do. Our military, our Government, and our Nation can now express our deepest sympathies to the Speicher family.

Capt. Speicher's family finally has the closure they have been longing for over 18 years. His remains will be buried in Jacksonville, Fla., according to his wishes.

Waddz sends

Deck plate Leadership Sea Notes From the Command Master Chief



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



Wow, the Command Quarters and Awards Ceremony we conducted on July 23 was absolutely great!

Three of the folks recognized that day were CS1(SW) Erasmo Guerrero, our Sr. Sailor of the Quarter (SOQ); ET2(SW) John Fuller, our Junior SOQ; and CS3(AW) Erick Soliz our Bluejacket of the Quarter (BJOQ). These three Sailors were chosen from among a group of superb nominees. I personally chaired the SOQ and Junior SOQ boards and I can tell you the competition was extremely close. Every Sailor who was nominated was worthy of selection. What makes a Sailor a good candidate for Sailor of the Quarter? What are the things SOQ board members are looking for in a candidate? Let's talk about a few things board members look for in a

SOQ candidate.

Sustained superior performance is always first and foremost. Does the Sailor have strong professional knowledge? Do they know their rate well? Is the Sailor reliable and do they get the job done right and ahead of schedule? How significantly does the Sailor impact the division or department? Are they a key player who the LPO and LCPO can count on?

Leadership and Sailorization are also important, particularly at the Junior SOQ and SOQ levels. How many Sailors does the candidate supervise? What are the results of their leadership? What are the division's reenlistment and retention rates? Are their Sailors getting expected qualifications on time?

Collateral duties always get looked at. Is the candidate only doing what is expected of them or are they taking on additional assignments? Are the collateral duties they have taken on challenging? And of course it goes without saying, how is the Sailor performing with regard to collateral duties?

Off duty education is another area Boards take into consideration. If you have the opportunity to pursue off-duty

education I strongly encourage you to take advantage of that opportunity.

Community involvement is very important to SOQ board members. Is the Sailor a member of a peer group or community organization(s)? Does the Sailor participate in community service projects?

Military bearing is also important. Does the candidate set the standard in appearance and conduct? Are the candidate's subordinate Sailors squared away? What about the candidate's PFA score and are they active in the PRT Program?

Finally, there is the SOQ board itself. A SOQ board offers nominees an opportunity to answer questions and discuss Navy issues with board members. Most of the questions SOQ board members ask don't have actual right or wrong answers. Board members will usually ask questions that allow SOQ candidates to provide opinions on topics that are important to all Sailors. So, just relax and answer the questions to the best of your ability.

Well, hopefully this gives you some insight into what SOQ boards are looking for. Keep up the good work and I hope to see you at one of our SOQ boards soon!

The Flying K

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Capt. Mark Brooks
Commander
Training Air Wing TWO



It was reported this past weekend that Capt. Michael Scott “Spike” Speicher’s remains have been found in Iraq. Many of you are probably aware that then-Lt. Cmdr. Speicher was the first casualty of Desert Storm, shot down on one of the first night strikes of that campaign. He was my Strike “On Wing” when I went through VFA-106 as an RP (Replacement Pilot) in 1987. He was a good guy.

For those of us in the Strike Fighter community, his loss was a bitter pill because the tactical situation that led to his

loss could have been averted – there is some solace that the lessons learned from that incident probably made us better as a tactical air force. That said it was the aftermath that was particularly hard to swallow. For almost two decades now, his fate has been a mystery; and, for the Navy it has been the cause of collective angst. We never truly knew what happened to Spike, and that meant we may have left him behind – and we don’t do that in the United States military.

In 1999, I was the Joint Task Force J3 (Operations) Watch Officer when we lost an F-117 during the campaign against Yugoslavia (Allied Force). I was indirectly part of the effort to recover the USAF pilot and it was truly rewarding to watch many in our profession “turn to” and recover that gent in the middle of combat operations, in Serbia... at night. Again, it provides some solace that lessons learned (or lack thereof) in Spike’s

case may have contributed to that success one evening in the spring of 1999.

This is a serious business and the story of Capt. Speicher brings it home. For those that fly and train in TW-2 jets, learn your craft well. When you head off to or go back to the fleet, train hard and fly hard. Trust in yourselves and each other. If and when you go into combat, know – as I always have – that the United States military team will leave no stone unturned to retrieve you should you find yourself unpleasantly removed from your cockpit. Scott Speicher was instrumental in building the foundation of my successful career as a Strike Fighter pilot and for that I am truly thankful.

Rest in Peace, Spike.
May your loved ones have Peace.

Very Respectfully, Fingers.

Arriving:

Newly reported personnel

ACAN Kiana Kahlbaum,
Air Traffic Controller, Air Ops
Hometown – Mt. View, Hawaii

ACAN Shauna Johnson,
Air Traffic Controller, Air Ops
Hometown – Christmas, Fla.

Lt. Cmdr Troy Hamilton,
Public Works Officer
Hometown – Almonte Springs, Fla.

Lt. Will Burton,
Student Naval Aviator, VT-21.
Hometown – Stanford, Ky.

2nd Lt. Jordan Meredith,
Student Naval Aviator, VT-21.
Hometown – Aiken, S.C.

ABH2 Carlos Machado,
Field Support, Air Operations.
Hometown – Dallas, Texas

1st Lt. Jarrod Allen,
Student Naval Aviator, TW-2.
Hometown – San Diego, Calif.

Ensign Jared Wedel,
Student Naval Aviator, TW-2.
Hometown – Fairmont, Minn.

Ensign Andre Webb
Student Naval Aviator, VT-21
Hometown – Lawton, Okla.

Departures:

AC1 (AW) Claude Ryan, Command Legal Office, Retired after 20 years of service.

Lt. j.g. Anthony Clay, VT-22, to VFA-106, NAS Oceana, Va.

Lt. j.g. Jaime A. Moreno, to VM-FAT-101, MCAS Miramar, Calif.

1st Lt. Daniel Fetsch, VT-22, to VFA 106, Oceana, Va.

HM1 Ralph Sample, Branch Health Clinic Kingsville, Retirement.



Family Fam Flight



CNATRA Chief of Staff Capt. James Crabbe, right, and his daughter and Midshipman 2nd Class Victoria pose for a photo after completing a T-45 orientation flight Wednesday, Aug. 5. Capt. Crabbe had the rare opportunity of piloting the Goshawk and providing his daughter a real taste of Naval Aviation and the aircraft used for advanced jet/strike training in South Texas.

Photo by EN3 Brenda Acevedo,
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Nimitz strike group gets underway in support of U.S. Maritime Strategy

From USS Nimitz Public Affairs

USS Nimitz, At Sea (NNS) -- USS Nimitz (CVN 68) departed her homeport of San Diego July 31 on a regularly scheduled Western Pacific deployment.

“Teamwork ... A Tradition” is the motto and philosophy of the USS Nimitz, the flagship of the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group (CSG). Nimitz will leverage both as she leads a versatile, flexible and mission-tailored force in support of the nation’s maritime strategy.

“I’m proud of these Sailors, and all of their families for the mutual commitment to support their country,” said Rear Adm. John W. Miller, commander, CSG 11 “This deployment is the culmination of a lot of hard work. We are ready.”

Aircraft carriers and their accompanying strike groups deliver the right balance of presence and power necessary to wage war in the 21st century. They enable the Navy to execute the six core capabilities of the maritime strategy – forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection, maritime security and humanitarian assistance/disaster response.

“This ship is one of our nation’s primary on-call assets, we can take this capability forward even to places where access is not assured”, said Capt. Michael Manazir,

Nimitz’ commanding officer, “and it is all made possible through the pride and professionalism of the Nimitz Sailor”.

Last year, Nimitz CSG deployed to the western Pacific in support of the U.S. commitment to peace and stability in the region while USS Kitty Hawk’s (CV 63) was in maintenance. During the four-month deployment Nimitz CSG supported the maritime strategy by expanding cooperative relationships with the Republic of Korea (ROK), participating in Operation Key Resolve/Foal Eagle 2008.

“The carrier strike group has a unique ability to access critical areas and project power ashore without requiring basing ashore, said Miller, “but this same access can also position us for sustained, routine security cooperation activities with foreign partners and allies.”

Nimitz CSG, commanded by Miller, is comprised of USS Nimitz (CVN 68), the guided-missile destroyers USS Pinckney (DDG 91) and USS Sampson (DDG 102) of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 23, the Ticonderoga-class cruiser USS Chosin (CG 55) from Commander, Naval Surface Group, Mid-Pacific and the Perry-class frigate USS Rentz (FFG 46) from DESRON 1. Squadrons from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11 include the “Black Aces”



of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 41, the “Tophatters” of VFA 14, the “Warhawks” of VFA 97, the “Sidewinders” of VFA 86, the “Indians” of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 6, the “Black Ravens” of Electronic Attack Squadron 135, the “Providers” of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 30 and the “Wallbangers” of Carrier Airborne Command and Control Squadron 117. Detachments from the

“Easy Riders” of Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 37, the “Battle Cats” of HSL 43, the “Wolfpack” of HSL 45 and the “Scorpions” of HSL 49. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11 and USNS Bridge (T-AOE-10) embarking the “Wildcards” of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 23 also accompany Nimitz CSG. *(Photo by MC3 John Philip Wagner Jr., USS Nimitz)*

ADD

ADD

Retirement first step towards legal career for NAS Kingsville Sailor

By Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs

Air Traffic Controller 1st Class (AW/SW) Claude Ryan views his retirement from active duty as the beginning of a new career. The 20-year Navy veteran and Nebraska native is planning to finish his college degree and enter law school. His ultimate dream is to one day practice law.

"I've always had an interest in law," Ryan said recently. "Even before I enlisted in the Navy and chose the air traffic control field, which I also had an interest in. Now, I'm going to move forward with that dream and take the next step."

Ryan grew up in the small town of Mitchell, Neb and enlisted through the Navy's Delayed Entry Program in May 1989. After boot camp, he moved on the Millington, Tenn. for Air Traffic Control 'A' School and then to his first duty station at NAS North Island, Calif. In 1993, he accepted orders to Tactical Air Control Squadron (TACRON) 11 at NAS Coronado in San Diego, and in 1996 he moved to Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas.

His only overseas assignment followed in 1996 when he accepted orders to his most memorable assignment at NAS Sigonella, Sicily.

"There are a lot of reasons that I view my assignment in Sigonella as my favorite," Ryan said. "First and foremost, though, my family and I enjoyed being introduced to a different culture. I also was selected for advancement to petty officer first class there, and I served as Tower and Radar Chief for a division of 42 Sailors."

Ryan reported to NAS Kingsville in June 2006 and was initially assigned to the Air Operations Department, Air Traffic Control Division. He sustained a major injury to his back shortly after his arrival here, and because he was in a medical "down" status he was no longer able to control aircraft. He spent the next 18 months assigned to the command Career Counselor office, providing career advice and assistance to Sailors. In December 2007 he moved to the NAS Kingsville Legal Office.

"My job with the legal department was to assist the command Staff Judge Advocate and provide legal services for command personnel," Ryan said. "I helped Sailors and retired personnel with tax preparation, wills, and power of attorneys, in addition to providing legal



advice and direction. I also served as a legal advisor to the commanding officer as needed."

Ryan said his tour of duty in Kingsville allowed him to see witness firsthand how the different support serves on board the base fall in line to together. "I got to see how important 'Black Shoe Navy' services were to mission accomplishment on board

an air station," he said.

Ryan added that his stint in the legal office solidified his plans to transition to law upon his retirement from active duty. "Some day," he said, "I hope to become a defense counsel." Ryan and his wife Stephanie, a native of Gering, Neb., were married in 1990. They have three sons: Karsen, 5; Collin, 13; and Brayden, 17.



Big Day for Knight

Air Traffic Controller 1st Class (AW) Kylon Knight is congratulated by ACCS (AW/SW) Brian Carr following a reenlistment ceremony at Air Operations July 29. Knight reenlisted for an additional 4 years of service. On hand for the ceremony were his wife Melissa (NAS Kingsville Command Ombudsman), daughter Regan, son Marcus, and personnel from the Air Operations Department.

Photos by Connie Cashen, Air Ops.

Air Operations Re-Ups Ceremony



Sailor takes on 4 more years



On Thursday July 30, Engineman 2nd Class Laquita Batiste re-enlisted for 4 additional years of service during a small ceremony at the Captain's Club. Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) John Ordonio issued the oath of enlistment. Batiste plans to complete 20-years in the Navy and is excited about moving on to her next duty station aboard USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), homeported in Hawaii. Following the ceremony, fellow Sailors congratulated her and showed support, wishing her farewell and best wishes on her future endeavors.

Photo by EN3 Brenda Acevedo, NASK Public Affairs.



NEWEST NAVAL AVIATORS: Front Row (Left to right): Cmdr. John Kelsey, executive officer, VT-21; Cmdr. Gerry Murphy, commanding officer, VT-22; Lt. j.g. Preston J. Ochoa; Lt. j.g. James E. Sheets; Cmdr. Bill Bulis, commanding officer, VT-21; Capt. Mark Brooks, commander, Training Air Wing TWO. Back row (left to right): Maj. Brian Ross, TW-2 Senior Marine; 1st Lt. Stephen R. Miggins; Lt. j.g. Ryan B. Forsmo; 1st Lt. Andrew J. Kurtz; 1st Lt. Aaron S. Mekolik.. Photo by Richard Stewart, Chief of Naval Training Public Affairs.

6 Student Aviators receive Wings at Training Air Wing TWO ceremony

Six student pilots were designated Naval Aviators and presented their coveted Wings of Gold Friday, July 24 during a special ceremony the Captain's Club. Training Air Wing TWO Commander Capt. Mark Brooks presided over the ceremony, along with squadron skippers Cmdr. Bill Bulis and Cmdr. Gerry Murphy. The ceremony marked the end of nearly 14 months of advanced jet/strike training for the students, who will now move to Fleet Replacement Squadrons where they will learn to fly their fleet aircraft.

Receiving their wings from VT-21 were:

1st Lt. Andrew J. Kurtz, USMC. A Georgia native, Kurtz enrolled at the University of Georgia in 2001. After 18 months, he moved on to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University via the NROTC Marine Option Program.

1st Lt. Stephen R. Miggins, USMC. A native of Chicago, Miggins graduated from the Naval Academy in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in systems engineering. His wife Toni is also a Naval Aviator.

Lt. j.g. James E. Sheets, USN. Born in Washington, D.C., Sheets graduated from the Naval Academy in 2006.

Lt. j.g. Ryan B. Forsmo, USN. A native of Hopkinton, Mass., Forsmo attended the Citadel for a year before transferring to the Naval Academy. He graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in electrical engineering. He completed primary flight training at NAS Whiting Field, in Milton, Fla.

1st Lt. Aaron S. Mekolik, USMC. A native of Austin, Texas, Mekolik

graduated from Texas A&M University in 2003. Three years later he entered the Marine Corps through the Officer Candidate Program. He completed primary flight training with VT-28 at NAS Corpus Christi.

Lt. j.g. Preston J. Ochoa, USN. Born in Houston and raised in Laredo, Ochoa is a 2007 graduate of the Naval Academy, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in general engineering. He completed his primary flight training with VT-27 at NAS Corpus Christi.

Info courtesy TW-2 Student Control.

Navy Rolls out Joint Strike Fighter

By MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers,
Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs
FORT WORTH, Texas (NNS) -- The chief of Naval Operations (CNO) welcomed the Navy's first Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35C Lightning II, to the fleet in a ceremony July 28.

The F-35C is the Navy's first stealth fighter and enables the Navy to decrease the time from threat to response at sea. The aircraft possesses uncompromised carrier suitability and low-maintenance stealth materials designed for long-term durability in the carrier environment.

Adm. Gary Roughead, CNO, said this aircraft adds tremendous capability to the fleet.

"Our Sailors will never be in a fair fight because this airplane will top anything that comes its way. It will give our Sailors and pilots the tactical and technical advantage in the skies and it will relieve our aircraft as they age out," Roughead said.

CNO said the pace of operations has

not been easy on Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, and Marines, nor on the ships and aircraft they rely on. He said the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is essential to addressing the Navy, and more importantly the nation's, strike fighter needs.

"It is most exciting for me to think about the young men and women who look to this uniform, who look to naval aviation and see a fulfillment in their lives and an excitement in their lives that is unmatched in any other profession in the world," Roughead said. "I thank you for what you have done and thank you for what you are going to do. It is indeed a great honor to be here."

The F-35C is on schedule to meet the Navy's initial operational capability in 2015, and combines stealth with supersonic speed and high agility. The Lightning II employs the most powerful and comprehensive sensor package ever incorporated into a fighter.



FORT WORTH, Texas (July 28) Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead speaks with Jeff "Slim" Knowels, an F-35C Lightning II test pilot, while touring the F-35 Production Operations and Integrated Testing Lab in Fort Worth, Texas. Roughead was in the Southwest region participating in the rollout ceremony for the F-35C Lightning II, the Navy's first-ever stealth fighter. The aircraft will enable the Navy to possess 5th generation fighter capabilities at sea, extending America's reach and reducing the timeline from threat to response. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Tiffini Jones Vanderwyst).

Ballistic missile defense test successful

From Missile Defense Agency Public Affairs
KAUAI, Hawaii (NNS) -- In conjunction with the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), U.S. Pacific Fleet ships and crews successfully conducted the latest Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) at-sea firing event on July 30.

During this event, entitled Stellar Avenger, the Aegis BMD-equipped ship, USS Hopper (DDG 70), detected, tracked, fired and guided a Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block (Blk) IA to intercept a sub-scale short range ballistic missile. The target was launched from the Kauai Test Facility, co-located on the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kauai. It was the 19th successful intercept in 23 at-sea firings, for the Aegis BMD Program, including the February 2008 destruction of the malfunctioning satellite above the earth's atmosphere.

Stellar Avenger was part of the continual evaluation of the certified and fielded Aegis BMD system at-sea today.

At approximately 5:40 p.m. (HST), 11:40 p.m. (EDT), a target was launched from PMRF. Three U.S. Navy Aegis BMD-equipped ships, the cruiser, USS Lake Erie (CG 70) and destroyers USS

Hopper (DDG 70) and USS O'Kane (DDG 77) detected and tracked the target with their SPY radars. Each developed fire control solutions. At 5:42 p.m. (HST), 11:42 p.m. (EDT) the crew of USS Hopper fired one SM-3 Blk IA missile. The USS Hopper's Aegis BMD Weapon System successfully guided the SM-3 to a direct body to body hit, approximately two minutes after leaving the ship. The intercept occurred about 100 miles above the Pacific Ocean.

USS O'Kane conducted a simulated engagement of the target. USS Lake Erie, with its recently installed upgraded Aegis BMD 4.0.1 Weapons System, detected and tracked the same target.

After Stellar Avenger, the same three ships participated in the first live engineering evaluation of Aegis BMD's next system upgrade. Engineers and ships crews recently completed installation and evaluation of an advanced version of the Aegis BMD weapon system. For the first time, the USS Lake Erie used this advanced system during a live firing to evaluate all fire control functions, including launch of a simulated SM-3 Blk IB. This is



a typical step in the evaluation of any advancement in the Aegis weapon system. The USS Lake Erie will fire the new SM-3 Blk IB using this advanced weapon system in late 2010. This advanced Aegis BMD system will improve the probability of kill against advanced threats.

MDA and the U.S. Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis BMD Pro-

gram. Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems and Sensors of Moorestown, New Jersey is the Combat System Engineering Agent (CSEA) and prime contractor for the Aegis BMD Weapon System and Vertical Launch System installed in Aegis equipped cruisers and destroyers. Raytheon Missile Systems of Tucson, Arizona is the prime contractor for the SM-3 missile and all previous variants of Standard Missile.

Storekeeper, Postal Clerk training helps Sailors transition to new rating

By Blake Vives, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) -- U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka concluded its first weeklong specialized training program July 30, and introduced postal clerks (PCs) to fundamental storekeeper (SK) knowledge in advance of the upcoming merger into the new logistics specialist (LS) rate.

The name change to logistics specialist (LS) will be official October 2009.

"The training is very vital because we are going to be performing a totally different function from what we have ever done before," said Chief Postal Clerk (SW/AW) Daniel Miller.

FISC Yokosuka Regional Postal Manager Dale Pinchart said postal clerks traveled from all corners of FISC Yokosuka's Area of Responsibility (AOR), which stretches across the Western Pacific.

"Currently, thirty postal clerks are going through the training. They came from Hong Kong, Korea, Guam, Sasebo, Okinawa, Atsugi, Yokohama and Yokosuka," said Pinchart.

To address the potential challenge presented by this wide AOR, senior SKs will attend centralized training and create a mobile training team (MTT).

"There are still 100 others [PCs] throughout the FISC Yokosuka region that need this training," said Pinchart. "However as everyone knows the mail never stops, so we could not shut down operations to allow all to attend at once; that is where the MTT will hopefully come into play."

The first LS advancement exam will be administered January 2010. The greater volume if its content will be devoted to conventional storekeeper knowledge.

"I understand some postal clerks are discouraged that the exams contain only ten percent postal training, but just like everything else, it falls on them to be proactive rather than reactive," said Miller.

Miller also attended the classes as a student.

"When we integrate with the storekeepers and become logistics specialists, this course, together with on the job training, will make the transition a lot easier," said Miller.

Miller believes success for PCs in the new LS rate is all about personal initiative.

"Going into a new rating is going to

take a little time, but as long as you apply yourself and study the basics, you have every opportunity to grow with that," said Miller. "Take it upon yourself and you are going to do fine."

The PC training course has already been offered in locations such as Norfolk, Va., and San Diego, Calif.

"The feedback we have received has been positive," said Pinchart.

"Most are agreeing there is a lot of information to digest, but it is well worth the time; however, nothing will take the place of on the job training."

The training for PCs eases the transition to the new LS rate and remains consistent with the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Supply Community Command Master Chief, Master Chief (SW) James Collins' message earlier this year.

"We're going to make sure that they [PCs] have every opportunity to excel, both through advancement and where they are being stationed," said Collins. "We won't let them fail. We will adjust things as we go through the process to make sure this merger is as successful as possible."



YOKOSUKA, Japan (July 28, 2009) Postal Clerk 3rd Class Ronald Lee Murray III joins fellow postal clerks in a class designed to teach the fundamentals of the storekeeper rate, such as the supply community structure and manual ordering techniques for receipt and dispatch of parts and supplies. The postal clerk (PC) and storekeeper (SK) rates are scheduled to merge and become the logistic specialist (LS) rate. (U.S. Navy photo by Blake Vives).

What the Navy wants you to know before you go

By MCC (SW) Maria Yager,

Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Navy announced the establishment of the Career Transition Office (CTO) July 30 to assist Sailors transitioning between the Navy's active and Reserve components.

"The overall goals of the Career Transition Office are to ease the transition of personnel into active duty and Reserve billets, decrease transition processing times and error rates, and increase Reserve affiliation among qualified Sailors leaving active duty," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval personnel.

The CTO was established under the Navy's continuum of service initiative. It is designed to develop flexible service options to meet Sailors individual career objectives.

"The Navy Reserve offers excellent opportunities for Sailors to continue their Navy careers while pursuing their goals in the civilian world. By reaching out to those Sailors leaving active duty, the Career Transition Office will help them make informed decisions about the options available to them in the Navy Re-

serve. Navy Reservists often claim they have the best of both worlds," said Vice Adm. Dirk Debbink, chief of Navy Reserve.

According to NAVADMIN 229/09, the first of three spirals is to be phased in over the next 14 months. The CTO is focusing on the 1,700 officers who depart the Navy annually. The CTO seeks to increase the number of departing officers who affiliate with the Reserves which will further fortify the Reserve component with experienced Navy veterans.

Spiral two will address enlisted personnel transitions, integrations with Career Management System Interactive Detailing and Sailors separating due to Perform to Serve. Spiral three will address Reserve component to active component flow.

"We are reaching out to officers every day. We talk to officers in Iraq, Japan, Germany, and on deployment at sea. Regardless of where you are in the world, we can help you," said Ensign Andrea Fallas, a Reservist recalled to work as a transition assistant assigned to the CTO.

Benefits for Reserve affiliation include inexpensive medical and dental coverage for Reservists and their families, up to a

\$20,000 Reserve reenlistment bonus, up to \$75,000 in special pay for officers, and additional training if rating conversion is offered. Reservists also maintain base MWR, exchange and commissary privileges.

Additionally, Sailors departing after six years of active duty who are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill may be eligible to transfer education benefits to their spouse or children by incurring and completing the four-year additional Armed Forces service requirement in the Navy Reserve.

The Navy Reserve offers a two-year deployment deferment for Sailors who join the reserve within six months of leaving the active component. Sailors who affiliate with the reserve after six months, but within one year of leaving active duty, qualify for a one-year deferment from involuntary mobilization.

Future program plans for the CTO include managing all enlisted personnel by directing active to reserve transitions, centralizing administrative actions in processing and streamlining non-mobilization Reserve-to-active-duty transitions. For more information, read NAVADMIN 229/09 and visit the CTO Web site at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/Transition/>.

Safe Driving really is a 24/7 job

Kordeen Kor, NASK Safety Manager

While reading the Navy Region Southeast Safety Officer Of the Day report recently I noticed the report mentioned someone driving on the flight line while talking on a cell phone. Turns out, this driver almost impacted an aircraft. The driver was lucky - that could have been a very costly mistake.

During the past year there have been numerous mishaps around the nation to include train and public bus wrecks, with loss of life included, all associated with the use of cell phones while operating the equipment.

Did you know that a driver can make more than 200 decisions during every mile traveled? It's true, and that's a lot of choices! So, it's critical to remember that when you're behind the wheel, driving safely is your primary responsibility.

And when you're driving as part of your job on station, keep in mind that you and your coworkers are your employer's most valuable assets. Each one of you is needed on the job, not to mention at home. The way that you choose to drive says a lot

about you, and making poor decisions can affect your future in the blink of an eye. Make a positive statement by following these safe driving practices.

Be Safe:

- Use a seatbelt at all times. Seatbelts are the most effective safety device in vehicles. According to the National Transportation Safety Board they save nearly 12,000 lives and prevent 325,000 serious injuries each year.

- Be well-rested before driving. You need to be alert on the road so that you can defend yourself from drivers who don't make the same choice.

- When you are planning to drive - especially long distances - avoid taking medications that may make you drowsy, affect your concentration, or reduce your reaction time.

- Set a realistic goal for the number of miles that you can drive safely each day.

- If you're impaired by alcohol or any drug, do not drive. Alcohol is involved in 40 percent of all fatal motor vehicle crashes. That's about one alcohol-related fatality every 30 minutes.



Be Focused:

- Driving, on and off base, requires your full attention. Distracted driving is a factor in nearly 30 percent of all traffic crashes. Avoid distractions, such as putting in a CD, adjusting the radio, eating or drinking, and talking on the phone. (It is prohibited to use cell phones while operating a vehicle on any government installation.)

- Continually search the roadway - in front, on the sides, and in back - to be alert to situations requiring quick action.

- If you're on a long trip, stop about every two hours for a break. Get out and stretch,

take a walk, and breathe some fresh air.

Be Cool:

- Keep your cool in traffic! Don't speed, tailgate, run yellow or red lights, or pass on the right.

- Be patient and courteous to other drivers and don't take their actions personally.

- Reduce your stress by planning your route ahead of time, allowing plenty of travel time, and avoiding crowded roadways and busy driving times.

Drive Safely: Life can change in an instant!

Navy Video News Clips from Around the Fleet

Click on Images to view stories



Fleet Forces Command Change of Command: Adm. John Harvey Jr. relieves Adm. Jonathan Greenhart.



Navy holds christening ceremony for PCU Jason Dunham, USMC in Bath, Maine.



Strike Fighter Squadron 192 holds change of command ceremony at sea.



Global Navy: Sailors help train their Brazilian Navy counterparts.



2009 Navywide Sailors of the Year talk about their careers, the SOY nomination process, and more!



This week's Navy and Marine Corps news headlines from around the Fleet and around the globe.



Focus on one Sailor's contributions to the flight as an Individual Augmentee.



AT SEA: The History Channel sets schedule for broadcast of "At Sea" features.



During the months of August and September the Fleet and Family Support center will be conducting the following programs:

August

Stress Management – Aug. 26, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 (Brown Bag Series) Bring your lunch bag and join us!
 Car Buying – Aug. 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Great info on what to look for!

September:

Base Indoctrination – Sept. 3, 8 a.m.
 Smart Consumer – Sept. 9, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 TAP Classes – Sept. 14-18
 Communications: TBD
 Command Leadership Training FAP/SAVI:
 Times and dates to be announced.

For further information or to sign-up contact your FFSC point of contact at 516-6333.

Rosa Balderas - Branch Medical Clinic, Dental, Security

Lucy Clarkson - Deca, Navy Exchange, Supply, CBQ, Public Works, Admin

Ramon Panganiban - VT-21, NTMOD, VT-22, NOSC Harlingen, MWR

Curtis McFarland - Ground Electronics, CNATRADET, TRAWING II

Jo Beth Walter - Orange Grove, Armory, Air Ops, NRD SA



Welcome Aboard!

Lt. Cmdr. John H. McKenzie, CHC, USN Command Chaplain

Lt. Cmdr. John H. McKenzie, CHC, USN, recently reported aboard as temporary Command Chaplain. He comes to NAS Kingsville from NAS Corpus Christi where he serves as a contract chaplain.

A native of Kingsville, McKenzie is excited to be part of the NAS Kingsville Team and says “it feels great to be back home!”

McKenzie arrived on board NASK in late June and is due to go back to NASCC in late September. He is available for counseling services, and everyone is welcomed to attend the 1200 daily Catholic Mass held in the Chaplain’s Office multi-purpose room.



Chaplain McKenzie has been in the Navy for 16 years and has been stationed all over the world including Camp Courtney Okinawa, Japan, and Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron Two, Diego Garcia. He always enjoys coming back home and noticing how much Kingsville has changed.

“Since I grew up here [Kingsville] has changed a lot. It is less populated on base, and the downtown area is no longer bustling.”

Swimming: A healthy combination of fun and exercise!

In the hot weather of a south Texas summer it’s difficult if not next to impossible to exercise outdoors like we’d often like to. However there is a wonderful alternative to your typical cardio routine that we sometimes forget the benefits of. We often think of swimming as a means to cool off or just relax, but swimming is one of the best complete body workouts you perform. Your whole body is working to propel you through water and swimming laps can be a great way to increase your cardio capacity.



Regular swimming can increase your muscle endurance and strength and can be used as a cross-training method in any workout regiment. Also it is important to note that it’s extremely low impact and there is virtually no joint stress or strain. This makes it ideal for the runner who has some aches or maybe wants a break or for someone who wants to get a good workout but not feel the results of that for the week after.

On another medical related note be sure to always wear protective sun-

screen while swimming outdoors. It is a common misconception to think that because a person might be in the water that they won’t be burned. The lowest recommend SPF rating is 15 and should be applied liberally and routinely if not a waterproof type.

So the next time you feel like running or exercising outdoors but the weather is just too hot, don’t forget to get your sunscreen and hit the pool. You can cool off and do something healthy at the same time!

Meanwhile ...

Across the pond, former NAS Kingsville Command Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Mark Tews has moved on to his new assignment in Diego Garcia, which apparently includes dabbling in deep sea fishing.

“Chaps” recently bagged a 42-lb. yellow tuna (which he proudly displays) along with a couple of other nicely-sized fish. The outing was lined up by Ms. Barbara Newhauser, civilian contract officer for the Diego Garcia Seabee Detachment.

Odds are, if “Chaps” can continue to tame the holy waters surrounding the base, his shuffleboard expertise will become a thing of the past.

Photo courtesy of Barbara Newhauser.





Coming Events:

Recruiting 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.

2009 PPV Movie Schedule

Enjoy a free movie with your family if you live at one of the PPVs. There will be a movie every month! Upcoming dates: Aug. 8, Hunter's Cove, Aug. 21, Hawks Landing; Sept. 12, Hunter's Cove; Sept. 25, Hawk's Landing; Oct. 10, Hunter's Cove; Oct. 23, Hawks Landing; Nov. 7, Hunter's Cove; Nov. 20, Hawks Landing; Dec. 12, Hunter's Cove; and Dec. 18, Hawks Landing. For more information contact your leasing office.

50 Mile Swim Club Registration

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 May 23.

Single Sailors Bowl Free

Aug. 6, 6-9 p.m. the 1st Thursday night of the month Single Sailors bowl free. Food and drinks will be available. For more information contact ITT at 361-516-6449

Fall Storytime

The Library will have a Fall Storytime starting at 4 p.m., Aug. 10. Preregister by calling 516-6271 by COB Aug. 7. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Softball Tournament

Aug. 14 starting at 4 p.m., ends when there is a winner! All teams MUST turn in complete roster before Aug. 12. Prizes for winners! Free BBQ! Though the tournament is during the current Captain's Cup softball season, any team can join. Teams must have eight or more players to compete.

Lunchtime Volleyball League

Sept. 14 through Oct. 31, every Monday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to Noon. A volleyball league for those who have a busy work day and want to squish in some sports to their lunch hour. Teams of 6 to 12 are welcome. For more information contact Renee Hill at 516-6371.

Flag Football Tournament

26 September 2009, starts at 1100 ends when there is a winner. 7 on 7 Flag Football. Teams of 7 to 14 are to sign up at the MWR Total Fitness Center Desk by September 24, 2009. For more information contact Renee Hill at 516-6371.

Flag Football League

Starting on Oct. 6, 7-8 p.m. Teams of 7 to 11 people are to sign up for this league by Oct. 1. Games to be held every Tuesday and Thursday night at the MWR field. For more information contact Renee Hill at 516-6371.

MWR Sports Standings:

Not available

Dunk Tank Day Thursday, Sept. 3 Branch Health Clinic

Fundraiser for the Navy Ball and BHC Kingsville CSC

In the tank:

Capt. Phil Waddingham, Lt. Cmdr. Dawn Hardin, Lt. Ballin, Lt. Kursteiner, CMC Charlie Ratliff, HMC Tony LaFuente, and more!

2 balls \$1, 5 balls \$5

Lunch: Burger & hotdog, chips and beverage only \$5

Come out and enjoy the fun!



Thursday, July 30, YAC program director Brent A. Edwards held an appreciation lunch to wrap up the 2009 Summer Youth Program. Overall, MWR had a good turn out this year with 12 teens completing the program. Each student received certificates of appreciation for all their hard work. Front Row, from left, Jimmy Crabbe, 14, Swimming pool; Jorge Hernandez, 17, Youth Center; Kristina Perez, 17, Youth Center; Crystal Zavala 17, Marketing; Kristen Perez, 17, CDC; Jennifer Simon, 14, CDC; Leslie Cardec, 14, Library. Back Row, from left: Andrew Datka, 15, Gym; Michael Crisman, 16, Gym; Jon English, 16, Pool; Brent Edwards, Youth Director; K.J. Kor, 17, Marketing Department; Shelby Purdy, 15, Library. The Money Matters Program began in May early this year, with the Money Matters work shop, a requirement for teens who desire to work aboard the base. The program was then followed by a job fair, where teens presented their resumes, conducted job interviews, and [hopefully] got hired to work in many MWR facilities.

Photo by EN3 Brenda Acevedo, NASK Public Affairs.

ADD

Naval Air Station Supports the City of Kingsville in Street Renaming Ceremony



Capt. Phillip Waddingham opens the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. street naming ceremony by welcoming those in attendance and calling the Color Guard to post the colors.

Branch Health Clinic Kingsville's Lt. Cmdr. Dawn Hardin and Chief Hospital Corpsman Jorge La Fuente stand in the crowd listening as Texas A&M Kingsville president Dr. Steve Talant delivers his remarks.

Al Lewis, a member of the Kingsville Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee and a former Marine, carries on the proceedings as master of ceremonies. NAS Kingsville participation in the ceremony included personnel from the Branch Health Clinic, NAS Kingsville, civilian employees, and the NAS Kingsville Junior Enlisted Association.



The NAS Kingsville Color Guard parades the colors. From left are: ACAN Matthew Hartopp; AC2 Jeremy Whiteley; AC3 Trevor Leon; and ACAN Foy Fleming from the Air Operations Department/Air Traffic Control Division. Below, the new street sign designating 2nd and Martin Luther King Jr. Street in downtown Kingsville.



NASK active duty couple win wedding package

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

A couple of Sailors were victorious in the Bridal Boot Camp Obstacle Course Contest, a highlighted event at the American Bank Center's (ABC) annual wedding fair, in Corpus Christi July 26.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jeremy Stack, a lab technician at Branch Health Kingsville and fiancée Engineman 3rd Class Brenda Acevedo, who works at NAS Kingsville (NASK) Public Affairs Office, were the first couple to finish the course and win a wedding package worth more than \$10,000.

"We are still in shock about winning," explained Acevedo. "It seems unreal, but we are so thrilled to have won, and we look forward to planning our wedding!"

Nearly 30 couples entered the contest more than a week before attending the event by mailing a short story to the ABC panel of judges about how they fell in love and why they deserve to win.

"Jeremy and I met at the 2008 Navy Ball at NASK," said Acevedo. "We sat at the same table, hit it off, and we have been inseparable ever since. I feel as if it was meant to be because together we have amazing luck."

Stack and Acevedo, who became engaged in February on Valentine's Day, were one of three couples selected at the end of the day to race the course.

Obstacles included building a tiered cake and then hopping with it through tires, donning wedding attire, sifting through chocolate liquid in search of matrimonial rings, and embracing each other for a speedy tango to the finish.

"The toughest part of the challenge was the kayaking," explained Acevedo, "because neither of us had ever done it. I know Jeremy takes directions well, so he listened to the advice the local boater gave us, and he did great. So I just listened to Jeremy the whole kayaking ride."

Despite Stack's attention to detail, he says that he was completely unprepared for one of the obstacles. His future bride shaved his face with a bladeless razor after applying shaving cream, while he simultaneously applied makeup to her face.

"I don't know the difference between blush and eye shadow," said Stack. "All I noticed were the colors, and when we were finished, Brenda told me that I had applied eye shadow to her cheeks. I'm glad we worked as a team so well, which is a good sign, I'd say."

Stack and Acevedo are planning their wedding for January 2010.

