



Vol. 67, No. 22 Naval Air Station Kingsville, TX "We Train The World's Best Pilots Here!" <https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/kingsville> October 30, 2009

## "Team NAS Kingsville" helps kick-off annual Toys For Tots campaign

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The local Marine Corps Reserve "Toys For Tots" campaign, which serves both Kleberg and Kenedy counties, held an official ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday, Oct. 28 the Stop N' Lube on King Ave. The event marked the opening of the 2009 toy drive which, for the 21st straight year, is being coordinated by local business owners Jerry and Lisa Bockholt. The ceremony was held at the Stop N' Lube on King Ave, which serves as 2009 campaign headquarters.

The opening ceremony was attended by more than 100 local business owners and city officials, as well as a number of representatives from Naval Air Station Kingsville. On hand to represent the Navy were Melissa Brooks, wife of TW-2 commander Mark Brooks; Branch Health Clinic Officer in Charge Lt. Cmdr. Dawn Har-

din; and Marine officers Lt. Col. Terrance Latorre, executive officer, VT-22; Maj. Brian Rolf, TW-2 Senior Marine; Capt. Dennis McVeigh, VT-22 Senior Marine, and Capt. David Shipley, VT-21 Senior Marine. On hand from NAS Corpus Christi was Marine 1st Sgt. Krishtian Nielson; Sgt. Randy Ortiz; Sgt. Will Torres; and Cpl. David Reed, a Kingsville native.

After opening remarks by Lisa Bockholt, Kingsville Mayor Sam Fugate read an official proclamation declaring the months of November and December as official "Toys For Tots" months throughout the city. Another proclamation was made by Kingsville Independent School District superintendent Emilio Castro, declaring KISD as official sponsors of the Toys For Tots campaign.

Some of the other dignitaries on hand for the opening ceremonies included Kle-

*Continued on page 8*



NAS Kingsville Chaplain's Office leading petty officer RPI Christine Tamag, left, presents a check for \$500 to Jerry Bockholt to help kick-start the annual Toys For Tots drive. (Photo by Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs).



## 234 years and still going strong

*Happy Birthday!* NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham, center, is joined by Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff, right, and Airman Andrew Eickmann, far left, to cut the ceremonial birthday cake at the NAS Kingsville Navy Birthday Ball Saturday, Oct. 17. Master Chief Ratliff, the oldest active duty Sailor in attendance, and Airman Eickmann, the youngest active duty Sailor in attendance, joined in the ceremonial cake-cutting as Capt. Waddingham declared the cake "fit for human consumption."

More than 250 people showed up at the Captain's Club to join in the birthday celebration. The event marked the end of nearly 7 months of planning, organizing and fund raising by the Navy Ball Committee, which was tasked with getting everything together for the celebration.

The evening's festivities included a military ceremony marking the 234th birthday, remarks from NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham and Training Air Wing TWO Commander Capt. Mark Brooks, dinner courtesy of the Cherry Tree Tea Room of Kingsville, musical entertainment, door prize drawings, and dancing.

(See photos from the event on page 7 and the NASK Web Site at: <https://cnmc.navy.mil/kingsville/newsroom>.)



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



Greetings, NAS Kingsville!

Last Thursday, I had the distinct honor and privilege to present one of our Nation's highest awards, the Bronze Star, to one of our very own. This was a first for me to have the opportunity to present this prestigious award, and it was an award ceremony that I found to be both inspiring, and humbling.

As a former commanding officer of an EA-6B Prowler squadron, I had the occasion to deliver many strike flight air medal awards to my pilots and ECMOs. These brave men and women flew the requisite number of missions over Iraq and Afghanistan and earned the points neces-

sary to receive the bronze numerical device authorized with the air medal. After I departed my command tour, our squadron was awarded the combat action ribbon, a unit award for operating in a hostile environment during sustained enemy action while on our deployment to Bagram AB, Afghanistan.

On numerous occasions, I have received various individual combat awards and strike flight awards. This is not unusual for a naval aviator--this is a common occurrence in a profession that has us operating in harm's way in two theaters of war going back eight years now.

But I have never had the opportunity to present a combat award to an individual for sustained exposure with significant risk of hostile action in direct support of ground forces, including dismounted patrols, while embedded with Marines fighting in western Iraq. Not until last Thursday, when I had the pleasure to present the Bronze Star to Lt. Cmdr. Dave "Gravy" Anderson.

Gravy volunteered to deploy to Iraq to serve with Joint Counter Radio Controlled

Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare (CREW) Composite Squadron ONE (JCCS-1), Multi-National Force West (MNF-W), Al Asad, Iraq, from November 21, 2008 to August 14, 2009. His efforts were central to the fight and directly contributed to decreased radio controlled improvised explosive device attacks, and saved lives on the battlefield.

We are lucky to have Gravy back with us again as the Air Operations Officer. His "by example" leadership is without equal, and his selfless actions volunteering overseas in a demanding billet are truly inspirational.

To Lt. Cmdr. Anderson and your family whose support has been unending, thank you, and I salute you!

While I'm congratulating personnel I can't forget the fantastic job the 2009 Navy Ball Committee did putting together our 234th Birthday celebration Oct. 17. I know how much work it was raising the funds for the event, and I can't thank each and every Navy Ball Committee member enough for their outstanding efforts. The names of

each of the committee members are listed below and Master Chief Ratliff speaks in detail about specific accomplishments and achievements, but I know he shares the pride that I feel for all committee members who helped make this year's event such a success. A few photos from the event are available on page 7 of this issue, but you can view all the photos taken by our Public Affairs Staff on our command Web Site at <https://www.cinc.navy.mil/kingsville>.

Again, Well done to all!

Waddz sends.

### November Events:

Nov. 5: VT-21 Change of Command  
Nov. 14: 2009 Marine Corps Ball  
Nov. 20: Winging Ceremony  
Nov. 21: 19th annual King Ranch "Ranch Hand Breakfast"  
Nov. 21: Kingsville Symphony King Ranch Holiday Spectacular, 3 p.m. Jones Auditorium  
Nov. 26: Thanksgiving

## Deckplate Leadership

### Sea Notes From the Command Master Chief



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



Team Kingsville,

This year's Navy Ball was a huge success! Over 250 Sailors, Marines, Navy Civilians, and community leaders turned out for an evening of dining, dancing, prizes and most importantly, an evening of camaraderie. Everyone I spoke with that night was impressed with all of the evening's events.

The theme for this year's ball was Patriotism: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow. Public Works employee, Joe Morales, began the evening by singing the National Anthem. CS1 Guerrero, our Master of Ceremonies, and our guest speakers, Captain Waddingham and Captain Brooks, did a great job of recognizing those who have served before us, those who are serving today and those young Sailors who will be taking our Navy into tomorrow. In addition, HM2 Brian Knight and RPSN Quentin Williams performed an outstanding POW/

MIA ceremony.

The Navy Ball Committee did an exceptional job in decorating the ballroom. The decorations, which were selected with the "Patriotism" theme in mind, were done in red, white, and blue. Decoration efforts for this year's ball were led by Sue Waddingham and ABH2 Wallace Edwards. Many Navy Ball Committee members, and several MWR staff members, spent the entire morning of the ball decorating the ballroom. I know everyone who attended was absolutely impressed with how wonderful the place looked. Many thanks to those of you who contributed to the decorating efforts.

The evening's meal was catered by Kingsville's Cherry Tree Tea House Restaurant. Amanda Cherry and her staff went out of their way to ensure a delicious meal was served in a very professional manner. They also baked the traditional Navy Birthday cake and it was outstanding. To the management and staff at the Cherry Tree Tea House Restaurant, many thanks for your support of NAS Kingsville's 2009 Navy Ball.

Navy Ball Committee member Dave Watson coordinated our entertainment for the evening. He signed on Wizard Productions who did a great job in playing a wide variety of music. You could tell everyone enjoyed the music because the dance floor

was packed for most of the evening. Many thanks to Dave Watson and the folks at Wizard Productions.

Carmen Chapa, and the staff at the Child Development Center, provided free childcare and QM2 Monica Crump and ACAN Shauna Johnson served as duty drivers for the evening. RP2 Kenneth Greathouse and MWR's Sophie Garcia spent many hours designing and printing Navy Ball programs. ABE2 Kendall Armstrong did a great job handing out door prizes. Daniel Rackley and his MWR staff provided support throughout the evening and when the event concluded, MA2 Meyers, ET2 Babb, Shirley Ley, and Krysty Lenzy completed an extensive clean up.

I have mentioned numerous people by name in my column this week. Unfortunately, these are but a few of the dedicated individuals who worked hard to make this year's Navy Ball a success. The members of the Navy Ball Committee, who are listed below, spent the last six months working fundraisers and planning, organizing and coordinating this year's Navy Ball. Each of them should be commended for their tireless efforts in support of the Command and our Navy- well done shipmates!

Regards,

CMDCM Charlie Ratliff

### 2009 Navy Ball Committee

CMDCM Charlie Ratliff  
CS1 Erasmo Guerrero- Chairman  
AC2 Rick Fryar  
ENS Clayton Beame  
CS2 Montreon Smith  
RP1 Christine Tamag  
CS2 Keturia Laidlaw  
ABE2 Kendall Armstrong  
AC2 Mike Daugherty  
ET2 Samuel Babb  
HM2 Jordan Saffell  
HM2 Brian Knight  
MA2 Russell Meyer  
RP2 Kenneth Greathouse  
CS3 Omar Soliz  
YN2 Brandon Weaver  
RPSN Quentin Williams  
CS2 Holly Clow  
David Watson  
ABH2 Wallace Edwards  
Kevin Aguilar  
CS2 Robert Toler  
Shirley Ley  
Sue Waddingham

## Two receive Wings at Oct. 16 ceremony

Two student aviators were presented their "Wings of Gold" and designated as Naval Aviators at Training Air Wing TWO's Winging Ceremony at the Captain's Club Oct. 16. Training Air Wing TWO commander Capt. Mark Brooks presided over the ceremony, along with squadron CO's Cmdr. Bill Bulis and Cmdr. Gerry Murphy.

Receiving their Wings were:

1st Lt. Christopher Bergman, hometown Normandy Park, Wash. Bergman is a graduate of Seattle Preparatory School and Boston College, and holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in history and political science. He was commissioned in May 2006, and completed his primary flight training at NAS Corpus Christi.

Lt. j.g. Joe Campbell, hometown Virginia Beach, Va. Campbell is a 2007 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in aerospace engineering. He earned his commission at began his flight training in the summer of 2007.

## Wings of Gold presented



Training Air WING TWO leaders pose for a group photo with the Navy and Marine Corps' newest Naval Aviators. From left are Cmdr. Bill Bullis, CO, VT-21; Capt. Mark Brooks, Commander, Training Air Wing TWO; Lt. j.g. Joe Campbell; 1st Lt. Christopher Bergman; Cmdr. Gerry Murphy, CO, VT-22; and Lt. Col. Terrence Latorre, XO, VT-22. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs).

## The Flying K

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NAS Kingsville  
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NAS Kingsville  
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Submit questions or comments  
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on the info line add: Direct Line

## Re-Enlistment



Chief Master at Arms Dwayne Carpenter, left, congratulates Master at Arms 2nd Class Roger Verrill of Kansas City, Kan. on his reenlistment Oct. 28 at the NASK Security Building. MA2 Verrill, who has 14-plus years of service, added 5 additional years that will take him to the 20-year mark.

(Photo by QM2 Monica Crump, NAS Kingsville Career Counselor).

## NAS Kingsville / TW-2 Flight Log

### Arriving:

Newly reported personnel

MA1 Zechariah Gibbs  
Security Patrolman  
Hometown: Houston, Texas

Ensign Amanda Ross  
Student Aviator, VT-21  
Hometown: McCordsville, Ind.

Lt. Chris Hogan, VT-21  
Student Aviator  
Hometown: Martinez, Calif.

Ensign Christopher O'Leary, TW-2  
Student Aviator  
Hometown: Westford, Mass.

Ensign Richard Lefils, TW-2  
Student Aviator  
Hometown: Panama City, Fla.

Ensign Carolyn Work, TW-2  
Student Aviator  
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.

Ensign Christopher Short, TW-2  
Student Aviator  
Hometown: Canandaigua City, N.Y.

### Departing:

AC2 James Walsh  
Air Operations / Air Traffic Control  
Separating from the Navy

SK2 Brian Hewitt  
FISC Jacksonville Det.  
Separating from the Navy

Lt. j.g. Leigh Loesel, VT-21  
to NAS Lemoore, Calif.

Lt. j.g. Charles Neal, VT-21  
to NAS Pearl Harbor

Lt. j.g. Gabriel Campion, VT-21  
to NAS Lemoore, Calif.

Lt. j.g. Michael Dixon, VT-21  
NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.

MA3 Zach Stahl  
to NSA Bahrain

MA2 Chris Mateo  
to NSA Bahrain

ET1 Anthony Gallegas  
to NAS Corpus Christi

## Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group Returns Home

By MCI(SW/AW) Frank E. Neely, USS Ronald Reagan / Reagan Strike Group Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- Four ships and more than 5,000 Sailors of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 7 returned to their homeport of San Diego Oct. 21 after a five-month deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility (AOR).

The strike group flagship, the Nimitz-class nuclear aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), the guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville (CG 62), the guided-missile destroyers USS Gridley (DDG 101) and USS Howard (DDG 83) arrived to meet thousands of family members waiting on the pier.

The guided missile destroyer USS Decatur (DDG 73) and the guided missile frigate USS Thach (FFG 43) remain deployed. The two ships remained in the 5th Fleet AOR for a few extra weeks to provide Maritime Security Operations (MSO), but should arrive next month.

"This is the finest team of Sailors I've been fortunate to call shipmates," said Rear Adm. Scott Hebner, commander, CSG 7. "I could not be more proud of each and every Sailor and their families. The Ronald Rea-

gan Carrier Strike Group has been pretty busy the last few years, executing missions across the capabilities of our National Maritime Strategy--and answering the call with impressive results every time."

Ronald Reagan and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14 operated in the 5th Fleet AOR for more than two months, providing 30 percent of all air support to U.S. and coalition ground forces in Afghanistan. In total, they flew more than 1,600 sorties in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Ships of the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group were also vital in counterpiracy operations off of Somalia and the Horn of Africa, and MSO to include protecting vital Iraqi infrastructure in the North Arabian Gulf.

"Every single Sailor knew how vital the mission was to accomplish," said Capt. Kenneth Norton, Ronald Reagan's commanding officer. "Because they understood, regardless of their operational tempo, they performed the mission, not just to get it done, but to get it done well. They're selfless. Everybody did their job well to provide service to our Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen in Afghanistan."

Additionally, Ronald Reagan's Sail-

ors participated in 50 community relations (COMREL) projects during port visits to Singapore, Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Phuket, Thailand.

"Being able to afford our Sailors the opportunity to lend a helping hand to those who are truly in need, speaks volumes to the character of our Sailors," said Chief Religious Programs Specialist (SW/AW/FMF) Marcus Taylor, who coordinated Ronald Reagan's COMREL projects. "I believe the Sailors that volunteer really should be commended for their selfless efforts. It is a clear display of maturity and devotion to being goodwill ambassadors for the Navy and the United States."

Now at home, many Sailors of the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group will take leave to spend time with family and friends.

"This is my second deployment in two years," said Interior Communications 2nd Class Adam Treptow, who will be going on leave to his hometown of Parker, Colo. "Homecoming is always an indescribable feeling. I'm too excited. This is a chance for me to get off the ship, relax, unwind and finally buy myself a new truck."

The squadrons of CVW-14 include the



"Redcocks" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 22, the "Fist of the Fleet" of VFA-25, the "Stingers" of VFA-113, the "Eagles" of VFA-115, the "Black Eagles" of Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 113, the "Cougars" of Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VAQ) 139, the "Providers" of Carrier Logistics Support (VRC) 30, and the "Black Knights" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4.

This ends the fourth deployment in four years for Ronald Reagan. The ship is named after the 40th U.S. president, and carries the motto of "Peace through Strength," a recurrent theme during the Reagan presidency.

-- Courtesy of Navy NewsStand.

## Detailers to field applications for break from active duty

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Responding to a need for greater flexibility, the chief of naval personnel revised a pilot program allowing Sailors to take a break of up to three years from active duty, by authorizing the review of applications on a rolling basis in place of an annual selection board.

Sailors can apply through their detailers to participate in the Career Intermission Pilot Program, which offers quotas for 20 officers and 20 enlisted members annually through 2012.

Spots remain available from calendar year 2009, following the selection of nine officers and six enlisted members by a board that met in May. Authorization for rolling applications is contained in OPNAV Instruction 1330.2A, effective with the release of NAV-ADMIN 301/09.

"We made changes to the program to give our Sailors the flexibility to take advantage of professional and personal opportunities, or tend to personal or family needs, while keeping their Navy careers on track," said Rear Adm. Dan Holloway, director of the Navy's military personnel, plans and policy division. "The Navy benefits too because we ultimate-

ly retain a highly trained, skilled and tested warrior upon their return to active duty."

In addition to rolling applications, other changes include:

- Removing the restriction on retirement-eligible Sailors;
- Allowing E-1 to E-3 Sailors to apply for the program, with participation beginning at the end of their first term of service;
- Clarifying a requirement that Sailors in a high-year tenure status be able to serve two months on active duty for every month in the program.

The intent of the Career Intermission Pilot Program is to retain the valuable experience and training that otherwise would be lost through permanent separation.

While participating in the program, Sailors must maintain their security clearances and professional certifications, meet physical fitness requirements, and adhere to Navy policies regarding conduct. They receive two days' basic pay each month, and are not subject to operational mobilization unless they fail to meet the terms of the program.

To preserve steady promotion and advancement opportunity, officers and enlisted members are assigned adjusted dates



MAYPORT, Fla. (March 28, 2007) - Culinary Specialist 1st Class Herbert Yate discusses career plans with Culinary Specialist 1st Class Ernest Trabucchi during a two-day Career Management Symposium. There were many full time support (FTS) detailers at the event who came to speak with Sailors to discuss potential career opportunities. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Lynn Friant).

of rank and pay grade, and enlisted Sailors are assigned new times in rate when they return to active duty.

For more information, visit the Task Force Life/Work page at [www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/taskforcelifework](http://www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/taskforcelifework).

# Bronze Star, Medals, Sailors of the Quarter highlight command awards ceremony

By: EN3 Brenda Acevedo, Public Affairs

NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham presented a Bronze Star and three Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals at the command's monthly All Hands & Awards ceremony at the Captain's Club Oct. 22. Three NAS Kingsville Sailors were also recognized as Sailors of the Quarter, and four personnel received Navy-Marine Corps Good Conduct medals during the ceremony.

Headlining the awards was the presentation of the Navy Bronze Star Medal to Lt. Cmdr. Dave "Gravy" Anderson, Air Operations Officer, for superior performance while assigned as an Individual Augmentee in Iraq from November 2008 to August 2009.

Anderson's citation cited meritorious service to the United States as Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device (RCIED) Advisor, Joint Counter Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare (CREW) Composite Squadron ONE (JCCS-1), Multi-National Force-West (MNF-W), Al Asad, Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Anderson's award citation noted his "leadership to multiple Coalition Forces, ensuring essential CREW systems were maintained and ready for outside-the-wire combat missions. As the primary Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Advice Advisor to the Commander, RCT-6, he coordinated daily with EOD and Weapons Intelligence Teams, and Surveillance Reconnaissance teams to defeat IED networks and devices."

Anderson also provided critical leadership to 9 electronic Warfare Officers, meeting the challenge of an ever-changing battle space, while fielding, maintaining, and sustaining a \$130 million inventory of 1,300 CREW systems, achieving a 100-percent mission capable rate for OTW vehicles with no interruption to combat missions.



Navy-Marine Corps Achievement medals were presented to ET2 Elizabeth Martin and IC1 (SW) Jessica Booth.



Martin's award cited her professional achievement while assigned to the NAS Kingsville Ground Electronics Division from December 2006 to November 2009. Martin's outstanding work ethic and technical expertise led to the accomplishment of more than 1,200 preventive maintenance checks of GE gear and 55 corrective maintenance actions on 15 NAVCAD systems at NAS Kingsville and Navy Auxiliary Landing Field Orange Grove, ensuring 100-percent operability.

As division Safety Petty Officer, Martin was also hailed for conducted more than 100 safety inspections that identified and corrected more than 80 safety deficiencies and prevented potential damage to equipment and personnel.



Booth's award was forwarded from the USS Essex (LHD 2), where she was assigned from April 2007 to May 2009 as work center supervisor for CEO6 and CEO7. Booth ensured more than 200 equipment casualties were promptly troubleshot and repaired, and, as the "go-to" interior communications technician, Booth volunteered more than 30 man hours to train 4 C5I departmental and 5 ship-wide work centers for the recent maintenance and material management certification, efficiently correcting more than 120 errors.

Sailors of the Quarter awards for the third quarter 2009 were presented to Electronic Technician 1st Class (AW/SW) Heath Britt, Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Holly Clow, and Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Christopher W. Crocker.

Britt, a native of Glenmore, La., was selected as Senior Sailor of the Quarter. He reported to NASK in February 08 and serves as the Ground Electronics Division leading petty officer and 3M Coordinator. He is also an active member of the NAS Kingsville First Class Petty Officers' Association.

Clow, a West Texas native, was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter. She has been in the U.S. Navy since 1994, and currently serves as the work center supervisor at the Navy Gateway Inns & Suites/Combined Bachelor Quarters. She has been an active member of the Junior Enlisted Association since its inception, and routinely volunteers for command Community Outreach Programs including Junior Achievement, the Kingsville La Posada celebration, Operation Paintbrush, and Toys For Tots, to name a few. She is the current secretary for the JEA, and also serves as Sexual Assault Victims Intervention (SAVI) coordinator.

Receiving Good Conduct Medals during the ceremony were: Master at Arms 3rd Class Michelle Terrazas; Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Aviation Handling) 2nd Class Eric Koster; Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) 2nd Class Eugenio Palacios; Electronic Technician 1st Class Gary Lowe; and Electronic Technician 1st Class William Worley.

Civilian awards included the presentation as Sr. Civilian of the Quarter for the 2nd Quarter of 2009 to firefighter Eric Escalante, and a 35-year Federal service pin to firefighter Jackson Stillwagon.



Firefighter Eric Escalante is presented a plaque by Capt. Phil Waddingham upon his selection as Sr. Civilian of the Quarter.



Sr. Sailor of the Quarter, ET1 (AW/SW) Heath Britt



Jr. Sailor of the Quarter, CS2 Holly Clow



Bluejacket of the Quarter, CS3 Christopher Crocker



Firefighter Jackson Stillwagon is presented a certificate from Capt. Phil Waddingham for completing 35 years of Federal service.

# Houston Navy Week runs deep in the heart of Texas

## Focus on Texas

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist Steve Johnson, Navy Office of Community Outreach

HOUSTON, Texas (NNS) -- Houston welcomed Sailors from the Navy's newest aircraft-carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) during the opening weekend of Houston Navy Week Oct. 24.

The Sailors were guests of honor at festivals, professional football games, and were personally greeted by former President George H.W. Bush, the 41st President of the United States, whom their ship is named after.

Houston served up Texas-size hospitality to the Navy: The Sailors attended the 16th annual Ballunar hot air balloon festival; they got a behind-the-scenes private tour of the Johnson Space Center facilities; and they were showcased during Military Appreciation Day at the Houston Texans football game.

Navy Capt. "Chip" Miller, commanding officer of the USS George H.W. Bush, expressed his appreciation for the outpouring of support toward him and his crew from the residents of Houston.

"I think it was just absolutely amazing. Everybody here at NASA opened the doors with their open house and gave us a nice special tour," he said. "It was very educational. I know that everybody on my crew that was a part of it thoroughly enjoyed it. Then, to be a part of everything that's happening at Houston Navy Week, it's been very, very special."

Johnson Space Center Director Mike Coats, himself a retired Navy captain, introduced the Bush crew Saturday night to the Ballunar balloon festival crowd on stage prior to the U.S. Navy Band New Orleans' concert. Earlier in the day the crew had toured the Johnson Space Center's mission control centers that monitor space shuttle flights and operations aboard the International Space Station, as well as a mock-up training facility where NASA astronauts train for upcoming missions.

Kay Hire works as an astronaut at NASA, and she also is a Navy captain the Navy Reserve. She says Navy Week in Houston offers citizens of her city the chance to show Sailors how much their service means to them.

"Anytime there are Navy functions held here in Houston, we have Navy fans just come out of the woodwork," she said. "It's just wonderful seeing the tremendous support we get in this area."

A historic meeting took place on field at the Houston Texans game this past Sunday, as two former U.S. Presidents -- George H.W. Bush and his son, George W. Bush -- took the field along with Rear Adm. Mark Skinner, Capt. "Chip" Miller, the commanding officer of the USS George H. W. Bush (CVN-77) and Command Master Chief John Heck, for a ceremonial coin toss at the start of the game. Prior to the game both presidents greeted the Sailors, thanking them for their service.

Command Master Chief John Heck said the crew was overwhelmed by the response he and his crew received in Houston.

"I'm very proud to be in uniform today," he said. "We're all here for our shipmates. We're all here to demonstrate to the public who we are, what we're about and what we represent. I for one do not regret a single day in my 28 years in the Navy. I'm very proud to serve and very humbled by the experience, and I look forward to seeing a lot more this week."

The Navy took to the airwaves to get the Navy story out to the public. During Houston Navy Week, Skinner is scheduled to meet with the editorial board of the Houston Chronicle to discuss the U.S. Navy Global Maritime Strategy; appear on radio and television news programs to talk about Houston Navy Week; speak to local Chambers of Commerce, college campuses and civic groups; and attend local schools in the Houston area to share his personal Navy story with students.

It is a special homecoming for Skinner, who is considered a local hometown hero here. Skinner is a native of Houston, Texas. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June 1977, and was designated a naval aviator in 1979. In 2004, Skinner was selected to flag rank and was named Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division and Assistant Commander, Test and Evaluation, Naval Air Systems Command. He assumed his current position as Program Executive Officer, Tactical Aircraft Programs in October 2007.

Houston Navy Week is one of 21 Navy Weeks held across the country in 2009. Navy Weeks are designed to show Americans the investment they have made in their Navy and increase awareness in metropolitan areas that do not have a significant Navy presence. Major events planned for Houston Navy Week include:

-- First Tee golf outing Navy community relations event (COMREL)



*The Navy Band, New Orleans Express, performs live in the Fox-26 television studio during Houston Navy Week, one of 21 Navy Weeks held across America this year. Below, Texas Southern University aviation students listen as Rear Adm. W. Mark Skinner, Program Executive Officer-Tactical Aircraft Programs, discusses the future of naval aviation. Skinner, a native of Houston, also participated in a flight simulator with the students in conjunction with Houston Navy Week.*



-- A "Caps For Kids" visit at Texas Children's Hospital, Houston

-- A Habitat For Humanity home building project

-- Free public concerts by Navy Band New Orleans at the Houston Texans' football game, area high schools and college campuses.

-- Meetings with with the Southeast Asian and Arab United Chambers of Commerce, as well as other diversity events

-- Rear Adm. Skinner presentations to civic organizations, business leaders, and Navy League officials

-- Blue Angels flight demonstrations at the Wings Over Houston Air show Oct.

31-Nov. 1.

At the end of the day, though, Navy officials agreed that it was the big-hearted warmth expressed by thousands of Texas citizens which made the Sailors of Houston Navy Week feel like they were right at home.

"Positive military support has never been a problem here. People in Houston have always been very supportive of the military. Whenever I'm in uniform in town, I'll have people come up to me, shake my hand, and thank me for my service," she said. "Houston is a wonderful city to be a part of when you're in the military," said Cmdr. Melanie O'Brien, commanding officer of Navy Recruiting District, Houston.



**"To the United States Navy!"**



*Navy  
Ball  
2009*



**Toys For Tots** (From page 1)

berg County Sheriff Ed Mata; Kingsville Police Chief Rick Torres; Kingsville Commissioner Stan Laskowski Jr.; Kleberg County District Attorney John Herbert; County Judge Pete De La Garza; King Ranch representative David Morales, and Texas A&M Kingsville athletic director Ken Oliver and Asst. AD Joe Biedron, as well as Mrs. Stephen Tallant, wife of the school president. Also on hand was Kingsville Chamber of Commerce Director Alice Byers and Chamber Ambassador (and NASK Air Operations secretary) Connie Cashen. NASK Housing Manager Lynn



*Marines from NAS Corpus Christi take part in the opening ceremony.*

Early participated on behalf of the Kleberg County Sheriff's Mounted Patrol, which presented a \$1,000 check to the Toys For Tots campaign. L-3's Nancy Mejorado represented L-3 Vertex and Rolls Royce.

All toy and monetary donations presented to Stop-n-Lube remain within Kleberg-Kenedy County to benefit local less fortunate children during the holiday season. Donations of new, unwrapped toys with a minimum \$5 value, in original packaging, will be accepted at Stop-n-Lube through Dec. 15. Donation boxes will be set up throughout the Naval Air Station beginning next week. For more information on the Toys For Tots Campaign or to volunteer your services, contact Lisa Bockholt at (361) 595-0909.



*Mayor Sam Fugate presents a City of Kingsville proclamation to Lisa Bockholt.*



*Toys For Tots coordinators Lisa and Jerry Bockholt thank Kingsville business leaders for participating in the 2009 Toys For Tots opening ceremonies as Marine Officers from NAS Kingsville stand at parade rest. From left are Lt. Col. Terrence Latorre, executive officer VT-22; Maj. Brian Rolf, TW-2 Senior Marine, Capt. Dennis McVeigh, VT-22 Senior Marine, and Capt. David Shipley, VT-21 Senior Marine.*

**Volunteers:** If you'd like to volunteer to assist the Toys For Tots campaign, contact AN Kiana Kahlbaum at the NAS Kingsville Public Affairs Office, 516-6375 or by email at [kiana.kahlbaum@navy.mil](mailto:kiana.kahlbaum@navy.mil).

**19th annual King Ranch Ranch Hand Breakfast**



**Saturday, Nov. 21, 7 a.m. to noon  
at the legendary King Ranch**

**Volunteers**

Volunteers are needed to assist in this annual event, which kicks off the La Posada holiday season in Kleberg County.

The Ranch Hand Breakfast is the premier fund raiser for the La Posada celebration, which runs throughout the holiday period and includes the annual parade of lights in downtown Kingsville.

Volunteers are needed as servers, cooking assistants, supply personnel, and set-up and clean-up.

The NAS Kingsville Public Affairs Office will be coordinating command participation in this annual event. If you or your group would like to participate, contact Jon Gagné, PAO, at 516-6500.

## President Obama Visits Naval Air Station Jacksonville

By Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Daniel Gay, Navy Public Affairs Support Element East Detachment Southeast

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (NNS) -- President Barack Obama visited Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville to meet with and deliver remarks to 3,500 service members and their families Oct 26.

"It is great to be here at one of America's finest Naval Air Stations," said Obama as he took the podium.

Obama held a town hall-style rally where he talked about his commitment to the military and discussed the importance of military families and service.

"Military communities like this one take care of their own," said Obama. "It's not the remarkable platforms that give the United States its military superiority... it's not the sophisticated technologies that make us the most advanced in the world... no, we have the finest Navy and the finest military in the history of the world because we have the finest personnel in the world."

During his remarks Obama also spoke about the duties and responsibilities that military members accept.

"We are a country of more than 300,000,000 Americans, but less than one

percent wear the uniform," said Obama. "That one percent, you and the ones in uniform bear the overwhelming burden of our security."

Before departing the podium Obama spoke about his greatest privilege as president.

"Of all the privileges I have as president, I have no greater honor than serving as your Commander-in-Chief."

After his remarks, Obama went into the crowd to meet, shake hands and sign autographs amongst hundreds of servicemen and women in attendance.

As part of his visit Obama also met privately with 12 of NAS Jacksonville's top Sailors for a few words and a personal greeting. The Sailors that met with the president said they felt honored to have been selected to meet their Commander-in-Chief.

"I am speechless," said Information Systems Technician 1st Class Stacey Thinn. "It was such a great honor, he is such an inspirational person and it was just an awesome experience all around."

President Obama was visiting NAS Jacksonville as part of a way to personally thank uniformed service members for their sacrifice for their country.

### Commander in Chief's Call for Jacksonville Sailors



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Oct. 26, 2009) President Barack Obama delivers remarks to about 3500 Sailors, Marines and other service members during a visit to Naval Air Station Jacksonville. During his visit he also met with gold star families - families that have lost a loved one in Iraq or Afghanistan, to personally thank them for their sacrifice.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Leah Stiles).

## H1N1 Vaccine Order Includes Enough for National Guard

By Air Force Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke, American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. (NNS) -- The Defense Department has acquired enough doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine to immunize all 460,000 members of the National Guard, officials announced Oct. 29.

The supply will go out to the Guard through the Army Medical Materiel Agency, said Army Lt. Col. Dawn Barrowman, chief of occupational health for the Army National Guard.

All states have ordered the H1N1 injectable vaccine through the agency, which is the same way that states order the seasonal flu vaccine.

Army Guard officials in two states, Arkansas and Indiana, plan to use the Department of Health and Human Services allotment procured by their state, said Army Col. Rob Brown, the Army Guard's chief surgeon.

For Air Guard personnel, the H1N1 injectable vaccine has been ordered through the active duty host base, using the same method and guidance as for the seasonal flu

vaccine, said Air Force Capt. Tonya Moser, chief of medical logistics for the Air National Guard.

Shipments of the Defense Department vaccine are scheduled for the second week of November, but "exact dates will differ from state to state," Brown said.

The Defense Department has acquired 2.7 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine, which may be allocated to active duty members, Reservists, Guard members, Defense Department civilians and essential contractors, according to a department memorandum.

Despite its availability this way, Guard members are encouraged to get the vaccine through the "most expedient route," Barrowman said. This includes registered H1N1 providers or a HHS source.

Army Guard members who receive a H1N1 vaccine from another source are strongly encouraged to provide the documentation to their unit's medical readiness noncommissioned officer, Barrowman said, so the Army Guard can track the number of Soldiers who have received the vaccine.

The vaccine will be mandatory for uni-

formed personnel and highly encouraged for all others. Priority would be given to deployed and deploying forces, new accession sites, including the service academies, and health care personnel.

Brown said the vaccine was produced by the same companies that made the seasonal flu vaccine, and it went through strict quality assurance inspections by the Food and Drug Administration before it was approved for release to the public.

He emphasized the H1N1 vaccine is the best and most effective way for people to protect themselves.

Brown also encourages Guard members to take everyday actions to stay healthy, including:

- Covering their nose and mouth with a tissue when they cough or sneeze;
- Washing their hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing;
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth, because germs spread that way, and;
- Staying home if they get sick.

-- Story courtesy of Navy NewsStand



WASHINGTON (Sept. 17, 2009) Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead receives his annual seasonal flu vaccination from Air Force Capt. Leah Williams at the Pentagon. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Tiffini Jones Vanderwyst).

For the latest information on fighting the flu visit the NAS Kingsville Web Site at <https://www.cnicy.navy.mil/kingsville>, or visit the following link online:  
[https://www.cnicy.navy.mil/navycni/groups/public/documents/document/cnicp\\_a143062.pdf](https://www.cnicy.navy.mil/navycni/groups/public/documents/document/cnicp_a143062.pdf)

## NASK Sailors volunteer at Oktoberfest

Story/photos by Maryann Shramko

Sailors from the NAS Kingsville 1st Class Association and Branch Health Clinic Kingsville volunteered their time and muscle for a fundraiser to benefit a cage free, no kill cat shelter in Corpus Christi on Saturday, Oct. 10. Brewster Street Ice House hosted The Cattery for the shelter's 2nd annual Oktoberfest event to raise funds for the shelter kittens.

The volunteers arrived at 9 a.m. and set up 12 tents with tables and chairs to support various children's games, vendors, and other pet organizations in record time. By the time lunch rolled around the volunteers were finished and on their way. The event ran until 9 p.m. when the volunteers were right back at it breaking down and cleaning up in just over an hour. The overall event was a huge success for the shelter, raising more than \$4,000.

Shelter Director Samatha Person was thrilled to have volunteers come all the way from Kingsville to participate. She thanked all of her volunteers on The Cattery's website, saving Kingsville for last.

"Thanks to the Naval Air Station



Kingsville 1st Class Petty Officer Association and the Branch Health Clinic, who helped set up before and clean up after the event. We'd still be there trying to set up the tents if it weren't for them," said Person.

For more information on The Cattery and their upcoming events visit them on line at: <http://thecatterycc.org/cat/>.



Above: HA Corban Ege brings supplies and beverages for the team. Right, HM2 Jacob Welch and AC1 William Bowman set up one of the first tents.



Left, HM2 Welch and AC1 Bowman transport bottles of soda to be used for the ring toss game. Right, HA Ege, ET1 Heath Britt, and HM2 Jacob Welch set up another tent.



## Search continues for lost T-34 Turbomotor, crew

From Chief of Naval Air Training Public Affairs

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (NNS) -- Naval Air Station Corpus Christi air traffic control tower lost contact with a T-34C Turbomotor aircraft at approximately 3:20 p.m. Oct. 28.

The aircraft and two pilots aboard are assigned to Training Air Wing 4 based out of NAS Corpus Christi.

Local Coast Guard surface and air-borne assets have been conducting a search near Port Lavaca, Texas. The aircraft was conducting routine training missions.



According to CNATRA Public Affairs Officer Lt. Brett Dawson, a news conference will be held Friday, Oct. 30 to release updated information.

For more news from Chief of Naval Air Training Public Affairs, visit [www.navy.mil/local/cnatra](http://www.navy.mil/local/cnatra).

## Elks' Veteran's Day Chili Cookoff

Chili, the official dish of the State of Texas, will be in the spotlight on Saturday Nov. 14, as the Kingsville Elks annual Chili Cook-off kicks off. Teams will converge on the Elks Lodge, 6th & Miller, to determine who is the South Texas chili Chef of The Year and to salute our veterans and active duty military. Many military and veteran teams are expected to participate.

All the hoopla about chili started in 1967 as a publicity stunt to promote a book. Two teams competed with the event ending in a draw. In 1968, a rematch was held. This competition also ended with no winner being chosen after armed masked men stole the ballot box and threw it down an abandoned mine shaft nearby.

In 1969, the first official World Champion Chili Cook was crowned. C. W. Wood claimed the prize in Terlingua, Texas. For some unknown reason this strange contest in the old ghost town captured the imagination of the

world. On the first Saturday of each November, thousands attend the now annual event with several hundred teams participating.

Competition Chili is designed for one purpose - to win the chili competition. It's not something you would whip up to serve the family on Saturday night. Competition Chili usually varies from eating chili, in that it contains more spices.

Kingsville's event will begin at 10 a.m. with judging at 2 p.m. The competitive teams will be vying for trophies and bragging rights for the best chili. In addition there will be Showmanship trophies, in which teams will be judged on Theme, Costumes, Booth setup, Action and Audience appeal.

Entry forms, along with a set of rules, may be obtained at the Elks Lodge, 6th & Miller, after 3 p.m. or call 592-4444 and a set will be mailed to you. The Longriders Band will provide musical entertainment. There is no charge for the public to attend.

## — MWR/Hawks Landing PPV host Halloween Party and Haunted House —

*Courtesy of Lynn Early and Brent Edwards*

The NAS Kingsville Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department and Hawks Landing PPV Housing unit sponsored a Halloween Hi Jinx event Saturday, Oct. 24 at Hawks Landing from 6-9 p.m. to celebrate Halloween. More than 500 base residents and dependents attended the event.

The invitation to this scare-fest was extended to the Kingsville Mayor Sam Fugate, Kleberg County Sheriff Ed Mata, NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Philip Waddingham, Executive Officer Cmdr. Scott Allen, Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff, XO, CMC, PPV II partner Hunters Cove, and all base employees and their families. An additional job -- and one that always proves to be a hard one to finalize -- is the judging of the costumes. But we knew Capt. Waddingham would do a great job because he loves seeing these turnouts utilizing our base MWR and PPV partnership. The housing staff, Lynn Early and Carol Garza, had the opportunity to judge the colored Halloween pictures. Winners will be announced soon.

Some of the events that took place were apple bobbing, face painting, tattoos, the fishing pond, duck pond, and pictures were taken in the autumn/Halloween back drop.



They also had a cookie frosting area, frisbee throw, moon walk, pumpkin painting and carving, lollipop tree, and a jar full of goodies that many guessed to win prizes, plinko, and bottle toss. There were prizes for all, along with treats and goodies such as popcorn, candy, popcorn balls, nachos, chips, cotton candy, caramel apples, and plenty of drinks including water and of course the famous witch's brew. For those who were unsure of their future, or even their past, a fortune teller told all the good, bad and even some of the ugly.

Then it was off to the Haunted House which was a huge success and had long waiting lines. But waiting didn't bother the patrons, who laughed, looked and wondered if they really should enter after hearing the screams that came from within. Topping off the evening was the movie *Monster House* which was shown on the outdoor projection screen by MWR.

Photos are compliments of Rosa Quintanilla, who (by the way) got to use Carol's new digital camera. As always there was a long list of helpers and volunteers, including MWR staff members and their family members, the Housing Office staff, PPV Hunters Cove staff, PPV Hawks Landing Staff, and a number of other command personnel.

### Bowling Standings (10/28)

#### In the Dog House League

POS	TEAM	WON/LOST
1.	Lane Breakers	31-17
2.	Three Minds	28-20
3.	Tumbalos	25-23
4.	Triple X's	24-24
5.	The Guys	21.5-26.5
6.	The Hounds	14.5-33.5

Weekly High Scores:

Lane Breakers 564 game, 1603 set

#### Wednesday Night Mixed League

POS	TEAM	WON/LOST
1.	Laugh Out Loud	20 - 8
2.	Pete's Angels	19 - 9
3.	DUHs	16 - 12
4.	Pin Bangers	15 - 13
5.	Guttermouths	12 - 16
6.	Sixty Forty	11 - 17
7.	Slow Rollin	10 - 10
8.	Big K Rollers	9 - 19

High Scores:

Josh Nunez 206, 234, 603 series

Johnny Robertson 192, 195 games

### MWR sponsors NASCAR simulator, Rock Band

Thursday, Oct. 15 was a typical warm, slightly muggy, South Texas evening for most of the Kingsville community, but for NAS-Kingsville families it was just plain "Hot!" More than one hundred NASK families had a rare opportunity to experience the rush of driving a genuine NASCAR simulator.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department sponsored the event, which included a full-sized NASCAR racing car fitted with the newest simulator technology and hydraulic motion, so drivers could really feel the road.

This event was sponsored by MWR for all base affiliated families. Anyone was welcome to come out, try out the simulator and enjoy free BBQ at the K-Bar, along with a huge Rock Band Competition on under the hot spot lights of the K-Bar Stage.

"The event went really well," said MWR's Renee Hill who organized the event. "We had more than 100 people come in from the hours of 6-10 p.m.,



which was more than we were hoping for." The event included more than just the NASCAR simulator, Hill added, as MWR offered free BBQ hamburgers and hot dogs, chips and a soda for all attendees.

"The NASCAR simulator was fantastic," Hill added. "The car actually moves and the screens are great. The Sailors, as well as their families loved the event. It was a nice event for a Thursday evening, and families got to come out and eat some dinner, play the NASCAR simulator, and then get on stage and play Rock Band on a huge screen. It was pretty fun."

### Captain's Cup Sports

#### Flag Football League

Cheese Pizza	3-0
MED Trauma Dawgs	1-0
Border Patrol	2-1
SEC Deadly Force	2-1
Orange Grove	2-3
Air Operations	0-2
VT-22 (SNAs/IPs)	0-3

#### Lunchtime Volleyball

MED Trauma Dawgs	5-2
VT-21 SNAs/IPs	4-3
FISC Make It Rain	3-4
Blue Ghost (Maint.)	2-5

Standings as of Oct. 26

## T-45 gets new life thanks to L-3 Vertex

A T-45A *Goshawk* is active on NAS Kingsville's flight schedule again today thanks to the efforts of L-3 Vertex CDFT personell. The *Goshawk*, referred to as Aircraft 273, has been on the Training Air Wing TWO inventory since 1997, but a December 1997 training accident during a carrier qualification detachment to Mayport, Fla. caused extensive damage to the aircraft, forcing TW-2 to remove the aircraft from its active roles. At the time, Aircraft 273 had just 355 flight hours.

After the accident the aircraft was put in storage awaiting repairs, according to L-3 Vertex Kingsville Site Manager Bob Weaver. "Aircraft 2-7-3 crashed or flipped over while on a detachment and the aircraft sustained a lot of damage to the front nose section and the aft shear deck right under the Vertical Stabilizer of the aircraft," Weaver said. "The aircraft sat in a cocoon, or long term tent, for six years waiting on funding and parts to arrive before undergoing re-

pairs."

Once funding and repair parts were in place, Navy officials turned to the experts at L-3.

"Our maintenance staff looked 2-7-3 over and decided it was fixable, so we took on the project," Weaver explained. "L-3 not only repaired the crash damage areas, we also did all the required modifications to the aircraft. These modifications bring the jet up to production standards, with the exception of RAMP (Required Avionics Modernization Program) which we do at a later time."

L-3 personnel also gave the aircraft a new paint job, and Weaver says 2-7-3 is now ready to go. "Long story short," Weaver said, "it's like receiving a new jet. There are only 355 flight hours on the aircraft, and it looks brand new. Our folks did a great job!"

The aircraft has been back in operation for a couple of weeks now, with 14 flights in the log book.



*Body repairs, March 2001*



*Wing installation, January 2008*



*Wing installation, January 2008*



*Canopy replaced, April 2008*

### Aircraft 273 damage 1997



*Sheer deck replaced, 2009*



*Back on the tarmac, August 2009*



*The L-3 Vertex CDFT team poses with Aircraft 273, October 2009*