



Vol. 67, No. 24 Naval Air Station Kingsville, TX "We Train The World's Best Pilots Here!" <https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/kingsville> November 27, 2009

## Garcia sworn-in as Asst. Secretary of the Navy, Manpower and Reserve Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Corpus Christi native and Texas state representative Juan Garcia took the oath of office and was sworn-in as the newest Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Nov. 16 in Washington, D.C. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus administered the oath. Garcia was confirmed by the Senate earlier this month and assumes the position formally held by Ray Neves, who retired from Federal service. Garcia is a second-generation naval aviator and attorney in Corpus Christi. He earned his law degree from Harvard University and holds a Master's Degree in public policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Garcia completed 13 years of active duty service before transitioning into the Naval Reserves. He completed Navy flight training and earned his "Wings of Gold" at

NAS Corpus Christi. He has flown 30 missions in the Persian Gulf, and also served as an aide to the deputy Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Naval Forces Europe. Garcia also participated in *Operation Allied Force* in Kosovo and was assigned to the aircraft carrier *USS Constellation* (CV-64) in support of the enforcement of the no-fly zone in Iraq.

In 1999, Garcia was one of 16 Americans selected to serve as a White House Fellow, the nation's premier leadership development program whose alumni includes Henry Cisneros and Colin Powell, and worked as a special assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Education. Garcia left active duty in 2004 and continues to serve as a Reserve instructor pilot at NAS Corpus Christi. He practices civil defense law with the firm of Hartline, Dacus, Barger, Dreyer & Kern.



WASHINGTON (Nov. 16, 2009) Juan Garcia, left, is sworn in as the new Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs by Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) the Honorable Ray Mabus. Holding the bible is his wife, Denise Garcia. (U.S. Navy photo).

## Chapel's Operation Shipmate provides holiday baskets for junior Sailors



Members of the NAS Kingsville Junior Enlisted Association present RPI Christine Tamag a \$100 donation for Operation Shipmate. The First Class Association also donated \$120, and the VT-21 Officer's Spouse Club donated \$100. JEA members above include (from left) JEA president CS2 Keturia Laidlaw, CS2 Montreon Smith, CS3 Erik Soliz, CS2 Holly Clow, CS3 Chris Crocker, and CS2 Robert Toler. (Photo by Airman Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs).

More than 30 families of NAS Kingsville junior enlisted Sailors enjoyed a hearty Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings this year thanks to the generosity of Team Kingsville personnel, the Chief Petty Officers' Mess, and the NAS Kingsville Chaplain's Office.

"Operation Shipmate" provided food baskets and gift certificates to 33 families overall, according to Chaplain's Office leading petty officer RP1 Christine Tamag. The Sailors who received the baskets were nominated by their leading chiefs or department heads.

"Monetary donations from the VT-21 Officers Spouse Association, NASK 1st Class and Jr. Enlisted Associations, and the Catholic Religious Offering Fund really helped our program this year," Tamag said. "And, the generous donations of canned food and other items by base personnel was really appreciated."

Throughout the months of October and November, Operation Shipmate boxes

were available at numerous locations aboard the air station to accept donations of canned goods and holiday specialties. According to RPSN Quentin Williams, the response was overwhelming. "Our donations were very surprising this year," Williams said. "Our donation boxes were filled with everything from canned sweet potatoes and yams, to cranberry sauce, gravy, stuffing, and cake and pie mix."

The NAS Kingsville Chief Petty Officer's Mess purchased all the turkeys for the baskets, as they do every year. According to Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff, Operation Shipmate is exactly the type of program that Chiefs should be involved in.

"Operation Shipmate is an outstanding opportunity for individuals and leadership groups on board NAS Kingsville to make a positive impact on junior Sailors and their families during the holiday season," Ratliff said. "It's a great program provided by the Chapel staff and they do a great job taking care of our Sailors."



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



**From the Bridge**

Greetings, NAS Kingsville. Last Saturday was the 19th annual King Ranch "Ranch Hand Breakfast," and 59 folks from NAS Kingsville volunteered to help in the preparation and serving of over 4,000 meals to hungry guests. This year's attendance far exceeded the 3,200 who visited the Ranch last year, and the number of volunteers was up from last year as well. All proceeds benefit local charities and the La Posada de Kingsville holiday festival, and the turnout was a good sign that the desire to volunteer and to give something so that others may benefit is alive and well here in

South Texas.

Speaking of giving, as the Chairman of this Year's Coastal Bend Combined Federal Campaign, I am happy to report that this collection season has resulted in another record breaking year. Eligible organizations in the Coastal bend Area donated \$1,075,632.03, over \$40,000 more than last year. NAS Kingsville alone contributed 30% above our goal of \$10,000, and TW-2 exceeded their goal of \$18,000 by over \$500. Congratulations to all organizations for their record participation, and many thanks to ET1 Jose Partida from Air Operations on his leadership and administrative prowess ensuring we had 100% contact this year.

I also want to thank all of you who supported the 2009 Operation Shipmate program conducted by the Chaplain's Office. Thanks to your generous contributions and the monetary donations from the 1st Class Association, Junior Enlisted Association, VT-21 Officer's Spouse Club, and the Chief Petty Officers' Mess, 33 Sail-

ors and their families enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving holiday.

Remember, too, that the Toys for Tots campaign is well underway. We have donation boxes located at several locations on board the base to assist you in participating in the program. If it is within your ability to support these worthy causes, I encourage you to do so. As a uniformed service, and as a federal service, we have financial stability and benefits that are the envy of many. Whether you give monetarily, or simply volunteer your time or talents, you can rest assured that your actions are felt by many.

As we enjoy this Thanksgiving Holiday, take some time to reflect on the good that each of you contribute to our base and our mission, and know that our Navy and our Nation our thankful for your service and sacrifice. Have a safe and wonderful weekend, and if you plan to travel home or any distance away from Kingsville, have a plan, and remember to stop by the Auto Hobby shop for all your car preparation

needs!

Finally, as the Christmas holiday leave period is right around the corner, get your leave requests in early so you can be assured of getting the time off that you most certainly deserve.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I look forward to hitting the deck running when we all return safely next week.

Skipper Waddz sends.

**Water Conservation:**

We've all been told it by our parents, but it really does work.

- Wet your tooth brush, turn water off.
- Brush your teeth.
- Turn water on and rinse.
- Turn water back off.

This simple little act can conserve 75% of the water you use while brushing your teeth. Do your part and inspire other to do theirs.

**Deckplate Leadership      Sea Notes From the Command Master Chief**



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



Greetings Team Kingsville:

This edition of the Flying K will hit the streets as you are waking up Friday morning, the day after Thanksgiving. This holiday is important, as it allows us the opportunity to pause and give thanks for our blessings. I know that on Thursday I will pause and be thankful for the many blessing I have received in my life and my Navy career. Unfortunately, I will wake up Friday feeling guilty because I ate too much turkey and pecan pie. I will feel like I need to go work out, break a sweat, and burn some calories. Instead, I will probably decide to have a turkey sandwich and a little dressing. And, I will probably have a small slice of pecan pie for desert.

Seriously, as Americans, we do have a lot to be thankful for. Although our economy is hurting, we as a people are so much better off than folks in many other countries. And those of us serving in the Navy and as Navy civilians are very lucky to be doing an honest day's work for a reasonable day's pay. What's even more important to me is that both Sailors and Navy

civilians belong to an organization where people look out for others.

Thinking back through 2009, I can recall many instances where our Sailors and civilian employees gave back to the community through community service volunteerism efforts. We had Sailors support mentorship programs such as the Junior Achievement Program at King High School and fundraising efforts such as the VFW's Fill the Helmet Fundraiser. And I also remember our Sailors supporting the Flag Day ceremony at the Elks Lodge and the Veteran's Day Celebration at Bishop High School. And this past weekend, many of our Sailors and civilian employees voluntarily worked the 19th Annual King Ranch Breakfast.

Even as all of us were busy making preparations for this holiday weekend, many of you were voluntarily supporting NAS Kingsville's Annual Operation Shipmate. Those of you who supported the program will be happy to know that through your efforts, the families of over 30 junior enlisted Sailors will be treated to Thanksgiving Baskets complete with turkey and dressing. Thanks to all of you for supporting this worthwhile program.

I hope all of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. And please remember, I am thankful for everything all of you do in support of our community, its citizens, and each other.

Regards, CMC

**NPC moving Sailors despite budget constraints**

*By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Maria Yager*

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – Despite the lack of a Fiscal Year 2010 budget Navy Personnel Command (NPC) has been able to release Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders to keep the fleet moving, Navy officials announced Nov. 16.

"Until the National Defense Appropriations Bill has been signed by the President, the entire Department of Defense is operating under a continuing resolution authority (CRA). For Navy Personnel Command (NPC), this means that PCS funding is allocated in small increments," said Rear Adm. Don Quinn, commander NPC.

NPC spends more than \$600 million annually on PCS moves, but has only received a fraction of the funds requested in its Fiscal Year 2010 budget. The command has had to prioritize which moves can be funded. While operating under the CRA, PCS orders are released as funding becomes available each month.

NPC has been able to release orders for Sailors transferring in November and most of December using CRA funds received in October. New funds received in November should allow NPC to release orders for Sailors detaching through March. The goal is to minimize impacts to Fleet



readiness, career timing and families.

The priority moves are Global War on Terrorism support assignments, career milestone billets, critical readiness fills (those that minimize gaps at sea for deployed units and those working up to deploy), and moves that keep the training pipelines moving.

"We fully recognize that advance notification time for PCS orders is necessary for stability, planning, and quality of life. We are doing our best to provide Sailors with as much lead time as possible in the current fiscal situation," said Quinn.

In FY09, NPC issued approximately 72,600 funded PCS orders with an average cost of \$8,556 per move.



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



## In The Break

It's hard to believe that 2009 is coming to a close. It has certainly been a busy and productive year for all of us involved in the training of the next generation of Navy and Marine Corps tactical aviators. Last week we winged 7 new Navy and 3 new Marine Corps aviators, all bound for the Hornet ("Classic" variety), Super Hornet, or Harrier. That Winging came on the heels of another successful Carrier Qualification (CQ) Detachment that included dodging remnants of Hurricane Ida and travels on Veteran's Day (see last Flying K).

We have two more Wingings and one more CQ Detachment before 2009 comes

to a close. The Training Wing TWO/NAS Kingsville team has been meeting the Naval Aviation Enterprise (NAE) requirements for new Tailhook aviators throughout calendar year 2009. The Navy and Marine Corps need those warriors to fill fleet cockpits and you have made it happen. Thank you to all that keep this very special production line humming!

As 2009 comes to a close, so has another aspect of our effort. Last week we received delivery of the 221st and final T-45 *Goshawk* from the production line at Boeing St. Louis. The first jet arrived here in Kingsville in 1992 and here we are 17 years later wrapping up a highly successful program that is unique in the annals of worldwide aviation.

To my knowledge, no training program of this scope and longevity compares to the *Goshawk* program born and bred at NAS Kingsville! Recent analysis by NAVAIR engineers indicate that we will be flying and training in *Goshawks* well into the 21st century. So, this is actually just another step in the evolution of the T-45 Training System.

The Required Avionics Modernization Program (RAMP) continues to convert T-45As with analog cockpits into T-45Cs with all digital avionics. That mod line here at NASK produces roughly one new T-45C each month. Our goal is to have enough T-45Cs on the flight line in 2010 to reach another close-out milestone: the training of the last Strike Student Naval Aviator in analog cockpits!

Next year promises to be as exciting and productive as 2009. I hope everyone recharges their batteries in the coming weeks.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!

Regards, Fingers



## Final Delivery:

*Training Air Wing TWO took delivery of the final T-45 Goshawk from the original contract with Boeing (McDonnell/Douglas) Nov. 16. Goshawk number 328 is the 221st T-45 delivered to the Navy for training student Naval Aviators. Photos by Ralph Malconufo, Boeing Corp.*

## Welcome Party

*Group Shot: from left are Rick Ridley, Boeing Corp.; Jeff Lambert, Rolls-Royce site manager; Dick Messbarger, Kingsville Economic Development Counsel; Bob Weaver, L-3 Vertex; Capt. Mark Brooks, TW-2 commander; Steve Schmidt, experimental test pilot, Boeing Corp.; Lt. Cmdr. Wes McCall, DCMA test pilot; Cmdr. Gerry Murphy, CO VT-22; CWO3 Chris Chandler, CNATRA Maintenance Det; Rick Marcantonio, L-3 Program Manager.*



## The Flying K

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*NAS Kingsville*  
**Commanding Officer**  
Capt. Philip L. Waddingham

*NAS Kingsville*  
**Executive Officer**  
Cmdr. Scott Allen

*NAS Kingsville*  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
Jon Gagné

## Flying K Staff

*Managing Editor*  
Jon Gagné

*Editor:*  
Jon Gagné

*Asst. Editor /*  
*Staff Photographer/Writer*  
ACAN Kiana Kahlbaum

Comments, letters, or suggestions should be sent via e-mail to:  
[kngv-pao@navy.mil](mailto:kngv-pao@navy.mil)

**Direct Line Input:**  
Submit questions or comments for the Commanding Officer to:  
[kngv-pao@navy.mil](mailto:kngv-pao@navy.mil)  
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## Navy seeks 100 percent officer/enlisted participation in electronic service records

*From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs*  
MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- As the Navy moves forward with plans to eliminate the enlisted field service record more than 130,000 Sailors need to establish a self-service account that will allow them to access to their new digital record.

"The elimination of the enlisted field service record will begin in January 2010," said Art Tate, NSIPS/ESR/CIMS implementation manager. "Once the paper record disappears, they will have to create an ESR (electronic service record) account if they wish to see what is in their record."

This move follows the action already taken for officers. The Navy eliminated the officer field service record in 2000 and has already closed-out some enlisted field service records for Sailors in Millington, Tenn. and other test locations.

"I don't miss the paper record. It is easier to access it on-line, right from my desk. I don't even have to go anywhere," said Chief Navy Counselor (AW) Kelly Strickland, command career counselor at Navy Personnel Command. Strickland has logged on to

her ESR to verify her dependent's data and confirm classes she has completed have been entered in her record.

Chief of Naval Personnel announced the requirement for all active-duty and Reserve personnel to establish and maintain a self-service ESR early this year. These accounts will allow Sailors to review all personnel, training, and awards data by choosing in the view section of the ESR. Sailors also have limited self-service update capability.

The Navy first announced the implementation of the ESR in 2006 with NAVADMIN 292/06.

Self-service accounts can be created at <https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil> or on the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS)/ESR server on board ships.

NAVADMIN 043/09 directs all commands to use NSIPS/ESR as the single field level data entry point for all Sailors.

Commanding officers, executive officers and command master chiefs can obtain command-level view only access by completing the NSIPS/ESR system authorization request and contacting their local NSIPS area man-



ager. This access provides the user view only capability for all ESR accounts within their UIC(s).

All commands responsible for service record entries are required to initiate updates in NSIPS/ESR; however official military personnel file requirements remain unchanged.

Sailors are ultimately responsible for the accuracy of their ESR and must contact the servicing personnel office if any information is incorrect.

For more information read NAVADMIN 043/09, at <http://www.npc.navy.mil>.

### Congratulations!



#### Thanksgiving Feast donated by Hawks Landing Vendor

Hawks Landing vendor "Green Steam Solutions" donated a complete Thanksgiving dinner for one lucky Hawks Landing family. Housing director Lynn Early drew the lucky winner, ABE1 Maurice Thigpen.

The family picked up the basket Nov. 23. Pictured above from left are Hawks Landing manager Rosa Quintanilla, ABE1 Thigpen, Mrs. Thigpen, Bill Allen, Carol Garza, Mary Clemmons, Justina Early, and Lyn Early.

## An employer of choice, Navy stands alongside Google, AT&T

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Navy is the first in the Department of Defense and the second government agency in 19 years to earn recognition as Workforce Management Magazine's Optimas Award winner in "General Excellence."

The award recognizes achievement in at least six of nine areas including competitive advantage, financial impact, global outlook, innovation, managing change, partnership, ethical practice, service and vision. Navy joins past winners such as Google, Intel, Hewlett Packard and AT&T as employers who are leaders in developing management initiatives that directly affect business results.

"Earning the award is truly a tremendous achievement," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, the chief of naval personnel. "However, it isn't the recognition that is most important -- it is the opportunities and benefits these programs offer our Sailors in areas that are important to their personal and professional success."

In announcing the 2009 Optimas Awards, the editors of Workforce Management Magazine highlighted Navy's Assignment Incentive Pay Program (AIP), an online assignment process through which Sailors are encouraged to volunteer for hard-to-fill assignments by leveraging a more direct role in their career path management through an incentive pay bidding system.

Editors also praised Navy's efforts to recruit and develop a skilled and diverse workforce noting "[Navy's] portfolio of workforce initiatives showed the range of its efforts to attract, train and retain a skilled, diverse workforce of 300,000 that increasingly encompasses women and minorities."

To be considered for the award, Navy submitted descriptions of AIP and seven other programs:

- Crisis Action Organization (CAO) informs personnel readiness by assisting commands in effectively accounting for Navy personnel and their families following catastrophic events such as severe hurricanes, tornadoes or wildfires using a Web-based system, Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System. CAO also provides a venue to address post-incident needs to assist families during their period of re-stabilization.

- Global War on Terror Support Assignment Process Initiative allows Sailors to plan and volunteer for combat-zone assignments, improving morale and assignment predictability;

- Center for Language, Regional Expertise and Culture Program prepares Sailors for mission success overseas by strengthening communication and cultural awareness;

- Credentialing Opportunities Online, (COOL) allows Sailors in each of Navy's 64 enlisted career fields to receive independent

occupational certification for skills learned in the military;

- Advancement Exam Development Conference Initiative enables subject-matter experts from the fleet to convene and author annual advancement examinations, allowing 85 of 100 full-time exam writers to be released for high-priority assignments and saving \$7 million per year;

- Navy College Program Distance Learning Partnership partners with 32 institutions, offering 240 online degree programs to Sailors, with no out-of-pocket expense;

- Task Force Life Work aims to improve life work integration across Navy's Total Force through innovative life work programs and policies.

In evaluating candidates for the Optimas Awards, Workforce Magazine editors considered information from published reports, conferences, interviews with leadership and program managers and demonstrated performance.

"For nearly two decades, Workforce Management has been honoring organizations with exceptional workforce initiatives that clearly show a measurable, bottom-line success in response to the organization's business needs, issues or challenges," said John Hollon, a Workforce Management Magazine editor. "The 2009 winners uphold this standard yet again."

*From Navy Personnel Command*

## Base support for Toys For Tots program continues to grow

NAS Kingsville has jumped on the 2009 Toys for Tots bandwagon in a big way this campaign year. Specific toy drive events and activities are already planned for at the Branch Health Clinic, the Gym, and the Youth Center. In addition, L-3 Vertex and Rolls Royce have organized employee donation drives, and VT-21 and VT-22 have indicated their intention to collect as well.

For the third year in a row, the Branch Health Clinic will present toys to Lisa & Jerry Bockholt, Local Campaign Coordinators, at their Dec. 11 holiday party. The Gym is sponsoring a 5-K Holiday Fun Run, Dec. 10 at 5:00 p.m. to benefit Toys for Tots. Participants should bring a new, unwrapped toy in original packaging. The event is open to anyone with base access. Civilians who do not presently have base access may obtain such by contacting the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce at (361) 592-6438. For more information, on the Holiday Fun Run contact 516-6386, or, call Alma or Jay at the Gym

And, the Youth Center is holding it's first annual NAS K Tree Lighting & Santa's Workshop, on Thursday, Dec. 3 from 5 – 8 p.m. The festivities include caroling by the



youth center, followed by presents given out to parents who bring a toy for Toys for Tots. There will be a brief program, then the arrival of Santa Claus. Children can have their photos taken with Santa, and enjoy Santa's Workshop, as well as the excitement of the lighting of the tree. This event is also open to anyone with base access. For more information contact Brent Edwards at (361) 516-6386.

Meanwhile, active duty Marines from VT-21 and VT-22 are volunteering in record numbers to assist the Bockholt's by making appearances in dress uniform. And Security's MA2 Mike Williams rallied the Toys for Tots cause by promoting the toy drive during the recent National Night Out Event held at JK Northway, raising both toys as well as monetary donations.

This past week Mrs. Sue Waddingham, wife of Commanding Office Capt. Phil Waddingham, provided much-needed assistance to the campaign by helping with the initial set up and organization of the campaign's Secret Santa Workshop.

"Jerry and I could not do this without all the support we receive from this community, and, Naval Air Station Kingsville is such an integral and vital part of this community, that it goes without saying – we couldn't do this without them!" Bockholt explained.

The local campaign serves the needs of the Kleberg-Kenedy County area, with overflow assisting families in Brooks County. Applications for the area's less fortunate families are available at the Texas Dept. of Health & Human Services, on Corral Street, in Kingsville. Deadline to apply is Dec. 15.

New, unwrapped toys and monetary donations toward the local campaign will be accepted at Stop-n-lube Quick Oil Change and Car Care Center, which serves as Campaign Headquarters, through Dec. 12. For more information contact: Lisa Bockholt at (361) 595-0909.

## Think Energy

When we are at work we don't usually pay as close attention to our power usage as we would at our own homes. Try and conserve at your work station or work area as you would in your own home. Keep unnecessary lighting turned off; if you use task lighting get with your Building BEM to ensure that it's the most efficient light we can use.

If you have a clock in your work area, unplug it if possible, all of our computers have clocks in them. Make sure that you secure your power strip at the end of the day, and turn your monitor and computer off. Check to make sure all printers and copiers are turned off and that any unnecessary power using device is also turned off.

As a critical part of our Energy Team each and every individual can make a difference. If we all do our part, we can together make a huge impact into the power consumption we are currently using on base.

**You CAN make a difference!**

## Junior Enlisted Assn. provides Clean Sweep

Members of the NAS Kingsville Junior Enlisted Association added another Community Outreach project to their log book Sept. 14 when members of the Association participated in Operation Clean Sweep in Corpus Christi. The NAS Kingsville contingent spent most of the day cleaning up a park and playground and mingling with other volunteers - including Corpus Christi Mayor Joe Adame.

"This was a fund project for us," said event chairman CS2 Montreon Smith. "Clean Sweep focused on cleaning up parks and the Corpus Christi shoreline, and we were given a park to work on. We put in about five hours picking up trash, trimming trees and bushes, painting over graffiti and things like that."

Four members of the JEA participated in the event - along with CBQ leading petty officer CS1 Pearline Myers. The group received a special visit by Corpus Christi Mayor Joe Adame, who was also volunteering for Clean Sweep. The Mayor thanks the group for driving up to Corpus Christi from Kingsville and participating in the program, posed for a few photos, and then went back to work.

"It was nice of the Mayor to stop by and thank us," Smith said. "That really surprised us."

*Photos courtesy of CS2 Montreon Smith.*



*The Team: From left) CS2 Robert Toler, CS2 Montreon Smith, CS1 Pearline Myers, and CS2 Holly Clow. Below, Clow and Toler work on the playground area.*



*Above: CS2 Toler uses a shovel to remove overgrown weeds/ Below, CS2 Smith poses for a photo with Corpus Christi Mayor Joe Adame during Operation Clean Sweep.*



## 10 receive Wings at Winging Ceremony

10 pilots were designated as Naval Aviators and presented their Wings of Gold Friday, Nov. 20 during a traditional Training Air Wing TWO winging ceremony held at the Captain's Club. CNA-TRA Chief of Staff Capt. James Crabbe presided over the ceremony along with squadron CO's Cmdr. Gerry Murphy and Cmdr. Chip Kelsey. Also on hand for the ceremony was Marine Lt. Col. Gabriel Fabbri, commanding officer of Marine Aviation Training Support Group (MATSG) 22 at NAS Corpus Christi.

The winging ceremony marked the end of nearly 13 months of intermediate and advanced jet/strike training for the Navy and Marine Corps' newest pilots. Each of them will now move on to a Fleet Replacement Squadron where they will learn their fleet aircraft.

VT-21 pilots included 1st Lt. Phillip Goebel, Lt. j.g. Brian Jones, Lt. j.g. William Snead Jr.; Lt. j.g. Jayson Trembath, and 1st Lt. Todd White. VT-22 honorees included Lt. j.g. Albert Flor; Lt. j.g. Brandon Hempler; 1st Lt. Jeff Kuss; Lt. j.g. Adam Kyle; and Lt. j.g. Jason Pallotta.



*The Navy and Marine Corps' newest Naval Aviators pose for a group photo following the Nov. 20 Winging Ceremony at the Captain's Club. Front row, from left: Cmdr. Gerry Murphy, CO VT-21; 1st Lt. Todd White; Lt. j.g. Brandon Hempler; Lt. j.g. Adam Kyle; 1st Lt. Phillip Goebel; Lt. j.g. Albert Flor; Lt. Col. Gabriel Fabbri, CO MATSG 22. Back row: Cmdr. Chip Kelsey, CO VT-21; Lt. j.g. William Snead Jr.; Lt. j.g. Brian Jones; 1st Lt. Jeff Kuss; Lt. j.g. Jason Trembath; Lt. j.g. Jason Pallotta; Capt. James A. Crabbe, CNATRA Chief of Staff. Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs.*

## Corpus Christi 5-year old is November "Pilot For a Day"

Story and photos by Airman Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs

On Thursday, Nov. 19, 5-year old Jacob Fernandez, a resident of Corpus Christi, was welcomed aboard NAS Kingsville as Pilot for a Day. Jacob, who suffers from Retinoblastoma and as a result is completely blind, was accompanied by his mother Melissa Fernandez and step-father Nick. Fernandez spent the day with his sponsor Pilot, VT-21's Lt. Rebeka Murphy, who helped him to experience many different aspects of what being a pilot is all about.

Not only did Jacob receive his own flight suit, squadron patches, and a demo of the 35 pounds of survival gear that pilots wear, he also toured the Approach Control Radar and weather facilities. Jacob also visited the Air Ops tarmac and was shown the various aircraft that student pilots are trained in.

The highlight of the day though had to be the T-45C flight simulator, where Lt. Murphy helped guide Jacob through three different flight simulations which included landing on the deck of an aircraft carrier. Following a tour of the Security Department and the Fire House, Jacob was designated an "Honorary Naval Aviator" by VT-21 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Chip



Kelsey.

NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO have been participating in the Pilot For a Day program since June 2006. The program is a joint effort with Driscoll Children's Hospital of South Texas and brings chronically or critically ill patients to the base for a day and allows them to experience life as a student naval aviator. The goal is to give the children a day away from the hospital and an opportunity to hopefully take their minds off of their illness by providing them with a fun day filled with wonderful memories.



### Honorary Pilot

*Ground Training Officer Charlie Michalk, left, presents Jacob a certificate of completion for the T-45C flight simulator as Jacob's mother Melissa and VT-21's Lt. Rebeka Murphy look on.*

### TV News

*Jacob talks to a KIII TV News reporter in front of the T-45 Goshawk static display at Aviator Park on board the air station after departing the Ground Training Complex.*



## Bess retirement closes out 24-year career



Senior Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate Jon Bess closed out a 24-year active duty Navy career Friday, Nov. 20 with an official retirement ceremony at the Captain's Club. Nearly 150 people were on hand for the event to help send a friend and shipmate ashore. NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham presided over the ceremony while NAS Kingsville Executive Officer Cmdr. Scott Allen served as guest speaker, and Senior Chief Air Traffic Controller Brian Carr served as master of ceremonies.

Bess, a native of Sheridan, Ind., enlisted in the Navy in 1986 and became a jet engine mechanic. His career assignments included NAS Lemoore, Calif.; Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan; NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., and VAQ-139; and NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii. Sea duty assignments included USS Independence (CV 62); USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70); and USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). He participated in Operation Desert Storm while aboard USS Independence while the ship patrolled the Indian Ocean after Iraq invaded Kuwait.



**Navy Family, Departing:** ADCS (Ret.) Jon Bess, his wife Sara and sons Jared and Aidan walk through the Chief Petty Officer sideboys at the conclusion of his retirement ceremony.

As a Sailor and mechanic Bess stood out from the very beginning of his career, serving in one of the Navy's most challenging ratings and, while at sea, on an active carrier flight deck. He was selected as the 1999 CVWP Troubleshooter of the Year and VAQ-139 Sailor of the Year, and a year later was selected as Navy League Sailor of the Year. Those awards helped pave the way for his selection to Chief in 2001.

During his remarks, Allen took a humorous look at Bess' career and his often humorous outlook at life. But when it came time to get serious, Allen spoke about Bess' dedication to his command, his Navy, and his Sailors. "Senior Chief Bess is a great American," Allen said. "He has supported flight operations around the globe in Japan, Hawaii, the Arabian Gulf, and throughout the Pacific rim. He has led Sailors under the most arduous conditions imaginable, and during the period of time when America has been engaged with hostile forces almost continuously. He has been a flight deck troubleshooter, a night check LPO, a line shack LPO, a flight deck coordinator – all underway and in harm's way. He has excelled in the most dangerous working environment in the world - the flight deck of an aircraft carrier underway and at night.

"As we sit here today, there are Sailors that Senior Bess has trained that are launching close air support missions into Iraq and Afghanistan protecting our [service personnel] on the ground. These individuals are protecting our freedom as I speak and many of them owe their lives to the lessons that [Bess] provided as a leading petty officer and FTP. There is no more important and no more hazardous occupation on this planet than the job that Senior Bess willingly undertook and excelled at during his career. He has been a leader, a mentor and a trusted advisor during his tour here at NAS Kingsville, and he will be sorely missed."

Following Allen's remarks, Capt. Waddingham presented Bess a Navy Commendation Medal for his performance as Air Operations and Air Traffic Control leading chief from November 2006 to November 2009. The citation cited his leadership for more than 475,000 flight operations in support of training Navy and Marine Corps student aviators, his leadership of Sailors and his executive level planning and oversight for command programs and inspections.

When it came time for Bess to make his remarks, he fought back emotions. He thanked his parents, his wife Sara, and sons Jared and Aidan for supporting him during his career, paid tribute to his fellow Chiefs, and thanked his Sailors for their commitment



ACC William Hornbeak, left, salutes ADCS Jon Bess, far right, and informs him "You stand relieved ... We have the Watch."

and dedication.

"One thing I have learned through my 24-years of active duty," Bess said, "is that there has always been a common denominator and that I could never have made it this far in my career without the people who have always been there to help get you where you want to be and help guide you. And that's what we do; we take care of our Sailors. As a command and as a Chief we try to set our Sailors up for success and if we do that it makes our career successful as well."

Bess added humor to his remarks and reflected about former Chiefs that left an impression on him and instilled in him a desire to succeed. He spoke about his past duty stations, serving at sea on a flight deck,

and shipmates past and present. And just before the ceremony ended, he took a moment from "his day" to give back to his community. First, Bess issued the re-enlistment oath to ACC Mike Pressnel, who reenlisted for an additional four years of service. Next, Bess presented a single Chief's anchor to ET1 Heath Britt, thanking him for his dedication to junior Sailors; and finally, Bess presented Pressnel and ACC William Hornbeak senior chief anchors, saying "I want to be the first to congratulate you all when you get to put these on."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Bess requested permission to go ashore, departed the stage and saluted the sideboys to the sound of the Boatswain's pipe.



**Left: NAS Kingsville CO Capt. Phil Waddingham presents a Navy Commendation Medal to ADCS Jon Bess for superior performance as Air Ops / ATC leading Chief from November 2006 to November 2009.**

**Right: ADCS Jon Bess, left, renders a hand salute to Capt. Waddingham at the conclusion of the ceremony and requests permission to go ashore.**



## Rare aviation feat accomplished twice on USS Eisenhower

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Amy Kirk, NPASE SEAOPDET USS Dwight D. Eisenhower

USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, At Sea (NNS) -- The commanding officer of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) and the executive officer of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 143 became members of an elite club after successfully completing their 1,000th carrier arrested landing, or "trap", Nov. 18.

Capt. Dee L. Mewbourne and Cmdr. Joe W. Barnes both completed their historic landings within minutes of each other aboard Eisenhower while transiting the Atlantic Ocean during the ship's Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX).

Both men said the credit for this extraordinary achievement really goes to the men and women who have worked behind the scenes throughout the years.

"The focus should be on those who have committed their lives in keeping us safe. I am extremely grateful," said Mewbourne. "We need to recognize how much goes on behind the scenes. I am humbled by their cumulative effort."

Barnes, who made his first trap aboard USS Saratoga (CV 60) in 1991, echoed the same sentiment saying he was also very humbled by the experience and wanted to thank all the Sailors and Marines who have helped keep him flying safely over the years.

"I am humbled by all the work that goes

into every evolution," said Barnes. "Putting all that teamwork to launch that jet -- almost 5,000 people, that is amazing teamwork."

The ability to land a 50,000-pound aircraft traveling more than 120 knots on a small moving runway one time is an incredible feat; however, performing that task 1,000 times is something to celebrate.

"I wasn't nearly as nervous this time," said Mewbourne with a laugh as he recalled his first trap in 1984 on board USS Nimitz (CVN 68). "Each and every landing is exhilarating."

Mewbourne said he was very grateful that he had the opportunity to make his 1,000th trap aboard the ship that he is proud to lead and serve.

"I wish America could see the extraordinary work these people do out here every day," he said. "They could see that their country is in great hands."

For many naval aviators, achieving 1,000 arrested landings marks an important milestone in their career, and is something few achieve. For two aviators to reach this milestone on the same day, let alone within minutes of each other, is extremely rare.

"I've never heard of this happening before. It's akin to two ball players hitting their 500th home run in the same game, or perhaps two golfers having a hole-in-one on the same hole," said Capt. Ted Williams, Eisenhower executive officer.

An arrested landing is different from



ATLANTIC OCEAN (Nov. 18, 2009) Cmdr. Joe Barnes, executive officer of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 143, catapults off the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) in an F/A-18 Super Hornet. Eisenhower is conducting a three-week Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) in preparation for its upcoming 2010 deployment. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Chad R. Erdmann)

most aircraft landings and involves catching a hook attached to the aircraft on one of four steel cables stretched across the flight deck of a carrier. The trap brings the aircraft to a complete stop in roughly 325 feet.

"This is quite a milestone for the Captain as it marks his incredible career of valor and heroic flight in A-6's and EA-6Bs," said Williams. "This achievement also exemplifies the professionalism of all those who made it happen."

As the aviators exited their aircraft, they shared this special achievement with many

of the ship's personnel who gathered to congratulate them during a special reception and cake-cutting ceremony.

The "Pukin' Dogs" of VFA 143 are assigned to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, embarked aboard Eisenhower.

Eisenhower's COMPTUEX, scheduled by Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet and conducted by a training team led by Commander, Strike Force Training Atlantic, is a joint/combined exercise conducted from Nov. 3-24 off the East Coast of the United States.



PACIFIC OCEAN (Nov. 15, 2009) The aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) transits the Pacific Ocean. George Washington, the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier, is participating in Annual Exercise (ANNUALEX 21G), a yearly bilateral exercise with the U.S. Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Adam K. Thomas)



PACIFIC OCEAN (Nov. 8, 2009) A NATO sea sparrow missile is launched from the aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) to intercept a Tactical Air-Launched Decoy during surface-to-air defense training. George Washington is underway supporting security and stability in the western Pacific Ocean. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Rachel N. Hatch/Released)

## Youth Center takes paintball field trip

The NAS Kingsville Youth Activities Center (YAC) held a paintball field trip for the YAC youth Nov. 7 to Splatter Action Paintball in Corpus Christi. For \$25 for 5 hours of action and fun, the event was one of the most exciting youth programs to date.

The weather was clear and visibility was key in the various sections of the Splatter Action course, according to YAC director Brent Edwards. For weeks, staff and youth alike were scheming plans of assault and domination in anticipation of the field trip.

"The paintball trip was a great time for everyone involved," Edwards said. "Once we got on the course and were confronted with tires, buildings, and tall grass to traverse, everyone had their moment to become Rambo! Everyone ducked and dove, ran and slid, shot around corners, screamed for joy and pain, but were quick to say 'Lets do it again!' after the event."

Youth joined up with various other weekend paintball enthusiasts and Splatter Action Paintball staff members to add to the fun. Allies and enemies were soon formed, but it was all in good fun. High-5's and handshakes were frequently seen. Upon the bus ride home, every person was



### Youth Center Team



nursing their wounds but smiled and anticipated the next paintball excursion.

The newly established Open Recreation Program for NAS Kingsville caters to 10-18 year-old NASK family members. Registration packets are available at the Navy Youth Center and registration is ongoing. For questions about eligibility and event dates, contact Youth Activities Director Brent Edwards at 516-6719. As the Fall of 2009 comes to a close, please take time to look at the MWR Facebook Page for upcoming events, prices, and pictures.

*Photos by Brent Edwards*

### Taking on the YAC Staff ... Priceless.



*Bowl Bound: U.S. Naval Academy safety Emmett Merchant (#7) gets a block from linebacker Tyler Simmons (#54) to get past U.S. Air Force Academy wide receiver Jonathan Warzeka (#15) and wide receiver Josh Cousins (#87) after intercepting a pass late in the first quarter Oct. 3. Navy went on to win in overtime 16-13 and have been 5-1 since then. Navy has the week off this week as they travel to Hawaii for a Nov. 28 clash with the 5-6 Warriors. Navy finishes the regular season Dec. 12 against Army in Philadelphia and Dec. 31 in the Reliant Texas Bowl in Houston against an opponent from the Big 12. A few hundred NAS Kingsville folks will be at the bowl game to cheer the Middies on thanks to the Naval Academy.*

*(U.S. Navy photo by Oscar Sosa.)*

### MWR Notes:

#### Hunting Note:

The base hunting program is now open. Anyone interested in hunting on base needs to go to ITT and get more information. Hunts start this weekend at 4:30 a.m. and continue every Saturday and Sunday through Jan. 3.

#### Outdoor Rec:

Outdoor Rec has trailers for rent for anyone wanting to take a trip over the upcoming holidays.

#### Auto Skills:

Auto skills can check out your vehicle before your long road trip to make sure everything is as it should be!

#### Escondido Ranch:

[www.navyescondidoranch.com](http://www.navyescondidoranch.com)

#### Jingle Bell Fun Run

Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m.

Registration is a donation of a new still in plastic, unwrapped toy that NASK will donate to the local Toys for Tots program. First 30 to sign up will receive a free t-shirt. Sign up for at the base gym.

### Bowling Standings (11/23)

#### In the Dog House League

POS	TEAM	WON/LOST
1.	Lane Breakers	41-19
2.	Three Minds	34-26
3.	Tumbalos	32-28
4.	The Guys	28.5-31.5
5.	Triple X's	28-32
6.	The Hounds	16.5-43.5

#### Weekly High Scores:

Barry Fuhrken: 216; Rene Perez 222

#### Wednesday Night Mixed League

POS	TEAM	WON/LOST
1.	Pete's Angels	28-16
2.	Slow Rollin'	26-18
3.	Pin Bangers	25-19
4.	Laugh Out Loud	23-21
5.	DUHs	22-22
6.	Sixty Forty	19-25
7.	Guttermouths	17-27
8.	Big K Rollers	15-29

#### Weekly High Scores:

Robert Guidangen, 232 game, 509 set  
Jerin Bryant, 175 game

### What to do in case of emergency while traveling

TRICARE defines an emergency as a medical, maternity, or psychiatric condition that would lead a prudent layperson to believe:

-That a serious medical condition exists or the absence of medical attention would result in a threat to life, limb, or eyesight or

-That the condition requires immediate medical treatment or has painful symptoms requiring immediate attention to relieve suffering

What should you do? Call 911 or visit the nearest hospital emergency room. Emergency care does not require prior authorization before treatment. However, you (or a family member on your behalf) should notify your PCM within 24 hours (or as soon as possible) of receiving emergency care. **Anything other than emergency care requires prior approval from your PCM.** To receive prior authorization or if you have any after hours medical concerns you can contact the BHC Kingsville after hours Duty Corpsman at (361)219-0074. For TRICARE issues you may contact the TRICARE service line at 1-800-444-5445.

### Personal Protection Equipment

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to employees? PPE is required when job hazards can not be eliminated with engineering or administrative controls. The last line of defense against hazards is the use of PPE.

You can begin by asking yourself some of these questions. Do I have an assessment and a process for PPE? How well do my employees know how to use PPE? Do I provide training on the proper selection, use, fit and limitations of PPE? Am I purchasing PPE that the employees want to wear?

PPE by design protects against specific hazards and may have limitations or be ineffective against others. For example there is no one type of glove that protects against all hazards.

Prior to selecting and purchasing PPE identify your job hazards through a Job Hazard Analysis. Define the hazard magnitude whether you are dealing with sharp edges, debris, chemicals, electricity or any other specific hazard. Read any equipment data supplied by the manufacturer. Items such as chemical gloves and suits have breakdown and penetrable times that manufacturers have calculated for safe use.

Suppliers offer a myriad of PPE in different sizes, colors and styles. This is important so that the employees will select the PPE that they will wear. People being what they are will at times choose the alternative and not wear their PPE.

PPE must also fit well and be comfortable. A common example is safety shoes that hurt the user's feet because of not fitting well. Sometimes no amount of trying to break-in a pair of shoes will make them fit better. Safety footwear is also one of those items that one type or style will not fit everyone or protect against all hazards.

Important factors that must always be considered are limitations and the expected life of the PPE. Some PPE like fall protection requires the recording of the date it was deployed or issued out to the field. All PPE requires periodic inspections to determine continued serviceability or disposal after its usefulness is over.

The specific types of PPE that you identify will vary according to your job hazards. The equipment you select may be in the areas of: Eye protection; Electrical safety; Respiratory protection; Hearing protection; Hand and body protection; Fall protection; Head protection; and Foot protection.

You can enhance your safety program and reduce injuries by providing PPE that your employees will want to wear. You can get answers to many questions by consulting your PPE Assessment and the Industrial Hygiene Survey or your safety office.

### Family and Family Support Center Class Schedule 2010

Transition Assistance:  
Jan. 11-15; Mar. 15-19; May 10-14;  
July 12-16; Sept. 13-17; Dec. 6-10

Executive TAP  
April 12-16; October 11-15

Command Financial Specialist  
Feb. 8-12; Aug. 9-13 (Scheduled for  
Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

First Term Career Option & Navy Skills  
Evaluation Program (CONSEP)  
Jan. 25-28; Jun 7-10

Mid-Career CONSEP:  
Mar. 22-25; Sept. 20-23

Military Saves Week is the last week  
of Feb 2010 (Feb. 22-26) and the first  
week of March (Mar. 01-05)

## New rule paves way for Navy spouses to enter Civil Service

By Mary Anne Broderick Tubman, CNRSE Public Affairs

A new executive order opens a door of opportunity for certain Navy spouses seeking careers with the federal government.

Titled "Noncompetitive Appointment of Certain Military Spouses," the new hiring authority, which became effective Sept. 11, helps spouses of Armed Forces service members:

- following relocation to the service member's new permanent duty station (within two years);
- retired from active duty with a service-related disability rating of 100 percent;
- retired or released from active duty with a disability rating of 100 percent from the Department of Veterans Affairs; or
- killed while serving in active duty and the spouse remains unmarried.

"There are many Navy spouses with good experience to offer," said Kim Scott of the Human Resources Office, Jacksonville. "Noncompetitive appointment allows them to bring their skills to federal temporary, term, and permanent positions if they are qualified and fall into one of these four categories."

The process for noncompetitive ap-



MCPON Rick West talks with Navy Ombudsmen at NAF Atsugi, Japan about family issues and spouse employment opportunities. (U.S. Navy Photo)

pointment isn't much different from that of regular hiring. The first step for an eligible spouse to take is to apply for open positions at <https://www.donhr.navy.mil/default.asp>. During the application process, noncompetitive appointment candidates can designate their eligibility status. If selected, they must be prepared to supply documentation of their eligibility, such as their spouse's orders, when a job offer is made. Examples of documentation include PCS orders that include the spouse's name, VA documenta-

tion, and death or marriage certificates.

While noncompetitive appointment is a plus for spouses who meet the criteria, there are some factors to consider. First, public notice of the open position is required. Second, noncompetitive appointment isn't mandatory, as all appropriate priority placement programs, such as the Priority Placement Program (PPP), Re-employment Priority List (RPL), and the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP), must be cleared. Third, the applicant must meet the requirements for the position as outlined by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Finally, they may also be considered along with other non-competitive candidates. "This is a good program with benefits for everyone - spouses, hiring managers, and HROs," Scott said. "A spouse can bring their talents to a new career in federal service. A manager can fill a critical position faster if they know of someone who can meet their needs. And a larger pool of available candidates is definitely a plus for any human resources office."

Anyone with specific questions about noncompetitive appointment may contact their installation Human Resources Office for assistance.

### Air Ops Re-Enlistment



Chief Air Traffic Controller Mike Pressnel, left, presents an Honorable Discharge certificate to AC2 (AW/SW) Dwayne McClure prior to his re-enlistment Nov. 16.

AC2 McClure, a Salisbury, N.C. native, has seven-plus years of service and added five additional years with his re-enlistment.

Photo by QM2 Monica Crump,  
NAS Kingsville Career Counselor



The 19th annual King Ranch "Ranch Hand Breakfast" saw more than 5,000 people turn out in support of the annual La Posada de Kingsville fund raiser. NAS Kingsville personnel turned out in record numbers as well as close to 60 people from the base volunteered to help with cooking, serving, and clean-up. These images, shot by Airman Kiana Kahlbaum of the NAS Kingsville Public Affairs Office, show some of the sights from the day on the Ranch.



Above, food servers prepare for the charge of guests. Above middle, PW's Mike Seyfers gives advice on cooking beans to Ensign Roland Ngogang. Above right, Clinic's Lt. Cmdr. Jimmy Cook and other gravy stirrers pause for the morning prayer and national anthem.



Above: Airman Shauna Johnson closes the lid to one of the giants food heaters. Below, Air Ops secretary Connie Cashen serves hot coffee with a smile.

Food servers keep busy on the chow lines. Below, cattle await their turn in the arena on the historic King Ranch.

Above: A volunteer checks out the sights while he stirs a pot of gravy. Below, HM2 Jacob Welch is all decked out with no place to go but back to work.



# Navy's newest T-45 Goshawk lands on Navy's newest runway at NAS Kingsville

Story and photos by Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs



Naval Air Station Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO accepted delivery of the final T-45 Goshawk aircraft from Boeing, Corp. Wednesday, Nov. 18 as aircraft 3-2-8 landed at NAS Kingsville on runway 13-left (13L). The arrival marked several significant milestones for the Navy, the air station, and the Boeing Corp. Aircraft 328 is the final T-45 Goshawk to be delivered to the Navy under the original construction agreement reached between the Navy and McDonnell-Douglas, Corp. (now Boeing Corp.) to build 221 T-45's for the Navy for intermediate and advanced jet training at NAS Kingsville and NAS Meridian, Miss. The production of the Goshawk began in 1991 with the first aircraft delivered to NAS Kingsville in February, 1992 and at NAS Meridian in 1995. Thus, NAS Kingsville was the first base to accept the Goshawks and initiate the T-45 Training System (TS) into the Naval Air Training Command (CNATRA).

The T-45 TS was the first totally integrated training system developed for and used by CNATRA. It includes the T-45 Goshawk, advanced flight and instrument simulators, computer-assisted instructional programs, and a computerized training integration system. The integration of all five system elements produces a superior pilot in less time and at lower cost than previous training systems. The T45 TS replaced two training aircraft (T-2 Buckeye and TA-4 Skyhawk) and added advanced simulators to improve the process for training U.S. Navy and Marine Corps pilots for conversion into the F/A-18A-D Hornet, the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, the EA-18G Growler, the AV-8B Harrier and the EA-6B Prowler.

"The arrival of aircraft 328 is a significant event for NAS Kingsville for two reasons," said NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham. "First and foremost, the aircraft marks the completion of the production run of the T-45 for the Navy for the original contract. Second,

the aircraft landed on the Navy's newest runway here at NAS Kingsville, runway 13L, which opened this week after a three-month, \$6 million re-surfacing project that finished ahead of schedule and under budget."

Ironically, Waddingham was part of the team that welcomed aboard the first Goshawk to NAS Kingsville in 1992. Then a flight instructor with VT-21, Waddingham was a member of the first cadre of instructor pilots to train in the T-45.

"It was an exciting time here at NAS Kingsville when we transitioned to the T-45 which replaced the venerable T-2 and TA-4J intermediate and advanced strike trainers," Waddingham recalled. "For over a year, I was qualified in both the TA-4J and T-45A, and the skies over South Texas were buzzing with three different types of jets. When I finally had my last flight in the TA-4 and began to fly solely in the T-45, it was a solemn event, since I knew the Navy would eventually retire the Skyhawk permanently, and I would never fly it again. But the T-45 has been a very capable replacement, and has been instrumental in training the world's best aviators ever since."

Three members of the original McDonnell-Douglas team that delivered the first aircraft to NAS Kingsville in 1992 are now employees of the air station. Jeff Lambert, current site manager for Rolls-Royce which builds the engine that powers the jet, and L-3 Vertex employees Mike Wyomere and Tony Boccardi were all McDonnell-Douglas employees at the time and participated in the first delivery. Lambert was also present Wednesday as the final Goshawk made its landing here and taxied its way to the tarmac under one of the air station's protective canopies.

"I started working for McDonnell-Douglas in 1991," Lambert reflected, "and was part of the team that made the first delivery. After 14 years with "Mac" and Boeing I went to work for Rolls-Royce. It has been quite an experience to be part of the full production run of the T-45, and I'm proud to have been part of the Boeing/Rolls-Royce team."

Training Air Wing TWO Commander, Capt. Mark Brooks, was on hand to greet the flight team upon arrival in Kingsville Nov. 18, along with Boeing site manager Rick Ridley, Lambert, and Kingsville Economic Development Counsel executive director Dick Messbarger. Brooks posed for photos with the flight crew on the NAS Kingsville tarmac and welcomed the arriv-



Right: Runway 13L reopens for traffic after runway resurfacing project.



Left: Aircraft 328 touches down on NAS Kingsville's runway 13L Nov. 18.

al of aircraft 328 to the Training Air Wing Inventory.

The arrival of the jet in Kingsville coincided with the opening of runways 13L and 31R which had been undergoing a major resurfacing and upgrade for the last three months. The runway project is just one of many major upgrades that NAS Kingsville has undergone over the last 18 months that have transformed the base into the Navy's most modern air traffic control facility. In July, NAS Kingsville held a grand opening ceremony for a new and state-of-the-art Digital Approach Radar facility, a project that took nearly 10 months to complete at a cost of \$11.5 million. The National Airspace Modernization Project (NASMOD) was completed by the Naval Space & Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR).

"We've been waiting for this day to arrive for over a year now," Waddingham told those in attendance at the official opening ceremony July 20. "This facility is a perfect example of what I like to call Kingsville P.R.I.D.E; or, professionalism, responsibility; integrity; dedication; and effectiveness.

"Take a look around at what we have here. This facility is professional in every aspect. Our technicians from the SPAWAR and their contract support personnel have done an outstanding job putting this facility together. Just look at what they've done; responsibility and integrity is integral to everything we do here at NAS Kingsville. And dedication - you just don't put something like this together and do it seamlessly unless you really care about what you are doing. That includes taking the pain every step of the way and our Air Operations folks working closely with Wing Ops to ensure that we have minimal - if not zero

- impact to Training Air Wing TWO operations. The results of which equals the 'E' in pride, the effectiveness. We've been able to accomplish our mission every step of the way, and that's a big tribute to everyone in this room, from the technicians and controllers to the installers."

Waddingham also spoke about the transformation the new facility brings to the command - from a much larger perspective.

"What we now have," Waddingham said, "is what I believe to be the most modern air traffic control facility in the U.S. Navy right here at NAS Kingsville. This NASMOD program is an initiative that goes back to 2001 working with the Air Force and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). That initiative was put in motion to ensure that our [military] air stations have the same type of equipment that our brethren at the FAA have so that we can seamlessly control aircraft from one facility to the next. What we now have here in Kingsville increases our reliability, our maintainability, and our performance to accomplish our mission. It also includes some additional capabilities for future expansion should we receive additional requirements added to our existing mission.

"We've coming a long, long way over the past 18 months," Waddingham added. "But today, we can proudly take note in the fact that NAS Kingsville is now looked upon as being the model Naval Air Station for preparing for the future. That says a lot; a lot about our efforts, and a lot about the Sailors and civilian employees that make NAS Kingsville capable of meeting our mission of supporting flight operations for training student naval aviators."