



Change of Command Edition

Arriving ...



Capt. Mark A. McLaughlin

Departing ...



Capt. Philip L. Waddingham

McLaughlin family excited about return to NAS Kingsville

By Fifi Kieschnick, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Command of Naval Air Station Kingsville will change hands at 2 p.m. today, when Capt. Philip Waddingham will turn over the helm to Capt. Mark McLaughlin, during a traditional change of command ceremony at the air station Captain's Club.

Rear Adm. Townsend "Tim" Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, will be the presiding official and guest speaker.

Capt. McLaughlin reports to Naval Air Station Kingsville from the staff of the Chief of Naval Air Training, where he has served as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Training for the past three years.

"The opportunity to command NAS Kingsville is a true privilege," McLaughlin said. "The fact that it will be my second command in the same area is a blessing

that my family and I have been most gracious in accepting.

"The department heads have been superb in training me and I'm fortunate to have such a wonderful team to work with in our future endeavors," he said.

McLaughlin says that he intends to follow through with the course Capt. Waddingham has charted for this installation. "The future projects to modernize NAS Kingsville will make it the most updated base in the Navy," he said.

He added that his one main goal is to leave NAS Kingsville "better than I found it."

He also plans to energize Team Kingsville with his undivided attention and leadership in order to provide NAS Kingsville personnel, including all tenant activities, with the best reliable and sustainable shore

infrastructure and services to enable and support the fleet, fighter and family.

"Fostering and expanding relationships with our surrounding communities will be high on my priority list," McLaughlin added.

"And, the next three years are shaping up to be the most memorable moments in my Navy career."

McLaughlin and his family came back to Texas in 2003 for his command tour with VT-22 and he says he has claimed South Texas as his home ever since.

"My two daughters, Hilary and Kendall, finished school in Calallen and my son Jack has known no other school district except Calallen," McLaughlin said. "My wife Kristin and I are alums of Texas A&M University and are proud that Hilary also graduated from Texas A&M last month."

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Mission Accomplished: Waddingham to turn over command

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

When Capt. Phil Waddingham and his family depart South Texas next week for his next assignment at the Pentagon, and life in Northern Virginia, there will be fond memories of Kingsville in their rear-view mirror. For the past three years, NAS Kingsville has been their home and their connection to a city and community that opened its arms and hearts to the Waddingham family.

Three years ago, Waddingham received orders that would bring him back to South Texas, his third assignment here. Kingsville was one of his top two choices for orders, so he was excited about assuming command and returning to the place where his career in naval aviation actually took off.

"We made the decision to come back [to Kingsville] because we knew a lot about the area, and the command, and we knew we'd be able to connect with many of our old friends who were still in the area. We also knew that the local community

was very proud of the base and that added to our excitement."

Waddingham's first assignment at NAS Kingsville was as a flight student. He reported for intermediate jet/strike training with VT-23 in January 1987, flying the T-2 "Buckeye." Upon completion of intermediate training, Waddingham shifted to VT-22 for undergraduate training in the TA-4J "Skyhawk," earning his Wings of Gold in February 1988.

From Kingsville, Waddingham moved on to the EA-6B "Prowler" community, assigned to the "Vikings" of Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 129 (VAW 129) for initial fleet replacement training. From January 1989 to June 1991, he deployed with the "Scorpions" of Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 132 embarked in USS Saratoga (CV 60), serving as plans and tactics officer, personnel officer, and aircraft division officer while also participating in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In mid-1991, Waddingham returned

to NAS Kingsville with the "Fighting Redhawks" of VT-21, serving as the personnel officer and safety department head, as well as part of the initial cadre of instructor pilots training in the T-45A "Goshawk." Waddingham accumulated 900 hours flying both the "Skyhawk" and "Goshawk" during this tour of duty, while also earning a Master of Aeronautical Science Degree (Management) from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

As challenging as an instructor pilot billet is, his second stint at NAS Kingsville would pale in comparison to his command tour.

"In some respects," Waddingham said earlier this week, "this job was more than I expected. Mainly because you just don't know what it takes to run a naval air station until you're actually doing it. The demand placed on me and my family to become part of the local community was something that I expected - but really, not to the extent that the job required. Not that it was over-

Continued on Page 6



**Rear Adm.
T.G. Alexander
Commander, Navy
Region Southeast**



As Capt. Waddingham's boss since January 2009, I can truly say he has done a spectacular job as commanding officer of NAS Kingsville. He has been an outstanding leader for the base and the Kingsville community.

His successes while serving as commanding officer are as varied as they are lengthy. When I asked him about some of his proudest moments in these past two years he talked about things like the "best in the Navy" advancement percentages off the last exam cycle, the Fire & Emergency Rescue Department, the new base chapel, and the Memorial Air Park.

He also spoke about the manner in which NAS Kingsville personnel have embraced the concept of operationalizing the base, developed a culture of mission accomplishment, and institutionalized the

importance of serving, supporting and sustaining improvement for all personnel and tenants.

Clearly Capt. Waddingham attributes his success to the success of his team, to the Sailors and civilians, men and women of NAS Kingsville.

Welcome to the new Skipper, Capt. Mark McLaughlin, acting Executive Officer Lt. Cmdr. Dave Anderson and his relief, Cmdr. Scott Wilmot. Waddz leaves big shoes to fill, but I have every confidence this new command team will continue leading NAS Kingsville to new achievements.

On behalf of Navy Region Southeast, I wish Capt. Waddingham and his family all the best in their future endeavors. Fair Winds and Following Seas!

RDML Tim Alexander, CNRSE

**Dr. Steven H. Tallant
President,
Texas A&M
University-Kingsville**



On behalf of Texas A&M University-Kingsville, it's a great pleasure to welcome Capt. Mark and Kristin McLaughlin and their family to the Kingsville community. We look forward to getting to know you and working with you not only for the benefit of Naval Air Station Kingsville, but also for the community at large.

Karen and I would also like to extend a hearty farewell and best wishes to Capt. Phil and Sue Waddingham and their family as they depart for a new assignment at the Pentagon.

Phil and Sue were very active in the Kingsville community and will be sorely missed. We appreciate their contributions to this community, and we are confident that they'll become as well respected in their new home as they have been in Kingsville.

Chief of Naval Air Training



**Rear Adm.
W.G. Sizemore, II
Chief of Naval Air
Training Command**

Naval Air Training Command (CNATRA)



On behalf of the Naval Air Training Command Team, I would like to thank Capt. Phil Waddingham for all he accomplished during his tenure as commanding officer of NAS Kingsville and for his superb support of the Naval Air Training Command and its mission of developing future aerial war-fighters.

Additionally, I want to thank his wife Sue and sons Matt and Luke for their great support, which enabled Capt. Waddingham to be exceptionally effective and successful. The City of Kingsville, the Naval Air Station and the Naval Air Training Command are going to miss Capt. Waddingham and his family immensely.

Speaking for the entire Naval Air Training Command - we wish Capt. Waddingham and his family all the best in their future endeavors, much success with his next assignment at the Pentagon work-

ing in the Secretary of the Navy's Office of Program Appraisal, and the customary Navy's "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

At the same time I would like to welcome aboard the incoming commanding officer, Capt. Mark McLaughlin, his wife Kristin and their daughters.

Capt. McLaughlin's past positions as commanding officer of Training Squadron 22 (VT-22) and Director of Training for the Naval Air Training Command make him the perfect choice to lead NAS Kingsville into the future.

Speaking for the entire Naval Air Training Command - we offer our sincerest welcome, congratulations and greatly look forward to working with Capt. McLaughlin in the future.

Best Wishes;
RDML W.G. Sizemore II, USN

**Alice Byers
Director,
Kingsville
Chamber of Commerce**



The Kingsville Chamber of Commerce would like to sincerely thank both Capt. Phil Waddingham and his wife Sue for their service to this community.

They have both been an integral part of many activities that contributed to making Kingsville a better place to be. One only has to look at the changes at NAS Kingsville to know that one of Phil's priorities was to improve the base in function and appearance.

Sue exemplifies all that is good in a Navy wife. She gives of her time selflessly to improve the community that she has adopted. We wish them much success in their next post and with heavy hearts we say farewell.

We welcome Capt. Mark McLaughlin and his wife Kristin to Kingsville and look forward to working with them.

The Flying K

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

**NAS Kingsville
Incoming Commanding Officer
Capt. Mark A. McLaughlin**

**NAS Kingsville
Executive Officer
Lt. Cmdr. David R. Anderson**

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

**NAS Kingsville
Public Affairs Officer
Jon Gagné**

**Flying K Staff
Managing Editor
Jon Gagné**

**Public Affairs Specialist / Editor
Fifi Kieschnick**

**Staff Photographer/Writer
AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum**

**Comments, letters or suggestions
should be sent via e-mail to:
kngv-pao@navy.mil.**

**Commanding Officer's Direct Line Input:
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CMDCM C.V. Ratliff
NAS Kingsville
Command
Master Chief

In last week's *Flying K*, I bid farewell to Skipper Waddingham. In doing so, I mentioned many of the things that have been accomplished by Team Kingsville during the last three years. I also mentioned huge items that are currently works-in-progress. That's right, we have some great things coming in the near future and they are a direct result of the hard work of the great team we have in place.

This week, Capt. Mark McLaughlin will be taking the helm of NAS Kingsville. I've been able to spend some quality time with Capt. McLaughlin over the past three weeks and I can tell you the right person was selected to command NAS Kingsville. He is every bit as enthusiastic as Skipper Waddingham, with regard to making NAS

Kingsville the premier air station in the Navy.

He brings a wealth of knowledge to the job in that he has served as commanding officer of VT-22 and most recently, on the staff of the Chief of Naval Air Training. With this background, he will have a strong knowledge of the mission of our largest tenant command, Training Air Wing TWO. In addition, he's a "people person" who wants to make improvements to the quality of life of every member of Team Kingsville. With that said, I am very confident he is the right person to lead our current works-in-progress such as our new Fitness Center and Navy Gateway Inns and Suites. Welcome aboard Capt. McLaughlin, we look forward to working with you shipmate!

As I close this week's article I must bid one final farewell. Sue Waddingham has been a phenomenal asset to Team Kingsville the past three years.

In her capacity as a visiting nurse for

the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, she has done great things for our nation's Wounded Warriors. In addition, she has been a great health care provider for many military spouses following the birth of their children.

But Sue has done so much more as the spouse of the commanding officer of Naval Air Station Kingsville. She served in a leadership position on the past two Navy Ball Committees and has assisted Team Kingsville in so many other endeavors here on the air station it would be impossible to list them all.

Additionally, her extensive work in the local community resulted in the City of Kingsville selecting her as the 2009 Military Spouse of the Year.

On a personal level, Sue was of tremendous assistance to me in my role as command master chief. Sue, you will be missed, and I wish you and your family all the best in the future.

Regards, CMC



On behalf of the Kingsville Border Patrol Station, I would like to sincerely thank Capt. Waddingham for his assistance and for the hospitality he provided for the men and women of the Kingsville Border Patrol Station. As a tenant for almost 20 years, I can truly attest to the positive changes that have taken place at NAS Kingsville under the command of Capt. Waddingham.

Good luck and God Speed to the entire Waddingham family. We look forward to working with Capt. McLaughlin and would like to welcome both the captain and his family to Kingsville.

Sincerely,
Don Allman, Agent In Charge
Kingsville Border Patrol

Waddinghams to miss the 'generosity of Kingsville' people



Sue Waddingham

By Fifi Kieschnick, NASK Public Affairs

Things that live in memory tend to have no visible means of support.

But for Sue Waddingham – as she prepares to leave Kingsville – the things that will live in her memory have a tremendous foundation.

The people.

"I've made so many good friends here," she said as she organized paperwork on her desk. "It's a small base and I've gotten to know a lot of people and developed a lot of friendships."

Sue has been organizing the paperwork in her office she is leaving behind. She is a visiting nurse for the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society. While stationed

here, she has been working part-time assisting Marines and Sailors who have been injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. She has also been assisting their families.

It's safe to say Sue loves her job, and her Wounded Warriors. "I will miss all of them," she said.

She'll also miss a community that welcomed her and her family with open arms. Some were old friends from previous tours here, but many were new, and some will stay with the family for years to come. Sue said she got to know real, interesting people while she was engaged in the community.

"What I will remember most and will miss is 'experiencing the generosity' of Kingsville people," Sue said with a wistful smile, "especially with Toys for Tots."

Toys for Tots was one of the numerous volunteer opportunities she was involved in the past several years.

"In Oklahoma I worked with the Marines and Toys for Tots. They said there was one toy for each child," Sue said. "Here, each kid gets six (toys).

"And, everyone is so supportive of the Navy here," she added, as she continued to organize and arrange files. Sue could not look up as she reflected about the genuine people she will leave behind.

The Waddinghams are moving to Stafford, Va. Capt. Waddingham will commute to the Pentagon and Sue will travel down Route 1 to Marine Corps Base Quantico where she will continue to work for the



Relief Society as a visiting nurse.

Sue admits one of the reasons she is excited about the move is that the family can be closer together.

"My daughter has been in Virginia the past three years in college at James Madison University," the mother of three said, "and Luke will be going to Penn State in the fall." Her youngest son Matt will be attending high school in Stafford.

Sue will be traveling a lot more with her new job, including taking occasional trips to San Antonio.

She brightened and smiled. "I'm excited that I'm going to be keeping my Texas patients. I will be able to come back (to South Texas) every month or two."

When she does return to Texas, she'll no doubt think of everyone in Kingsville, from the junior Sailors, to the student aviators, instructors, and civilian employees of the base - and those special friends outside the fence line.

Kingsville, will always be "home" to the Waddinghams. And our porch light will always be on.



Capt. McLaughlin chats with Capt. Phil Waddingham on the NAS Kingsville flight line. (Photo by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum)

McLaughlin, Arriving (from page 1)

“We are Texans. Our roots are in Texas and Texas is home,” he added. “To command such a wonderful air station in my home state, well it’s awesome!”

Capt. McLaughlin was born in Omaha, Neb., and raised in Caldwell, Idaho. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in economics and received his commission through the Navy ROTC program at Texas A&M University in December 1986.

He also has a Master of Aeronautical Science Degree with specialties in human factors and aviation operations from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Following primary flight training at NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla., and advanced jet training in NAS Beeville, Texas,

he earned his Wings in April 1989, and was selected to be an attack pilot in the A-6E Intruder.

Capt. McLaughlin’s sea duty assignments began with initial A-6E training in NAS Whidbey Island, Wash. From 1991 to 1997, Capt. McLaughlin completed three Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf deployments aboard the USS Ranger (CV 61) and USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), flying missions in Operations Desert Storm, Southern Watch and Desert Strike in Iraq, and Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

In 1997, he transitioned to the EA-6B Prowler and completed a fourth deployment with Electronic Attack Squadron 139 embarked aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in 1998.

Shore duty assignments include a tour from February 1993 to March 1995, as an instructor pilot in the A-6E Fleet Replacement Squadron in NAS Whidbey Island, and a May 2000 to May 2003 joint-duty assignment with the National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC) in Offutt AFB, Omaha, Neb.

Capt. McLaughlin was then selected to command Strike Training Squadron Twenty Two (VT-22) at NAS Kingsville, Texas. During his June 2003 to November 2005 command tour, VT-22 flew in excess of 40,000 flight hours in the T-45 Goshawk



Capt. McLaughlin talks with KIII TV-3 reporter Manuel De La Rosa about returning to Kingsville and assuming command. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick, NASK Public Affairs)

and winged more than 120 Naval Aviators.

Capt. McLaughlin completed an overseas tour assigned as the Air Operations Officer and Deputy Operations Officer to Commander, Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) in Bahrain in 2006.

During this one-year tour he provided operational support to commanders conducting combat missions in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, the evacuation of Lebanon, and Maritime Se-

curity and Anti-Piracy operations in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility. He has accumulated more than 3,500 flight hours, 761 carrier landings and 87 combat missions during a 23-year aviation career.

In addition to various campaign and service decorations, Capt. McLaughlin has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy Meritorious Service Medals, and four strike flight Air Medals.



WINGS OVER SOUTH TEXAS AIR SHOW: More than 100,000 people witnessed the 2010 “Wings Over South Texas” air show at NAS Kingsville March 26-28. This year’s show featured the U.S. Navy’s Blue Angels; the U.S. Air Force Viper East Demonstration Team; the Commemorative Air Force’s Tora, Tora, Tora; The U.S. Army Golden Knights; World Aerobatic Champion Rob Holland; award-winning air show announcer Rob Holland, and more.

Capt. Waddingham flies with the Blues, March 2010



Naval Air Station Kingsville is one of the U.S. Navy's premier locations for jet aviation training. Located in the heart of Texas ranch land, NAS Kingsville's primary mission is to train tactical jet pilots for the Navy and Marine Corps.

NAS Kingsville supports Training Air Wing TWO, which commands two training squadrons: Training Squadron Twenty-One (VT-21), and Training Squadron Twenty-Two (VT-22), flying the T-45 "Goshawk." Approximately 200 aviation students report each year to Kingsville for undergraduate jet pilot training.

As part of a national network of Naval Air Stations, the air station was established in 1942, during the intense efforts to train pilots for combat missions during World War II.

NAS Kingsville was commissioned as a "P-4" base on July 4, 1942, an Independence Day that was carried out in the context of a national emergency that would affect every aspect of military and civilian life. Initially, the base was home to four squadrons and used as a training base for fighter and bomber tactics, and as a gunnery school for combat air crewman.

In the latter part of 1942, the air station also served as a temporary basic training center for Navy recruits to handle an overflow of recruits from the Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Ill.

Training was sharply reduced following World War II and on Sept. 12, 1946, the air field was placed in a caretaker status. The land was leased to Texas A&I University (now Texas A&M University-Kingsville) for use as an agricultural station.

The field remained inactive until April 1, 1951, when it was reopened as a Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS).

Many structures and facilities built during this time were intended to be



Jet training was conducted at North Field

Naval Air Station Kingsville

Commissioned July 4, 1942



temporary and were constructed under extremely tight deadlines. Some were replaced or expanded during the 1950s Cold War era, and others were replaced in the '70s and '80s with increased military appropriations. Some of the older buildings were simply torn down. Only a few of the original buildings remain today ... a living legacy to the base's contributions to World War II and the Korean conflict.

NAS Kingsville became an all-jet training base in 1960 and was upgraded to an autonomous Naval Air Station in 1968 with three training squadrons (VT-21, VT-22 and VT-23). On June 28, 1968, the airfield portion of the air station was named in honor of Vice Adm. Alva D. Bernhard, founder of the site for the air station.

With the onset of the Vietnam War, the base increased both its flying activity and training schedule. By 1986, with new aircraft technology innovations, Squadrons VT-21 and VT-22 were providing advanced jet strike training in the TA-4J "Skyhawk," while VT-23 was providing basic jet training in the T2-C "Buckeye." Both training courses included carrier operations.

In 1992, the T45-A "Goshawk" aircraft was introduced to NAS Kingsville. Shortly afterwards, VT-23 relocated to NAS Meridian.

Today, pilots are flying both A and C "Goshawk" models; the "C" model being equipped with a new digital glass cockpit design.

Approximately 1,830 people are now stationed at NAS Kingsville. The population includes just over 620 military members, more than 170 student aviators, 800

civilians, and about 240 U.S. Border Patrol agents.

The main facility comprises nearly 4,000 acres of land area and more than 36,000 square miles of unhindered air space, which makes the facility ideal for jet training. The facility includes four 8,000-ft runways, three aviation hangars, a corrosion control hangar with Flash-Jet System, a canopy repair shop, a modern Air Traffic Control Tower and Radar facility, training simulators and a Jet Fuel Farm.

NAS Kingsville's inventory also consists of more than 12,000 acres of land area at three remote locations.

Navy Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) in Orange Grove is located about 35 miles northeast of the air station. NALF Orange Grove's mission is to support Training Air Wing TWO and Training Air Wing FOUR by extending usable air space for Navy and U.S. Air Force training.

The facility consists of 1,600 acres with two 8,000-ft. runways and a parking apron. Navy Air Traffic Controllers man the facility control tower and Radar site, and the field also includes a fire station, aircraft refueling, and an administrative building.

NAS Kingsville also oversees two other facilities: McMullen Target Range and Escondido Ranch. The McMullen Target range includes two sites that fall under the NAS Kingsville inventory. The Dixie Site is owned by the Navy and used solely by Training Air Wing TWO. The Yankee Site is leased, and used by Training Air Wing TWO and the Texas Air National Guard. These two sites include an auto-

matic scoring system, on just over 4,000 acres of land.

Escondido Ranch is a hunting, lodging and wildlife facility near located near Freer, Texas. The Ranch consists of 6,800 acres of land that also includes a Relocatable Over-The-Horizon Radar site (ROTHR).

NAS Kingsville contributes more than \$450 million in economic impact for the local area each year. Local annual procurement is estimated at \$30 million, with nearly \$10 million in contracts awarded annually.

NAS Kingsville Commanding Officers:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| CDR D.S. MacMahan | JUL 1942 - NOV 1942 |
| LCDR T. Thweat | NOV 1942 - FEB 1944 |
| CDR A.H.C. Doan | FEB 1944 - JUN 1944 |
| CDR H.V. Morrison | JUN 1944 - SEP 1946 |
| <i>NAS Kingsville in caretaker status 1946 - 1951</i> | |
| CAPT F.R. Jones | MAR 1951 - JUN 1953 |
| CAPT S.P. Weller | JUN 1953 - JUL 1955 |
| CAPT G.F. Rice | JUL 1955 - JUL 1957 |
| CAPT W.A. Sullivan | JUL 1957 - JUL 1959 |
| CAPT C.W. Harbert | JUL 1959 - AUG 1961 |
| CAPT R.H. Mathew Jr. | AUG 1961-DEC 1962 |
| CAPT J.K. Alleman | DEC 1962 - NOV 1964 |
| CAPT K.H. Yeagle | NOV 1964 - AUG 1966 |
| CAPT M.E. Stewart | AUG 1966 - AUG 1968 |
| CAPT P.F. Cunningham | AUG 1968 - SEP 1970 |
| CAPT M. Smyer | SEP 1970 - JUN 1972 |
| CAPT J.E. Mills | JUN 1972 - AUG 1975 |
| CAPT J.J. Shanaghan | AUG 1975 - AUG 1977 |
| CAPT C.N. Tanner | AUG 1977 - OCT 1980 |
| CAPT D.A. Dungan | OCT 1980 - AUG 1982 |
| CAPT S.C. Flynn Jr. | AUG 1982 - DEC 1984 |
| CAPT C.L. Smith | DEC 1984 - FEB 1987 |
| CAPT F.D. Litvin | FEB 1987 - JUN 1989 |
| CAPT J. Heilig | JUN 1989 - JUN 1991 |
| CAPT J.R. O'Hora | JUN 1991 - SEP 1993 |
| CAPT J.D. Maxey | SEP 1993 - JUL 1995 |
| CAPT K.T. Ackerbauer | JUL 1995 - JUL 1997 |
| CAPT P.J. Twomey | JUL 1997 - JUL 2000 |
| CAPT J.J. Morrow | JUL 2000 - JUL 2003 |
| CAPT J.L. McWithey | JUL 2003 - AUG 2004 |
| CAPT J.A. Crabbe | AUG 2004 - AUG 2007 |
| CAPT P.L. Waddingham | AUG 2007-JUN 2010 |
| CAPT M.A. McLaughlin | JUN 2010 |



All-weather training was conducted at South Field

Waddingham reflects on his tour as NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer



Capt. Phil Waddingham talks about the construction of McFall Memorial Chapel during an official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the facility June 18. (Photo by Jon Gagné).

Continued from Page 1

whelming, but there were always expectations that the base commander would be here for this event and over there for another, providing a Navy presence in support of local activities. Quickly, you run out of time to attend your own children's events, like high school football games. But we adjusted to these obligations quickly because we knew they were important."

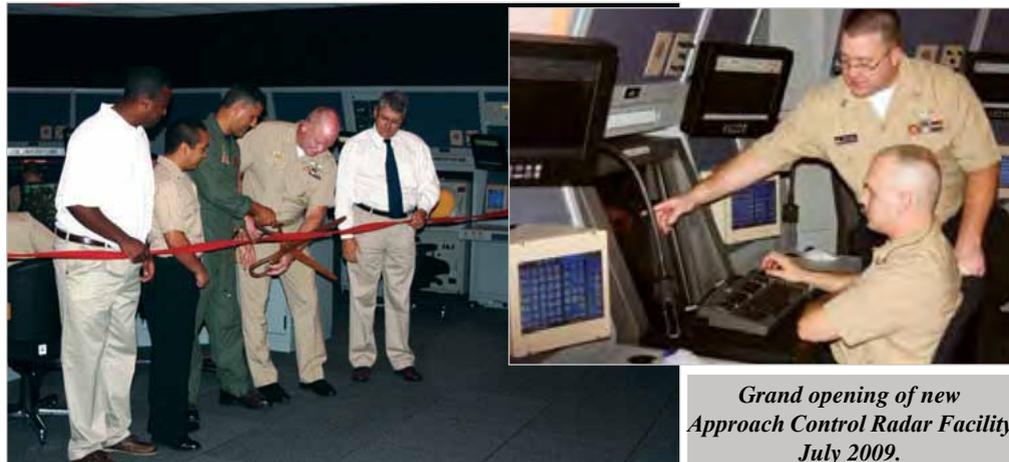
Waddingham compared his previous tours as a squadron CO to that of coaching a football team with a focus on producing a winning program, training players, building morale, and performing well on the field. "At the squadron level," he said, "our team was dedicated towards our mission, achieving our goals, and training our squad to the highest level of performance. Command of an air station," he added, "really takes on a much bigger picture. In that role, we have to focus on the level of effort required to make sure the base is ready for prime time when we open the gates and the workers come on. Make sure the water is flowing, the lights and power come on when they're supposed to, food is available for base personnel, and everything in between requires a lot of moving parts. And to oversee all of that is certainly a full time job."

Base commanders must also look outside the fence line, develop working dialogues with local officials, and create common goals that not only support the air station - but also community growth and economic development, without impinging on the command's mission.

As commanding officer of the air station, Waddingham has done all of that and



Capt. Waddingham chats with Texas Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz in downtown Kingsville.



Grand opening of new Approach Control Radar Facility July 2009.



Capt. Waddingham talks with Vice Adm. Patrick Walsh, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, during a visit to NAS Kingsville. (Photo by Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs)

the results are measured by the feedback he has received.

"If I use the feedback I receive from the community I would say that our relationship with the city and local community has been successful, and I know that this will continue under Capt. McLaughlin's leadership," he said. "These relationships have always been there, and we simply have built upon them over the past three years. We're very proud of the relationships we have with the city, the college, and the people of South Texas."

When it comes to the responsibility of command and all that it encompasses, there just doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day. Fortunately for Waddingham, he was able to squeeze some flying time into his schedule, which not only helped bring his stress level down, but also provided him the opportunity to see how his command's support functions for training student Naval aviators were performing.

"I can't imagine being in command of a naval air station without being in a flying status at least to some degree," Waddingham said. "I just don't think you can effectively do the job without flying. There are things that are going to happen, whether they are related to flight operations, course rules, airfield status, equipment status on the airfields, or runway issues, that you just would not be aware of, at least, the degree to which there is a problem, unless you are yourself a customer of that service. I've found that [flying] has been very beneficial for me in understanding the issues that our tenant commands deal with."

As Capt. Waddingham turns over command to Capt. Mark McLaughlin, he can look back with pride on the accomplishments that he leaves in his wake. Among them are huge quality of life initiatives - such as a new Fitness Center, a new Navy Gateway Inns & Suites facility, the new McFall Memorial Chapel, and the new Jet Engine Test Cell. Down the road, even more construction will occur, to include a large Armed Forces Reserve Center, a refurbished Hangar 760, a new Ground Training Facility, and a new bowling center.

"Quality of life initiatives are important to mission accomplishment," Waddingham said. "But that wasn't the impetus behind addressing some of the issues we faced. The simple fact was, NAS Kingsville had not received major quality of life improvements in quite some time and it was time to move in that direction. Starting with the Chapel, we began to address these

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issues. We brought Subway on board, the Fitness Center is coming with an outdoor pool and outdoor track, a new Navy Gateway Inns & Suites will be completed early next year, a new airpark – these are all just the beginning of things to come.”

Waddingham added that facility improvements that have taken place on the air station over the past 18 months, including the new Approach Radar Control Facility, runway upgrades and repaving, and the T-45 Recapitalization project, have brought NAS Kingsville into the forefront as far as planning for the future. “This [air station] is a true national treasure,” Waddingham added. “Our future is very bright, and there is a lot of potential here for future growth.”

When it comes to pinpointing his proudest accomplishment, Waddingham would surprise you with his choice.

“Most people might say it was a building - like the Chapel,” he chuckled. “But I would say it’s more fundamental than that. When I arrived here in 2007, our former XO Cmdr. Scott Allen and I sat down and talked about operationalizing the base, a term that Navy Installations Command was using to express what direction commands should be taking. Together, working with our staff, we have been able to foster this understanding, from everyone at NAS Kingsville that this is not just a job, it’s a mission. And our mission is to support flight training, and we’re going to do it the best way we know how. We were able to get that message across to base personnel, very effectively, and then we also convinced everyone that ‘status quo’ was not good enough - we deserve better.”

“That outlook,” Waddingham added, “led to the creation of command Installation Performance Teams (IPTs) that were able to create a level of excitement throughout the command about taking ownership of every aspect of their job and how it relates to the overall mission. And that’s a philosophical mindset that Cmdr. Allen and I worked hard together to make that happen, and I think we’ve been very successful.”

Looking ahead to his next assignment, Waddingham admits that picking up and moving a family across the country is never easy. But he and his wife Sue are looking forward to their next tour of duty and relocating to Northern Virginia. Their daughter Kelsey will start her fourth year at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., this fall. JMU is about 100 miles from Washington, D.C.

Their oldest son, Luke, a 2010 gradu-



Ground-breaking ceremony for new \$12.5 million Jet Engine Test Cell facility, August 2009.



Work is underway on Bldg. 3755 as part of a \$13 million repair and alteration project for the CBQ complex. Bldg. 3755 will become the new Navy Gateway Inns & Suites for the air station when it opens in the Spring of 2011. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)



Construction is also underway on the north end of the air station on the new Armed Forces Reserve Center, which is expected to open in early 2012. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)



The Waddinghams: Luke, Kelsey, Phil, Sue and Matt, pose for a family snapshot.

ate of H.M. King High School, will begin his freshman year at his father’s Alma Mater, Penn State University, in the fall. Their youngest son, Matt, will begin his freshman year of high school and is already looking forward to freshman football practice which gets underway in August.

“The kids are excited about us being close by and being able to visit their schools for special events,” Waddingham admitted. “To be honest, I think Matt has already got it in his mind to follow his brother’s footsteps - and his Dad’s - to Penn State, when the time comes.”

Capt. Waddingham himself will be faced with a 40-plus mile drive each way to work every day, which could take anywhere from an hour to two and a half hours depending on traffic. But he’s okay with that. His wife Sue, a visiting nurse with the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, will be taking a similar position at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., a short 15-minute commute. Sue will retain some of her current Wounded Warrior patients and get to travel a bit in her new position, including here in Texas.

As they depart South Texas, the Waddinghams leave with mixed emotions. They will miss the friends they established here, and the Kingsville hospitality that is unlike any other town in America. But, they are looking forward to the next chapter of their lives.

“We’re excited,” Waddingham said as the interview wrapped up. “We’ll miss South Texas and we’ll miss the people here. But we’ll be back to visit.”

As for his relief, Waddingham offers his best wishes and is confident that the Air Station is in good hands. “I congratulate Mac on taking command. He will do well here, I’m sure of it,” Waddingham said. “He is the right person for the job and I’m sure that he and his wife Kristin will fit right in here in Kingsville. They’re not strangers to the area, and I know they are looking forward to the next three years. I wish them the very best.”



11 earn wings at TW2 winging ceremony

Eleven student pilots were designated as Naval Aviators and presented their Wings of Gold Friday, June 18 at the Captain's Club. Training Air Wing TWO Commander, Capt. Mark Brooks, presided over the ceremony which marked the end of nearly 15 months of training for the students. Pictured are: front row, left to right, Cmdr. Gerry Murphy, CO VT-22; Lt. j.g. Brendan Greeley; Lt. Gabriel Szekely; Capt. Taylor Oxee; Lt. j.g. Erin Rosinger; Lt. j.g. Bradley Panzarella; and Capt. Mark Brooks, Commander, Training Air Wing Two.

Back row, from left: Lt. Col. Terrence Latorre, XO VT-22; Lt. j.g. William Gum; Lt. j.g. Jameson Fincher; Lt. j.g. Justin Pace; Lt. j.g. Mitchell Cole; Lt. j.g. Thomas McGee; Lt. j.g. Gregory Meisinger; and Cmdr. Chip Kelsey, CO VT-21.

Four other students recently completed their training at NAS Kingsville and will move to E2/C2 training with TW-4 at NAS Corpus Christi. They are: Lt. j.g. Levi Lundell, Lt. j.g. Juan Oquendo, Lt. j.g. Andrew Tucker, and Lt. j.g. Raleigh Worcester.

(Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs).



Capt. Phil Waddingham poses for a photo with Pilot For a Day Bradley Skinner. The Pilot For a Day Program, coordinated by Training Air Wing Two, focuses on children who are undergoing oncology treatment at Driscoll children's Hospital. The children are treated to a full day on board the base and designated "Honorary Naval Aviators."



Skipper Waddingham, I would like to thank you on behalf of my staff for your dedication to NAS Kingsville and the Kingsville community during your tour as the Commanding Officer. Over the past several years NASK has seen some major surgery, both cosmetic and structural, due in no small part to your drive to improve both the look and the function of the "Saddle of Naval Aviation". My team and I wish you, Sue and your entire family a hearty "Fair Winds and Following Seas". To Skipper McLaughlin, Kristin, and family, welcome back to NAS Kingsville. We look forward to serving with you in the years to come.

CWO3 Chris Chandler and Staff
Chief of Naval Air Training Detachment, Kingsville



“Thank You Capt. Waddingham for caring about all of us!”



Travis Aherns
January 2007



Lynsey Reyna
February 2007



Jordan Rudel
March 2007



James Ragan
April 2007



Alejandro Garza
May 2006



Megan Shadle
June 2007



Jacob Abrego
July 2007



Jesse Jasso
August 2007



Wyatt Malik
October 2007



Miles Bollom
November 2007



Marissa and Destiny Barrera
December 2007



Sarah Reyna
January 2008



Andy Aquino
May 2008



Bradley Skinner
June 2008



Andy Garza
August 2008



Fidencio Hernandez
April 2009



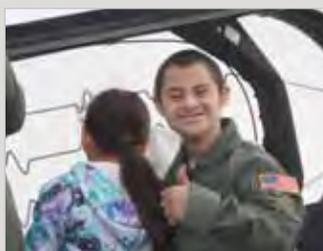
Ramon Gonzalez III
May 2008



Kalil Tully
September 2009



Destanee Rae Pineda
December 2009



Steven Tyler Vasquez
January 2010



Joe Richard Martinez
February 2010



Alfred Garcia
March 2010



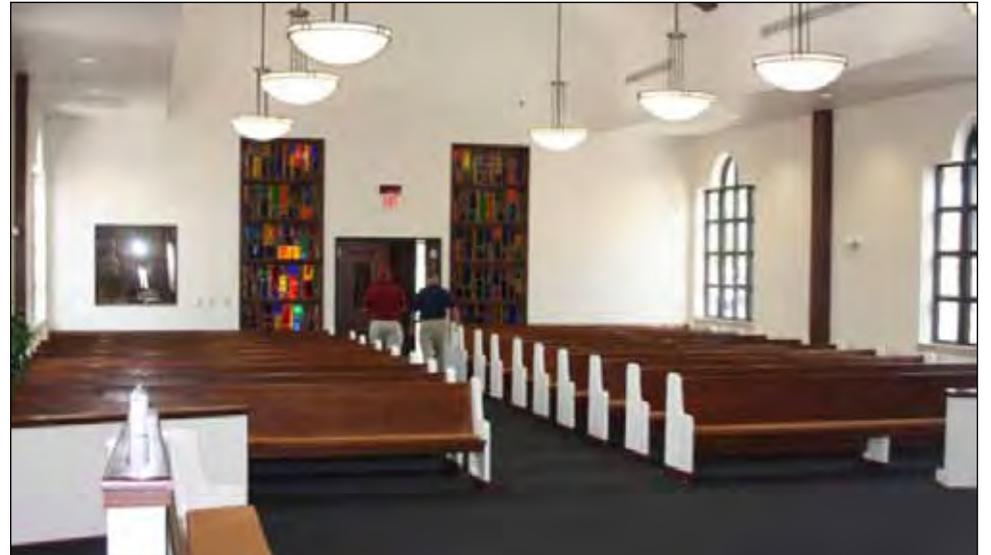
Colin Buegler
May 2010



Jacob Fernandez
November 2009



Capt. Phil Waddingham delivers opening remarks at the Chapel ribbon-cutting ceremony while a cameraman from TV-3 records the event for the evening news.



The Chapel features the pews and stained glass from the old Chapel.



The air station officially open the new air park in May. The plans for the park are still in the preliminary stages, but you can expect to see more static display aircraft in the coming years, beginning with the F9F-6 Cougar, which will be added in early 2011.



NAS Kingsville's Blue Angel welcomes all to the air station.



The Chief Petty Officers Mess opened their new spaces Friday, June 18 as Capt. Phil Waddingham helped cut the ribbon. The CPO Mess features an anchor mounted outside, that was given to the base by the Naval Station Ingleside Chief Petty Officers.



The Goat Locker anchor

MWR Event Calendar

Pool hours:

Monday through Friday: Lap Swim 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Recreational Swim 1-8 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 1-8 p.m.

Water Aerobics:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.

Inner Tube Water Polo:

Thursdays, 6 p.m. Call 516-6113, for more information.

Library Events

Summer Reading Program: Voyage to Book Island runs through July 30. Visit the Station Library or call 516-6271.

Movie Tavern

First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. K-Bar will be showing free, pre-released movies.

June Movie Schedule

(Wednesdays, 7 p.m.) At Single Sailor/ITT
June 30: (Romance) "Valentines Day" starring Jessica Biel and Jessica Alba.

Saturday Family Movies:

Free every Saturday at 2 p.m. at ITT.
June 26: Double Feature: "Alice in Wonderland" starring Johnny Depp and "Arthur and the Invisibles."

K-Bar at the Captain's Club

Movie Tavern First Tuesday of Each Month, show time is 7 p.m. Free Movie. K-Bar is open.

Trivia On Tap

Trivia Night at the K-Bar every Thursday night in June, 7 p.m. Teams of 4 compete by answering trivia questions. Great K-Bar prizes available to winners. Contact 516-6371, for more information.

Bowling Center

Free lunch time bowling weekdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with Purchase of meal.

Lunchtime Volleyball

Lunchtime Volleyball has begun!
Schedule for the week of June 28:

Monday, June 29

12 p.m. Fever vs. Trauma Dawgs

12:30 p.m. Field Support vs. VT-21

Wednesday, June 30

12 p.m. MWR vs. Border Patrol

12:30 p.m. 60-20-10-0 vs. VT-22

Tomas R. Sanchez
USN Ret.
Kleberg County
Emergency
Management



On behalf of the Kleberg County Office of Emergency Management, I'd like to pass along a sincere thank you to Capt. Phil and Sue Waddingham and their children, Kelsey, Luke and Matt, for being so involved in our community during your tour as NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer.

The support from the NAS Kingsville Fire Department, Command Master Chief, and Security Department is very much appreciated.

During times of emergency and/or disaster, NAS Kingsville has always been there to support Kleberg County.

We wish you well in your next assignment at the Pentagon.

We look forward to working with Captain Mark McLaughlin, his wife Kristin and their family.

Welcome Aboard!



Dick Messbarger
Executive Director
Kingsville Economic
Development
Council

Over the past 68 years the Kingsville community has been blessed with tremendous leadership at our naval air station, leaders that have become a part of the Kingsville family while stationed here - some even choosing to retire here.

Capt. Phil Waddingham and his wife Sue have elevated the bar and been key members of the Kingsville team, a team that also includes sons Luke and Matt contributing to local football successes.

Three tours in Kingsville is not enough. Waddz and Sue, we'll leave the light on and a cold beer in the fridge for Waddingham tour No. 4.

To Mac McLaughlin and his family, welcome back to Kingsville. We look forward to working with you.

Kingsville LOVES jet noise!

"Fair Winds & Following Seas"

Capt. Phil and Sue Waddingham and Family

"Thank You For Your Leadership and Guidance!"

Welcome Aboard

Capt. Mark and Kristin McLaughlin and Family

Congratulations On Assuming Command of NAS Kingsville!

Youth Activities Events

July 10: Splatter Action Paintball - Round #2, Corpus Christi. Cost: \$25. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Last chance this summer for youth to shoot at the staff!

July 17: Splashtown - San Antonio. Cost: \$25. 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Take a break from the heat and cool off at the water park!

July 23-24: Overnight Camp Out - NAS Corpus Christi. Cost: \$10. 7 p.m. July 23 to 10 a.m. July 24. Sleep under the stars and make s'mores by the campfire!

Aug. 7: Houston Texans Training Camp - Houston. 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.. Are you ready for some Houston Texans football?

(Cost: Free to the first 25 registered youth/teen, \$25 for food and souvenirs)

Vet on board June 29

The Veterinarian will be on board NAS Kingsville on June 29, from 9 a.m. to Noon. The Vet will be available for vaccines and product sales.

Please call the Vet Office at NAS Corpus Christi for appointments. They can only accept cash or checks for payment. Call 361-961-3952, for more information.



Independence Day / NAS Kingsville birthday bash

Don't forget the Independence Day and NAS Kingsville birthday celebration at the Captain's Club, July 1. The event gets underway at 7 p.m., with a large fireworks display bringing the night to a close at about 9:45 p.m.

Prior to the fireworks, treat yourself and your family to a free barbecue and participate in family games in the MWR parking lot, or in the K-BAR. There's something for everyone at this year's celebration.

The event is not open to the public, but base personnel can sponsor guests on board the base to take part in the celebration. Check with the MWR ITT office for details and guidelines.

Come on out and celebrate Independence Day and NAS Kingsville's birthday with Team Kingsville! Admission and barbecue is FREE!



June 21, 2010
T-45A Goshawk
BUNO 163619
NAS Kingsville



The kids manned the fire hoses and gave Capt. Waddingham quite a shower when he landed. KIII TV-3 reporter Manny De La Rosa was on hand to record the event for the nightly news.

