

Kingsville jets find shelter, continue training in Meridian

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Twenty T-45C Goshawk aircraft assigned to VT-21 Redhawks from Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, were moved to Naval Air Station Meridian June 28-July 2 due to Hurricane Alex which came ashore in south Texas.

Cmdr. Bob Carretta, squadron augment unit commanding officer, said leadership made a decision to move the aircraft to other bases after Hurricane Alex's path

"Before there was any formal hurricane evacuation order, our leadership decided to reposition 20 aircraft to Meridian so that we were able to continue our training operations," Carretta said. "The weather (in Texas) would not be conducive to flight training. We need to get some students through training, and

Meridian has the air space and facilities to enable us to do that."

Hurricane Alex made landfall late June 30, as the earliest Category 2 storm in more than 40 years, but spared Texas with little more than soaking thunderstorms. It weakened to a tropical storm early July 1.

"The big goal is no aircraft left outside in Kingsville," added Carretta. "The other jets were sent out to Ellington Field in Houston, Texas, and El Centro, Calif., because we have a detachment going on there."

The aircraft left Meridian on July 2 to return to NAS Kingsville.

"We really appreciate being hosted by Training Wing One here at NAS Meridian," Carretta said. "The leadership and everybody have just been great in helping us on such short notice. We wouldn't be able to do this without their help."