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July 30, 2010

Congress approves supplemental war-funding bill

Lisa Daniel, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 28, 2010 – The U.S. House of Representatives yesterday approved passage of the Defense Department's supplemental war-funding bill, most of which will be used to pay for operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

President Barack Obama and Pentagon officials said passage of the nearly \$59 billion supplemental was critical for supporting overseas-deployed troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill now awaits the president's signature.

Pentagon Spokesman Geoff Morrell said Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates applauded passage of the bill, which the Senate had passed last week.

"Over the past several weeks, we have had to take extraordinary measures to fund our military operations around the world this

late in the fiscal year," Morrell said in a statement, "but thankfully the money provided in the supplemental ensures that we will be able to continue the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq while we plus-up forces in Afghanistan as part of our efforts to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaida."

Most of the \$58.8 billion contained in the supplemental will be used for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The supplemental also includes \$13.38 billion for Vietnam veterans' Agent Orange exposure programs; \$5.1 billion for disaster relief to the Federal Emergency Management Agency; \$2.9 billion for Haitian earthquake relief; \$178 million for the Army Corps of Engineers to respond to natural disasters; and \$50 million to improve port facility access in Guam.



STRONG EAGLE - U.S. and Afghan soldiers move into position during operation Strong Eagle 2 in Kunar province, Afghanistan, July 19. The U.S. soldiers are assigned to the 101 Airborne Division's 1st Battalion. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Egorov Victor.



Capt. Mark Brooks, right, congratulates VT-22's 1st Lt. Zachary Baskara for being named to the Commodore's List for academic excellence during undergraduate jet training here. The award was presented at Training Air Wing TWO's July 23 Winging Ceremony at the Captain's Club. (See page 6 for feature story on those who were winged). Photo by Richard Stewart, Chief of Naval Air Training Public Affairs.

Pentagon won't list missing Sailor as captured

By Lisa Daniel, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 28, 2010 – The Defense Department has identified two sailors who went missing in Afghanistan's Logar province last week, and U.S. forces there are focused on finding one still unaccounted for, a Pentagon spokesman said today.

U.S. forces in Afghanistan are investigating what caused the two to go missing July 23, but more importantly, Marine Corps Col. David Lapan told reporters, is the effort to find Petty Officer 3rd Class Jarod Newlove, 25, of Renton, Wash.

Newlove was believed to be with Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin McNeley, 30, of Wheatridge, Colo., when the two disappeared from their post in Logar province. McNeley died from wounds suffered in the incident and his body was recovered July 25 after an extensive search, according to a Pentagon press release issued July 27. McNeley was assigned to Assault Craft Unit 1 in San Diego, the release said.

Newlove is listed as "duty status whereabouts unknown" and he'll continue

to be listed in that status unless or until there is firm evidence that he has been captured, Lapan said. The Taliban's statement of capture is not enough, he said.

Such a status change occurred when the Taliban released videos of Army Spec. Robert "Bowe" Bergdahl. In that case, Lapan said, the videos were authenticated by U.S. officials. Bergdahl, who went missing from his post in Afghanistan on June 30, 2009, is the only U.S. servicemember known to be held captive by the Taliban.

Asked today about Newlove, Lapan said, "There's no information on his whereabouts, but that's what we're working hard to figure out."

Media reports that the Sailors were captured after taking a wrong turn in a truck "are highly speculative," Lapan said.

Part of the investigation, Lapan said, is whether there were witnesses to the incident. He acknowledged military officials will not say much about the investigation.

For now, finding Newlove is the top priority, Lapan said.



Capt. Mark McLaughlin
Commanding Officer
NAS Kingsville



From the Bridge

Team Kingsville:

Well if all goes well, this will be the final web-only *Flying K* input because the base will have a new publisher printing the *Flying K* beginning on Aug. 13.

The publisher is DJ Young Publishing, of Corpus Christi. They bid and were awarded the contract to produce our *Flying K* newspaper for the next four years. You may be familiar with their work, for they currently produce the *Wingspan* newspaper for NAS Corpus Christi. I am excited to have them on board as a member of Team Kingsville!

Shifting gears a bit, I would like to extend a personal "Thank You" to the Navy

Ball Planning Committee. Our Navy Ball is scheduled for Saturday night, Oct. 16, so mark your calendars. The committee has performed superbly, working with the Navy League of Kingsville, gathering sponsorship donations, selecting a caterer and guest speaker, and held a successful Navy Ball Golf Tournament today, with over 20 teams participating.

For those that have attended a Navy Ball in Kingsville in the past, this year's birthday celebration of the U.S. Navy is shaping up to be a fantastic event. For those that have never partaken in such an event, you are highly encouraged to attend; you will not be disappointed.

In closing, we have received a tremendous amount of rain to the installation this month and our Public Works Department is working feverishly to keep up with grounds maintenance and mowing, as well as mosquito control.

Please be patient with our efforts -- the folks doing the work are at full capacity charging smartly forward to maintain the high standards of base appearance you expect.



CMDCM Charlie Ratliff
Command Master Chief
NAS Kingsville



Navy Ball Golf Tournament Ready For The Challenge

Team Kingsville,

I wanted to let everyone know in advance that if you see the Skipper limping around the air station next week there is no need to be alarmed. His will be ok, but his back may a little sore for a week or so from carrying the XO, Jon Gagné, and myself around the golf course today.

I say this because the three of us are not known to be too talented when it comes to the game of golf. In fact, I hope the Skipper brings extra golf balls because between the XO, Jon and myself we'll probably lose a couple of dozen!!

Seriously, today is going to be a great day at L. E. Ramey Golf Course as the Kingsville Navy League sponsors their annual Navy Ball Golf Tournament. A huge crowd is expected as there are over 20 teams already signed up. Over the course of the last 10 years, I've worked closely with Navy League Chapters from Puerto

Rico to North Carolina to California and I can tell you none compare to the Kingsville Chapter when it comes to support of the Navy and its Sailors.

This annual golf tournament is the single biggest fund raiser conducted during the year and the Navy League always does it right.

Navy League Secretary Melissa Brooks has been in charge of cooperate sponsorship this year and her efforts shattered last year's cooperate sponsorship record by over \$3,000.

With that said, I'd also like to thank the local Kingsville area businesses who provided sponsorship to this year's golf tournament. Please know that your strong support of the Navy and the Navy League is much appreciated.

Finally, I'd like to thank the members of the NAS Kingsville Navy Ball Committee. The Sailors and civilian employees who serve on this committee work tirelessly throughout the year to raise funds in support of the Navy Ball.

Without their efforts a Navy Ball would be impossible. Their efforts in support of this golf tournament alone have been remarkable.

Thanks shipmates for what you do for Team Kingsville!! And by the way, I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's Navy Ball on Saturday, Oct. 16!!

Regards,
CMC

ENERGY CONSERVATION PAYS HELP US CUT BACK OUR ENERGY USE -- CONSERVE --



NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Mark McLaughlin presents an Energy Awareness award to HM2 (SW) Jordan M. Saffell of the NAS Kingsville Branch Health Clinic.

Petty Officer Saffell was recognized for superior performance as BHC Kingsville Building Energy Monitor for the first quarter of 2010.

Saffell promoted energy awareness at the Clinic and made significant recommendations to improve energy conservation at the facility. She has shown superlative management of the Clinic's energy efforts and has been responsible in reducing energy consumption, verifying that lights, computers, copiers and the compressed air system were shut down after working hours. She also promoted water conservation throughout the Clinic by checking all building water fixtures - and ensuring there were no water leaks.

"Our Building energy Monitors play an important role in our energy conservation efforts," McLaughlin said during the presentation ceremony. "Petty Officer Saffell is doing a great job keeping her coworkers informed about energy conservation while helping to cut down on energy use throughout the command.

"I'm happy to recognize her as our first quarterly Energy Awareness award winner for the first quarter of 2010. She has done a great job for us."

The Flying K

The *Flying K* is published every other week. The *Flying K* is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Navy, Naval Air Station Kingsville, of the products and services advertised herein. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the Editor may refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. All editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas.

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on the info line add: Direct Line



Training Air Wing TWO Commander, Capt. Mark Brooks, left, presents the Air Medal with Bronze Star to Capt. Gregory York, USMC. The award recognized meritorious achievement while serving as an Instructor Pilot Under Training, for York's professional actions during a training flight April 17. York safely landed an aircraft in near-stall condition, with no injuries to the air crew or damage to the aircraft.



Left, Delia Gorena smiles after receiving the Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) from Capt. Brooks. The MUC recognizes service to CNIC commands from February 2006 to January 2009.



Spouse of the Year

Right, Deborah Perry is congratulated by Capt. Brooks for her selection as Training Air Wing TWO's Spouse of the Year for 2010. Perry, whose husband is assigned to VT-21, has been very active in squadron and Wing events, in addition to supporting the men and women of VT-21 and TW-2.

TW-2 students head to sea aboard USS Bush

Students and instructor pilots from VT-21 and VT-22 traveled to Cecil Field, Fla., July 16-19 to complete carrier qualifications off the Florida coast on board USS George H.W. Bush (CNV 77). Training Air Wing TWO personnel were not the only VIPs arriving aboard USS Bush that week, former president George H.W. Bush and his wife Barbara also paid a visit to see how the ship named after the 42nd president is helping to train Navy and Marine Corps flight students.



All Training Air Wing TWO participating in the training detachment logged their 10 landings at sea and successfully completed their carrier qualifications. Carrier quals are the last graded evolution for flight students prior to being their Wings of Gold and the designation as Naval Aviators.

Former President George H.W. Bush speaks with Cmdr. William Pennington, USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). Bush and his wife, Barbara, spent their time aboard watching flight operations, touring the ship and spending time with the crew.



Redhawk Roundup

LTJG Danielle Thiriot, VT-21 Public Affairs

Training Wing TWO recently completed its third weapons detachment of the year to El Centro, Calif. The VT-21 "run detachment" was held June 15 to July 1.

El Centro provided hot temperatures and clear skies during the two-week training. More than 35 students and 20 instructors completed 528 total sorties, with just over 578 total hours flown. Students and instructor pilots completed weapons delivery, single- and two-plane low levels, and instrument flights.

Days were long, with morning briefs starting at 5:30 a.m., and the last planes returning from training at about 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. The detachment

was highly successful with a sortie completion rate of more than 91 percent with zero cancellations for weather.

"El Centro provides a unique airspace with minimal civilian traffic, unpopulated desert terrain, and four bombing ranges at our disposal," said detachment operations coordinator Capt. David Forbell.

"Temperatures reached the triple digits by midday and all of the students and instructor pilots worked extremely hard flying 2-3 times per day to make the detachment a success."



Navy readies new fitness assessment software

By MC1 (AW) LaTunya Howard,
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

The Navy will release a new version of NAVFIT98A software Aug. 1, changing the way physical fitness assessment (PFA) results are documented in block 20 of a fitness report or evaluation.

“We released a new version of NAVFIT98A to accommodate the recent policy changes and at the same time fix several longstanding problems associated with the application,” explained Jim Price, director, Navy Personnel Command (NPC) Performance Evaluation Division.

NAVFIT98A Version 28 supports new performance report policy changes and fixes known security and printing problems, as well as other technical issues associated with older versions of the software. Because of these changes, all forms will have new version numbers. Electronic versions can be found at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/careerinfo/performanceevaluation/softwareforms>.

Commands that still have an older version installed but that need to submit performance reports with ending dates of Aug. 1 or later can submit performance reports generated by older software versions until Navy/Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) up-

dates are complete.

The E7-E9 chief evaluation has been modified to include the new policy guidance. Evaluation form NAVPERS 1616/27 8-10 can be found at the above link beginning Aug. 1.

This Web site also answers frequently asked questions concerning Version 28 deployment and provides a reference guide on using the application.

“I’m really excited because improving the documentation gives PFA the level of attention it deserves. The upgrade will get leadership focused on their Sailors’ fitness and the importance of the Physical Readiness Information Management Systems,” said Chief Yeoman (AW) Alisha D. Marshall, Navy Operational Support Center Fort Worth, Texas, command fitness leader.

For more information on NAVFIT98A Version 28, read NAVADMIN 233/10. For technical assistance with NAVFIT98A software, call NPC Customer Service Center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (1-866-827-5672). For any NMCI software deployment issues, contact the NMCI Helpdesk at (866) 843-6624.

For more news from Navy Personnel Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/npc/.

Navy announces changes on escorting families during duty station moves

By Wm. Cullen James,
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Service members traveling on indeterminate temporary duty (ITDY) orders are now authorized to escort their family members to and from an alternate location at government expense, according to NAVADMIN 227/10, which was released July 9.

The message announced the change in the Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR) law that went into effect March 15.

The new policy adds an escort entitlement for Sailors to accompany their family during an authorized move. There is no change to family member travel.

ITDY is similar to temporary duty (TDY), which the Navy calls temporary additional duty (TAD), but there is no specified time period and no end-date in the orders. A modification or follow-on orders are required for the member to go to their permanent duty station (PDS).

According to Cmdr. Carl Chaffin, distribution management and procedures branch head, this change in policy is the culmination of more than two years of

work that was initiated at the direction of the Task Force Individual Augmentee (IA) Conference held in the fall of 2007.

“To allow service members returning from IA assignments to reunite with their families was a major issue of that conference,” said Chaffin. “Reducing the requirement from 365 to 210 days to be eligible for ITDY orders and the escort entitlement were the courses of action taken to meet that issue.”

To apply for escort entitlement, the member must be on ITDY orders dated March 15 or later. Orders dated prior to March 15 can be modified, but this modification does not grandfather in prior travel.

“ITDY orders are issued to service members going on temporary duty when the return date is unknown,” said Chaffin. “To qualify for ITDY orders, the Navy has reduced the estimated minimum number of days on assignment to 210 days. ITDY orders extend the same entitlements as TDY orders, plus additional entitlements for moving family members to an alternate place. The escort option only applies to the member when assist-

Continued on page 8, see Duty Moves

Operation School Supplies

Mornings of Aug. 10 & 12, supplies will be collected at the Cesar St. gate

NAS Kingsville’s School Liaison Officer, Jeannie Alexander, is spearheading this drive to donate student school supplies for the coming school year.

Items needed include crayons, kleenex, construction paper, manila paper, backpacks, glue, blunt scissors, #2 pencils, pocket folders with brads and without, wide ruled spiral notebooks, glue sticks, rulers, binders, highlighters, 8 tab dividers, composition books, and map colors.

Drop off your donations at the Chap-

lain’s Office in Bldg. 2741. Supplies will be distributed at the Chaplain’s Office Aug. 16-20. All military and DoD families are eligible.

Ms. Alexander will be at the Cesar Street gate to the base Aug. 10 and Aug. 12 from 7 to 10 a.m. to collect your donations.

Collection boxes are also posted at the Wing headquarters in Bldg. 2741, the Fitness Center, NAS Kingsville Admin, and the Branch Health Clinic.

Thank you advance for your support of the Back-to-School program, sponsored by your School Liaison office.

Post-9/11 GI Bill transferability still requires Obligated Service

By Wm. Cullen James, Navy Personnel
Command Public Affairs

For those Sailors with children approaching college age, about to start higher learning or with spouses with college aspirations, now is the time to ensure your Post-9/11 GI Bill transferability is properly set up.

Qualified active duty and Reserve Sailors may elect to transfer benefits to a spouse or children, with some or all benefits allocated to those named.

“We still have a lot of Sailors whose transferability requests are being rejected because they don’t have the four years of obligated service remaining,” said Kathy Wardlaw, the Navy’s GI Bill program manager.

The Navy announced the transferability process in NAVADMIN 203/09. Basically, it states that transferability requires two additional years for Sailors eligible for retirement between Aug. 1, 2010, and July 31, 2011, or three additional years for those with 20 years service between Aug. 1, 2011, and July 31, 2012.

Otherwise, Sailors generally must have served at least six years in the Armed Forces and agree to an additional four years. See the NAVADMIN for exceptions.

“Before submitting their transferability requests, their obligation requirement must be reflected in their electronic service record (ESR) or the request will be rejected until corrected,” said Wardlaw.

Sailors can review their ESR at <https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil/>.

In addition to the ESR, the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS) is used to validate a family member’s eligi-

bility for transfer.

For enlisted personnel that means having sufficient obligated service prior to their end of active obligated service. For officers, it means they must have an administrative remarks entry (Page 13) in their ESR agreeing to serve four more years from the date their transferability request is submitted.

After obligating service, Sailors must elect the transferability option while still serving.

“Sailors can allocate any percentage of their benefit to their spouse and children and change it any time, but if they don’t elect the benefit while serving, they won’t be able to go back and do it,” said Wardlaw.

Family members must be in DEERS and eligible for benefits in DEERS before a Sailor can request transferability. This means those dual-military members whose children are reflecting under only one sponsor’s record, must be reflected under both sponsors.

For example, to establish a child as a family member under both military parents, the child should be enrolled in DEERS under one parent for benefits and under the other parent as a child drawing benefits from another military sponsor.

Navy career counselors are a valuable source of information and an important piece in the service obligation requirement.

For more information, visit the Navy Personnel Command Post-9/11 GI Bill Web site at www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/Education/GIBill/Post_9_11.html. For more news from Navy Personnel Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/npc/.

Hardin ends 27-year Navy career with focus on taking care of Sailors, people



Lt. Cmdr. Dawn Hardin

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

Lt. Cmdr. Dawn M. Hardin, who was in charge of the Branch Health Clinic (BHC) at Naval Air Station Kingsville, ended a 27-year naval career during a retirement ceremony July 23.

Hardin was well-known for her cheerful greeting, "It's always a great day in Kingsville!"

Beginning in May 2007, Hardin's leadership guided more than 40 military and civilian staff in providing quality health care to approximately 1,500 enrolled TRICARE Prime beneficiaries who accounted for more than 6,300 annual visits to the Kingsville clinic.

Capt. Randy Kelley, commanding officer at Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, in his keynote remarks spoke of Hardin's leadership philosophy.

"I believe that to her, it means many things," Kelley began. "It means setting a vision and helping your staff and others to realize that it is always a great day at Kingsville. It is about taking care of your people and becoming family. It is about working hard but also having fun and having time to do things together. It is about giving of yourself for the betterment of all. It is about service and sacrifice."

Hardin's career spanned nearly three decades.

She enlisted in the Navy in 1983 with her sights set on becoming a master chief. In 1994 Hardin advanced to chief and

was then selected for the Medical Service Corps (MSC) In-service Procurement Program (IPP). After she completed the program, she was commissioned to ensign.

For 16 years Hardin served as a MSC officer.

Assignments included Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Medical Logistics Company, 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group, Camp Lejeune; Naval Dental Center, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune; Naval Health Clinic, Key West, Fla.; and BHC Kingsville.

"Your naval career has been exemplary and as it draws to a close, you can rest assured that you have successfully discharged your duty," Kelley remarked. "You will truly leave behind a legacy to those who you have led and served with."

Few of her Sailors, if any, would feel differently about Hardin's service.

"Lieutenant Commander Hardin impacted this clinic in a big way," stated Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Brian Knight, a senior aerospace medical technician at the clinic for four years. "She improved the morale drastically, and is in many ways the one that helped hold the cohesiveness of our clinic together. She has been the primary reason why I love the Navy."

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Peter J. Diaz, a lab technician at the Kingsville clinic for two years explained, "She always acted in the best interest of the clinic as a whole, staff and patients included. She constantly set the example of what all our leadership training emphasized a true leader should be. The trait that has had the most personal effect on me as a Navy hospital corpsman is that she truly cares about the Navy, her work, her clinic, and her staff."

Hardin often spoke about taking care of people – something that has always been at the top of her priority list - and she made it a point to factor that message into her farewell remarks.

"Starting out at E-1 and making it to chief and further to lieutenant commander has provided me with experience from all aspects. It has given me compassion and understanding of all my staff, my co-workers and my peers. Take care of your people," Hardin advised. "They will take care of you whether you are an LPO, LCPO, a department head, or OIC – the loyalty will be three-fold as long as they know that you are taking care of them."



Lt. Cmdr. Dawn Hardin, right, requests permission to go ashore from Capt. Randy Kelley, commanding officer, Naval Health Clinic NAS Corpus Christi.



Capt. Randy Kelley, Commanding Officer, Naval Health Clinic NAS Corpus Christi, presents a Navy Meritorious Service Medal to Lt. Cmdr. Dawn Hardin for her performance as Branch Health Clinic NAS Kingsville Officer in Charge. Below, Lt. Cdmr. Hardin salutes the sideboys at the conclusion of her retirement ceremony.



Eight students receive Wings at Training Air Wing TWO ceremony

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Eight student aviators were presented their Wings of Gold and designated as Naval Aviators during Training Air Wing TWO's July winging ceremony at the Captain's Club July 23. Four Marines, three Navy and one Brazilian student participated in the ceremony, which marked the end of nearly 14 months of undergraduate flight training here in Kingsville.

Receiving their Wings were:

Lt. j.g. William Bowen III, VT-21. A native of Forest, Va., Bowen set his sights on tailhook aviation after years of family vacations to Myrtle Beach, S.C., where he and his father would visit the USS Yorktown (CV 10) Museum in nearby Charleston. Bowen is a Naval Academy grad with a degree with aeronautical engineering. He completed primary flight training with the VT-27 "Boomers" at NAS Corpus Christi, and reported to Training Air Wing TWO for jet/strike training in June 2009.

1st Lt. Jordan M. Brock, VT-21. Hailing from Anchorage, Alaska, 1st Lt. Brock attended Boise State University (BSU) in Idaho. In 2006, he was accepted into the Marine Corps Officer Program, and he departed BSU to attend Officer Candidate School.

Upon completion, he returned to BSU to finish his studies, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in business in December 2007. He was commissioned in March 2007. Brock completed primary flight training with the VT-2 "Doerbirds" at NAS Whiting Field in Milton, Fla. He reported to Training Air Wing TWO for jet/strike training in April 2009.

1st Lt. Landon Palmer, VT-21. A native of Southern California, Palmer also resided in Bend, Oregon during his youth. He was accepted to attend the Naval Academy in 2003, graduating four years later. He reported to Training Air Wing TWO at for jet/strike training at NAS Kingsville in May 2009.

Lt. j.g. Matthew J. Roberts, VT-21. A native of League City, Texas, Roberts joined the Air National Guard in January 2001 as a weapons loader on F-16s. That same year he transitioned to Texas A&M University where he eventually earned a degree in business, all the while remaining in the Air National Guard.

Roberts deployed twice to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and advanced to staff sergeant. In 2008, he switched services and entered the Navy, and Officer Candidate School. He completed his primary flight training with the "Rangers" of

VT-28 at NAS Corpus Christi, and reported to Training Air Wing TWO for jet/strike training in June 2009.

1st Lt. Zachary M. Baskara, VT-22. Raised in Sparks, Nev., Baskara attended Texas A&M University and became part of the "Fightin' Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets." He graduated in 2007 with a degree in political science, and was commissioned into the Marine Corps. Following six months of training at The Basic School in Quantico, Va., Baskara entered the Marine Corps' aviation program. He completed his primary flight training at NAS Corpus Christi. Upon completion, Baskara reported to Training Air Wing TWO for jet/strike training in April 2009.

1st Lt. Grant T. Mauritzson, VT-22. Born in Illinois and raised in Spring, Texas, Mauritzson attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla. He then entered the Marine Corps and began his aviation career. He completed his primary flight training with the VT-6 "Shooters" at NAS Whiting Field in Milton, Fla. After completing primary training, Mauritzson reported to Training Air Wing TWO for jet/strike training at in January 2009.

Lt. j.g. Chad G. Pearce, VT-22. A native of Alaska, Pearce earned his private pilot's license during his senior year of high school. Upon graduation, he moved on the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, graduating in 2007 with a degree in space physics, with an emphasis in exotic propulsion and a minor in mathematics and computer science.

Pearce enlisted in the Navy's Bachelor Degree Completion Program and, upon graduation, he completed Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I., earning his commission. He completed his primary flight training with the "Rangers" of VT-28 at NAS Corpus Christi.

Lt. j.g. Bruno Rodrigues, VT-22. A native of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, Rodrigues applied to the Brazilian Navy High School and was selected for one of 200 spots out of 1,600 applicants. He attended the Naval Academy in Rio De Janeiro, earning a Bachelor of Naval Science and Weapons degree.

After spending about 28 months serving at sea, he was accepted into the Brazilian Air Force in San Paulo for primary flight training. Sixteen months later he was selected to come to the U.S. and continue flight training with the Navy at the "Golden Eagles" of VT-22, reporting to NAS Kingsville in March 2009.



Lt. j.g. William Bowen III
VT-21



1st Lt. Jordan M. Brock
VT-21



1st Lt. Landon Palmer
VT-21



Lt. j.g. Matthew Roberts
VT-21



1st Lt. Zachary Baskara
VT-22



1st Lt. Grant Mauritzson
VT-22



Lt. j.g. Chad Pierce
VT-22



Lt. j.g. Bruno Rodrigues
VT-22

E2/C2 Training

The following individuals completed carrier qualifications at sea in July 2010.

They will now move on to E-2/C-2 training with Training Air Wing FOUR at NAS Corpus Christi.

Lt. j.g. Vaughn Villarreal
Lt. j.g. Jared Wedel
Lt. j.g. Shawan Macewan
Lt. j.g. Johnathon Casey

Redhawk thrill seeker climbs Rainier

By Lt. j.g. Danielle Thiriot, VT-21 Public Affairs Officer

VT-21 Redhawk Lt. j.g. Robert Tuohy joined forces with three other climbers over the 4th of July weekend to climb Washington's Mt. Rainier. At 14,410 feet, Rainier is the tallest volcano and the fifth largest peak in the contiguous United States. Disappointment Cleaver is the most popular of Rainier's numerous climbing routes. There are two high camps, Camp Muir and Camp Schurman, staffed by park rangers, where climbers convene before attempting to summit.

"I've been climbing for 4 years, and it's always a rush to reach the summit," Tuohy said.

Tuohy and his partners set out at 11 a.m. on July 1st equipped with ice axes, crampons, ropes, packs, and climbing harnesses. After two full days of scaling some of the largest glaciers in the United States, and an overnight stop about halfway to the summit, the group reached Schurman High Camp, elevation 9,440 feet, about 5,000 feet from the summit. After a few hours of rest, the group planned an early morning assault on the final leg.

"We made our push for the summit at about 4 a.m. on July 3 after a delay of several hours due to a snowstorm," said Tuohy.

Letting the storm pass was a wise choice; the day before a climber ahead of Tuohy's team on the route had gone missing. He was later confirmed dead, which

increased Tuohy's nervousness about continuing in the storm. So the group waited the storm out before pushing forward.

Unfortunately, the bad weather would return, eventually ending their challenge about a quarter-mile from the top. "Ultimately, we decided to end our bid about 1,500 feet from the summit due to snow conditions and increased avalanche risk," Tuohy explained.

Climbing Mount Rainier is difficult, and traverses the largest glaciers in the U.S. south of Alaska. Most climbers require two to three days to reach the summit. Climbing teams demand experience in technical ice climbing, crevasse crossing, and survival rescue techniques. Last year 10,616 people attempted the climb; about 60 percent of the attempts were successful, with weather and poor planning being among the most common reasons for failure. About three mountaineering deaths and more than 20 major rescues occur each year due to falling rock and ice, avalanche, falls, and hypothermia associated with severe weather.

Before Tuohy's team "flipped" and started their decent, Tuohy paused to have a few pictures taken with the VT-21 squadron flag, waving the Fighting Redhawks flag where few red hawks have ever flown.

Asked if he would attempt to reach the summit again, Tuohy said, "I'm already planning another attempt next year."



Climbers make their way up Mount Rainier in Washington State, headed for Schurman Camp. At 14,410 feet, Rainier is the tallest volcano and fifth largest peak in the contiguous United States. More than 10,000 people attempt to climb the mountain each year.



Picturesque Mount Rainier, located about 50 miles southeast of Seattle, towers over the Cascade Range as the most prominent mountain in the contiguous United States and Cascade Volcanic Arc at 14,411 feet (4,392 m). It's the highest mountain in Washington and the Cascade Range.



VT-21's Lt. j.g. Robert Tuohy displays the Fighting Redhawks flag during his climb of Mount Rainier. (Photos courtesy of Lt. j.g. Robert Tuohy).

Alice 14-year old is Training Air Wing TWO's Pilot For a Day for month of July

14-year old Carlos Torres from Alice, Texas, was welcomed aboard NAS Kingsville July 23 as Training Air Wing TWO's latest Pilot For a Day. Carlos is a patient at Driscoll Children's Hospital (DCH) in Corpus Christi, undergoing oncology treatment.

The TW-2/NASK Pilot For a Day program is a joint Community Outreach Program between TW-2, NAS Kingsville and DCH. Once a month, a child is selected by



the hospital to participate in the program. During their special day on board the children are treated to tours of Air Operations, Air Traffic Control, the Fire Department, and Ground Training Complex.

They also get to take a test ride in a T-45 flight simulator and earn a designation as an Honorary Naval Aviator.



Civilian employees transition from NSPS

By Linda Dent Mitchell

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Department of the Navy (DoN) successfully completed its first phase of the transition of employees from the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) to the General Schedule (GS) July 2.

Approximately 18,000 employees have made the transition from NSPS in this first phase.

"The transition's success can be attributed to the tremendous collaboration across the department at all levels," said Tony TorresRamos, director of the DoN Transition Management Office.

The DoN plans to transition about 45,000 employees to the GS by the end of 2010.

"We remain committed to a strategic and orderly approach to the transition, which best enables us to avoid disruption of our mission and minimizes negative impact to our employees," said TorresRamos.

Non-bargaining unit employees transitioning from NSPS to GS will be covered by the DoN Interim Performance Management System approved April 20.

The system provides a framework for commands to recognize and reward employees in meaningful ways.

The system leverages the capability of a two-level performance management system.

More than 70,000 DoN employees will transition from NSPS by Jan. 1, 2012.

18,000 transitioned so far

Of this number, about 15,700 NSPS positions from Naval Air System Command and Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) will transition to newly developed Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory demonstration projects.

Approximately 2,100 NSPS positions located within Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity; Marine Corps Systems Command; Direct Reporting Program Manager, Advanced Assault Amphibians; Naval Sea Systems Command Program Executive Office Carriers; and Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration; will transition to acquisition demonstration projects.

Approximately 880 NSPS positions located in SPAWAR will return to their alternative personnel system, and specific healthcare positions across the DoN have been identified for transition to an alternative personnel system building on Title 38 authorities.

Consistent with the DoN's focus on communication and education, visit the human resources Web site at <http://www.public.navy.mil> to learn about current information, online resources and guidance.

For more news from Department of the Navy (Civilian Human Resources), visit www.navy.mil/local/donchr/.



It's almost here ...
time to get your Texas
A&M Kingsville
2010 football tickets!

GO JAVLEINAS

Duty Moves (from page 4)

ing family members such as for the purpose of concurrent travel."

Under the new rules, service members must request approval of their itinerary prior to starting travel. Travel is either from the PDS to the ITDY location or from the ITDY location to the PDS. Service members currently on Global War on Terrorism Support Assignments (GSA) cannot be reimbursed retroactively for previous travel, but may make a request for their return travel.

Some typical scenarios:

- A service member accompanies family members from an alternate location en route to the old PDS upon return from an individual augmentee assignment when the servicemember does not have follow-on permanent change of station orders.

- The member escorts family members to an alternate location and returns to the Sailor's PDS prior to departing for an IA/GSA.

- When the servicemember has follow-on PCS orders, travel from the ITDY location to the old PDS (if family members elected to stay there) and travel to new PDS when returning from a GSA.

The government will not pay for escort travel when:

- The member wants to use it to arrange for household goods or privately owned vehicle shipments, take leave or any other personal convenience.

- The member does not have ITDY orders. Any travel prior to having written orders is not reimbursable.

- The member has already reported to the new PDS.

Specific information on how to apply can be found in the message. Visit the Navy Personnel Command Web site at www.npc.navy.mil and click on "Messages."

For more news from Navy Personnel Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/npc/.

NAS Kingsville to host cardboard Regatta

On Tuesday, Aug. 10, members of the Kingsville community will put their construction skills to the test in the first ever NAS Kingsville Cardboard Boat Regatta, held at the MWR swimming pool.

Teams of two will bring their boat, made strictly of cardboard and duct tape, and race against other teams to crown the overall cardboard boat champions.

Prizes will be awarded for fastest finish time as well as most creative boat. All are welcome to join in the fun! Sign up your team at the pool today, or call 516-6113 for more information.

NEX gas station upgrade

The Navy Exchange gas station will be closed to fuel sales Aug. 2 through Aug. 6 to replace fuel dispensers and upgrade the facility.

During this time, the main entrance to the Navy Exchange will be open at 7 a.m. for customers. The Navy Exchange staff thanks you for your patience throughout this upgrade.

Budget for Baby Class

Aug. 24, 10 a.m.-Noon

This event is sponsored by the NAS Kingsville Fleet and Family Support Center. Refreshments will be provided, and all military personnel are welcome. Babies welcome but please no small children.

The course is offered by the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and Visiting Nurses.

Personnel are invited to explore topics related to the financial aspects of your new addition. Topics include:

- Buying for Baby
- College Planning
- Wills and Insurance
- Use of Credit
- Savings and much, more

Every eligible parent will receive his or her own "Baby's 1st Seabag" full of goodies! The layette is valued at \$100, which includes a handmade baby blanket. Please sign-up by Aug. 20, by calling 961-3482.

Operation School Supplies

Don't forget to bring your donations Aug. 10-12. Drop donations off at boxes at the Wing, Fitness Center, NASK Admin and the Clinic.

Youth Center hosts Armed Forces Kid's Run

Story and photos by Brent Edwards, NASK Youth Activities

Due to weather, the America's Armed Forces Kids Run had been postponed 2 different times during the Summer.

Yet, on July 20, the weather finally cooperated. This joint-special event was put on by the Navy Youth Center, Fitness Center, and NASK Fire Department. Typically, the Kids Run is "fun run" executed on all military installations as a part of "Armed Forces Day." NAS Kingsville make the fun run more than just running and physical distance, we emphasize the FUN!

With the collaboration of 3 departments, the America's Kids Run incorpo-

rates water sprinklers, a cascade of water from a fire truck, and bubble machines. Therefore, the kids have more fun when running and stay cool in the scorching south Texas sun.

From start to finish, many parents cheered on their child, children ran through the cascade of water provided by the fire department and dodged bubbles, or stopped to enjoy them!

By the end, all participants were given race shirt and were awarded medals just for being a part of something bigger than any one individual their, the support of our Armed Forces.



Runners take their marks ... at the start of the race ... and they're off!



After the race, runners posed for a group photo with the Fire Crew.

Meeting Team Kingsville



Fifi Kieschnick
NAS Kingsville
Public Affairs

Time For a Makeover

Soon you will see a new face aboard NAS Kingsville – the *Flying K*.

Your base newspaper will have a new look with next printed edition.

Why? We've got a new publisher. And, this publisher uses a different paper stock than our previous one. The paper itself is different in size and quality -- you will definitely notice the difference.

So, we thought since we're "painting the walls anyway," why don't we "buy new furniture?"

Huh? Since we will be printed on different paper stock, why don't we make some other differences in the way the newspaper looks?

The nature of the newspaper will not

change as we still have the same audience – you – in mind. We will continue to tell you what's going on in and around NAS Kingsville and the Navy. We will still tell your stories.

Yes. We still want to hear from you. We'll just look different, more vibrant, new.

Let us know what you think about the "new" *Flying K*.

We welcome your feedback, and we will value what you have to tell us.

Communication is a two-way street (if not a busy intersection). And, we want to hear what you have to say. How else can we make changes, unless you tell us what's on your mind?

I know. I know. Change is tough.

We hate change, but we love it at the same time. Journalist Sydney J. Harris says it best, "what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better."

And, that's what we're doing. We'll have the same content, but it will be wrapped in a different package.

So, after you see the new *Flying K*, say "wow," and read it.

Then, let us know what you think about the new face aboard NAS Kingsville.

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.

50 Mile Swim Club

Sign up at the pool or call 516-6113.

Water Aerobics

Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.

Inner Tube Water Polo

Inner Tube Water Polo is held Thursdays, at 6 p.m. Call 516-6171, for more information.

Movie Tavern

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

Wednesdays

Every Wednesday, at 7 p.m., movies are shown free of charge at the ITT Liberty Lounge.

Saturdays

Saturdays, at 2 p.m., children's movies are shown free of charge at the ITT Liberty Lounge.

Trivia On Tap

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

Bowling Center

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

Zumba Fitness

Beginning Aug. 11, Zumba Fitness will be held at the Fitness Center on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. Call 516-4386, for more information.

Iron Goat Triathlon

NAS Kingsville Iron Goat Triathlon includes a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike and 26.2-mile run. Complete the Iron Goat during the month of August and receive a free T-shirt.

Entry fee is a donation of school supplies. For more information or to register, visit the Fitness Center or call 516-4386.

Aug. 3: 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be held at the Fitness Center on Tuesday, Aug. 3. Call Kristin at 516-6494 for info

Aug. 13: Texas Hold 'em will be held Friday night, Aug. 13, at 7 p.m., at the K-Bar. Ten players needed.