



# Flying K

All are invited to join the Freedom Walk, on Sept. 11, 7:45 a.m., beginning at the HQ flagpole & ending at the Chapel.

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Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

www.cnicy.navy.mil/kingsville

September 7, 2012



## Be ready for any emergency

by Fifi Kieschnick  
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Hundreds of NAS Kingsville personnel attended a safety standdown on Friday, Aug. 31.

Emergency Manager Monette Walker kicked off the standdown stating that September is National Preparedness Month. As such, the Navy will be kicking off the program "Ready Navy" to help us prepare for an emergency -- any type of emergency -- 365 days a year, Walker said.

Emergencies happen, often with little or no notice. By taking action beforehand you can be prepared for any emergency.

"The Navy's goal is to make sure that everyone in the Navy community knows how to prepare for any emergency that could affect them," Walker added.

"Severe thunderstorms are our biggest threat in this area," said Walker.

"But, we're coming into the peak of hurricane season," Walker added. "So don't let your guard down."

Isaac has caused a lot of flooding in New Orleans, Walker stated. "Storm surge and rain were some of the biggest factors. No matter what category storms are, they all cause damage. Flooding is the worst effect. There are an estimated one million people right now without power because of flooding."

Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer, reiterated Walker's words saying, "September and October are the busiest months for hurricanes. What we must watch for are the first cold fronts that 'come down' from Dallas."

During hurricane season, storms may be heading in one direction and then seem to "turn on a dime" and move inland where we were hoping they weren't.

"Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected," Walker added.

As such we should be informed, make a plan, and build a kit -- tenants of "Ready Navy."

"Ready Navy supports Fleet readiness," Walker said. "When Sailors know their families are prepared for an emergency, they can focus on the mission at hand. The most

see *Prepare* on page 5

## Tokens not needed to remember Sept. 11

By Fifi Kieschnick  
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

There are numerous "survivor stories" and everyone has an account of where he or she was when the first jet hit the World Trade Center that fateful Sept. 11.

But only a handful of us can say that they were on a jet flying out of Washington, D.C., from Andrews Air Force Base, while another was heading in the opposite direction 15,000 feet below, which subsequently hit our nation's military headquarters.

"I know where I was that day," said Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer. "I was briefing Brent Scowcroft about nuclear weapons on board an E-4B (Boeing 747)."

That aircraft was part of the National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC) based out of Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C.

"We were one of many commands practicing a global wargaming and communication exercise called 'Global Guardian.' My aircraft was one of three brought to full alert status for the exercise.

"But we had a secondary mission, to fly to Washington, D.C. that morning to pick up Mr. Scowcroft," McLaughlin added. "He was appointed by President Bush to analyze the nations' nuclear arsenal and strategic plans," McLaughlin said.

"While we were flying into Washington, D.C., we heard over one of the many communications nets that an airplane had crashed into a tower at the World Trade Center. We thought it odd at the time that on such a nice clear morning a plane could have hit that building. It never dawned on us at that moment that a terrorist attack was underway."

McLaughlin said that their aircraft landed at Andrews AFB, loaded Scowcroft and his travelling party on board and had just begun the briefing on nuclear weapons and the nation's nuclear warfighting plan when things started to change rather rapidly.

When briefing a VIP, McLaughlin said, you are never interrupted by a member of the team.

Never.

"That's the protocol. You give the briefing, memorized, and someone sitting behind you changes the slides on cue, without prompting from the briefer. That's just the way it's done."

But, he could see from the podium in the briefing space that  
see *Sept. 11* on page 8



Pictured above, military members rendered honors as fire and rescue workers unfurled a huge American flag over the side of the Pentagon during rescue and recovery work following the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. (U.S. Navy photo by Michael W. Pendergrass ) Pictured left, Soldiers of A Company, 3rd Infantry (The Old Guard), gather the flag being lowered from the side of the Pentagon, where it hung beside the impact site of terrorist air crash. The soldiers retired the flag ceremonially Oct. 11, 2001. It will never be flown again. (Photo by Jim Garamone)

## From the Bridge



Capt. Mark McLaughlin  
Commanding Officer



Greetings Team Kingsville!

Greetings Team Kingsville!

In this issue, I am going to provide information about a policy change I am going to implement at the MS3 Santiago Fitness Center beginning Oct. 1.

Since we opened the doors for business on May 7, we have had 220 towels go missing, which has cost the Fitness Center nearly \$1,500.

Effective Monday, Oct. 1, a new towel checkout program will be implemented at the Fitness Center to eliminate this problem. This new program, which is basically an "exchange" program, will require all participants/patrons who need a towel supplied by the MWR staff, to purchase a \$5 customized towel dog tag from the Fitness Center front counter. The dog tag is good for as long as the program participant/patron is here on NAS Kingsville. The dog tag purchase will be a one-time purchase; unless the dog tag is lost, the towel is lost, or the participant/patron wants to purchase additional towel dog tags.

The process is pretty simple. The program participant/patron will receive a towel for each dog tag turned in to the front counter staff (1-for-1 exchange). In turn, the program participant/patron will receive a dog tag for each towel turned in to the front counter staff (1-for-1 exchange).

Participation in the new program is op-

tional; patrons can bring their own towel to the Fitness Center; however, towels are required for all patrons using facility fitness equipment and gear, weight equipment, cardio equipment, sit-up mats, spinning bikes, etc.

The Fitness Center staff will not maintain a tracking system or database of program participants/patrons or issue refunds for dog tags purchased. If you lose your dog tag or fail to provide one when requesting a towel, I will not authorize a grace or issue a towel without you purchasing a new dog tag.

Our new replacement towels will be la-

beled NASK Santiago Fitness Center for the program so we can identify government property easily.

I am sorry to have to make such a change but it is obvious that the loss rate of towels is not sustainable in the future, so we'll go this direction and see if we can avoid these unnecessary costs to the Fitness Center. If I can't check the costs under the new program, I will be forced to cancel MWR supplied towels and require all patrons entering the complex to produce their own towel. I ask for your assistance in helping us with the policy change please.

Until next time ~Skipper Mac



**Staying Navy** — AC2 Israel Cansino reenlisted in the U.S. Navy for six more years of service recently with orders to USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). The Lubbock, Texas, native joined the Navy in 2008. Pictured here, Cmdr. Scott Gunderson, air operations officer, provides the oath of enlistment as Cansino's wife Anna looks on.

## Deckplate Leadership



CMDCM(EXW/SW)  
Randy Foust  
Command Master Chief



Team Kingsville,

Here are things I need you to know...

**Sexual assault is a crime!** We, NAS Kingsville, need to say no more! No more hurting each other; it is well within our ability to stop the ever increasing trend.

**I need your help!**

It is first and foremost an issue of respect. If you sexually assault a shipmate, you obviously do not respect that person.

If you see, hear or know about an incident, you are not allowed to just look the other way or fail to act. If you see a shipmate heading into troubled waters, step up and intervene. Intervention is not just head on confrontation, it can be as simple as tell-

ing your Chief and letting the chief act.

If you are sexually assaulted please know you have the full weight of the Chain of Command supporting you. There are two types of reports and the victims decide by choosing who they report the incident to. If victims report the incident to a Chaplain, SAPR Advocate or a Medical Provider, then they can choose "restricted" or "unrestricted." If the incident is reported to anyone else, it will be an "unrestricted" Report.

Please remember Sexual Assault is a CRIME, no matter the circumstances and no matter if there are other rules or regulations violated at the same time.

If you need to report a sexual assault or need to talk to someone about sexual assault, you can call 877-995-5247, the Navy Wide SAPR Hotline. SAPR Hotline respondents will keep everything confidential and you can keep the report "restricted," if you choose.

As we all know, have experienced and understand, our lives in the military are stressful! I am not talking about the stress

of serving on the ground in Afghanistan: I am talking about the stress of the day-to-day pressure of being on time, wearing the uniform, performing your duties. But, it is not enough to just do your job. I know you serve in a collateral duty, participate in a community relations activity, take off-duty education, study for advancement, find time for your family and deal with all the pressures of real world issues. On top of our normal day-to-day stressors, we have the pressure of the declining economy and the looming threat of force reductions through PTS (Perform to Serve).

If we are allowed to stay Navy we can look forward to longer and more frequent deployments. Again, I NEED YOUR HELP! Look to your shipmates and if there are any signs of "Orange" stress level, step up and intervene -- ACT! If you are not confident in asking, then turn to your Chief and let the chief know you noticed something different, however slight.

September is Suicide Prevention Month!

see *Deckplate* on page 4

## Flying K

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This paper is published for people like HM3 Billy Esquivel who recently transferred from Camp Pendleton, Calif., to Branch Health Clinic Kingsville. Esquivel entered the service in April 2008 and is a native of White-wright, Texas.

# Millington hosts Naval aircraft evacuated in preparation for Hurricane Isaac

**By MCSN Christopher Webb**  
Navy Recruiting Command Public Affairs

Seventeen pilots from Training Squadron (VT) 6 and 14 pilots from VT-2 evacuated Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, Fla., and flew to Millington Regional Jetport, Tenn., Aug. 27 in preparation for Hurricane Isaac.

Rodney Hendrix, executive director of Millington Airport Authority, said they received a call over the weekend indicating that the aircraft would be heading their way.

The squadrons left the gulf area to keep themselves and their 31 T-6B Texan II aircraft safe from potential high winds, heavy rain and flooding. The training squadrons are two of many from NAS Whiting Field that provide training for Navy and Marine Corps pilots.

Millington Regional Jetport is a convenient choice for squadrons escaping coastal regions, said Hendrix. The Jetport has a military fuels contract allowing pilots to refuel easily and there is plenty of ramp space. The Jetport is located adjacent to Naval Support Activity Mid-South, which is home to Naval Personnel Command and Navy Recruiting Command.

Right now it is unknown how long the pilots will be in Millington.

In addition to VT-6 and VT-2 evacuating, Pensacola-Milton area commands evacuated all of their squadrons and close to 4,500 students Monday afternoon. Squadrons and students were sent to safe locations across the country to wait out Hurricane Isaac.

Mike Melillo, the air traffic manager of Millington Regional Jetport, said it's been about two years since the squadrons have evacuated from coastal areas and used Millington Regional Jetport to ride out a severe storm. The biggest and most memorable of all was when hurricane Katrina hit.

During Hurricane Katrina, Millington housed 120 helicopters, 104 T-34 Mentor, four C-130 Hercules and several T-39 Sabreliners.

Before Millington was decommissioned in 1995, it was the largest inland naval air station in the world, housing about 44,000 personnel at its peak. It dates back to World War I, when the U.S. Army created Park Field as a training ground for air and ground crews.



T-6B Texan II training aircraft assigned to Training Air Wing 5 from NAS Whiting Field, Fla., are staged on the tarmac at Millington Regional Jetport after being evacuated from their home station in preparation for Hurricane Isaac. The aircraft remained in Millington until the storm passed. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ty C. Connors)

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## In the Break



Capt. Joe Evans  
Commander  
Training Air Wing TWO



Greetings NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO,

It was a busy, hot August and now Labor Day is past us. The heat hasn't left just yet, though, so we need to stay focused, hydrated and safe.

TW-2 conducted our 4th Quarter Safety Stand Down last Friday. If you are a part of the Wing, you know that we spent a significant amount of time talking about "Character and Integrity" as well as "Sexual Assault Prevention."

So what do those topics have to do with operational safety?

More than you might think. In reality, safe and effective operations are interwoven with the concepts derived from our fundamental values -- Honor, Courage, and Commitment. It really all comes down to trust and the necessity to have it beyond any doubt with all of our squadron mates. Trust, the resultant effect of character and integrity, along with a solid understanding of NATOPS, SOP and our training instructions are the fundamental ingredients to safety both in and out of work. We can keep it safe by doing the right thing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This week marks the beginning of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Please keep tuned to messages from your command and from NASK. The Navy considers suicide prevention an "All Hands" evolution all the time.

Hopefully we will all find the time in our busy schedules to pause and take a moment to consider preventive actions. The Navy encourages us to "ACT" in order to save a life:

Ask if someone is thinking of suicide.

Care – Listen, offer hope, don't judge.

Treat – Take action, don't leave the person alone, get assistance.

As this column goes to post, we will be completing initial Carrier Qualifications (CQ) for 24 Student Naval Aviators on board USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), out of Cecil Field at Jacksonville, Fla. We wish all the student "tailhookers" the best of luck.

Congratulations to our new Wingees. Two weeks ago we winged nine of our newest Naval Aviators. Congrats to Lt.j.g. Mary Ruttum who, selected Super Hornets at NAS Oceana, Va.; Lt.j.g. Jamison Schrock, who selected Super Hornets at NAS Lemoore, Calif.; Lt.j.g. Christopher Polhemus, who selected Super Hornets at NAS Lemoore; Lt.j.g. John Coleman, who selected Super Hornets at NAS Oceana; Lt.j.g. Darren Elder, who selected Super Hornets at NAS Lemoore; Lt.j.g. Neal Dunne, who selected Super Hornets at NAS Lemoore; Lt.j.g. Jeffrey Deliz, who selected Hornets at NAS Oceana; Lt.j.g. Tom Flynn, who selected Super Hornets at NAS Oceana; and 1st Lt. Marshall Clinkscales, who selected Hornets at NAS Miramar and was also awarded "Commodore's List" and "Top Hook." Congrats to all of our new wingees!!!

Best to all,  
"Joe Bags" Evans

*"Honor isn't about perfection, but about trying to do the right thing every day." Author Unknown*

## Deckplate from page 2

Here again, **I need your help!**

Suicide is a "plague" that is still on the rise in our Nation, as well as in our Navy!

We know that there are signs and indicators that a Shipmate is heading down that dark path, but we need to pay attention and do not be afraid to ACT (Ask Care Treat). Our Navy has always been a tight-knit service due to the very nature of our mission on shore, ships, subs and aircraft. We depend on every member of the crew to be physically and mentally healthy. When that is not the case, we HAVE to reach out and do our best for each other.

If you find things are too much or your Shipmate is struggling and you do not feel able to talk to your Chain of Command, you can call 1-800-273-TALK(8255) opt 1.

Finally all of these are Sailor-centric and Shipmate based. Work with me as we strive to eradicate these issues from our culture. You are the key to a stronger Navy!

Keep up the great work and know I am extremely proud to be part of Team Kingsville!

Keep cool, stay safe and have fun!  
CMC

## NAS Kingsville Religious Services Offered

**Sunday**  
at McFall Memorial Chapel  
10:30 a.m. - Family Bible Worship  
12:30 p.m. - Catholic Mass

**Wednesday**  
7 p.m. - Officer Christian Fellowship  
at Hunter's Cove Community Center

**Thursday**  
11:30 - Luncheon Bible Study  
in the Chapel  
4:30 p.m. - Catholic Choir Practice  
5:30 p.m. - Protestant Music/Prayer  
6 p.m. - Dinner Fellowship  
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**National POW/MIA Recognition Day commemorated Sept. 21**

The Navy will join the nation in commemorating Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Recognition Day Sept. 21, as announced in NAVADMIN 262/12.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is a day of observance for all Americans to offer remembrance, honor, and respect to service members who were prisoners of war and those who remain missing as a result of the nation's conflicts.

The 2012 national theme, "Until They Are Home," pays special tribute to the families of these service members who have sacrificed and endured on behalf of their loved ones. *(From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs)*

**Prepare from page 1** \_\_\_\_\_ important thing is to plan and put together your home emergency kit in case you need to evacuate."

What other types of emergencies should we prepare for? Besides natural disasters, we should also be prepared for chemical emergencies, in which we may need to shelter in place. Because of our role of defending our country, Navy installations could also be a terrorist target.

Just last fall, nearly 9,000 Navy families were displaced by the wildfires in Southern California. And, the memory of Hurricane Katrina is still vivid to many Navy personnel. More than 22,000 Navy families on the Gulf Coast were affected.

"If you have an emergency kit at home, a portable kit and an emergency plan, you'll be ready for most types of emergencies," Walker added.

Families should also have plans for what to do, where they'll meet, and who they'll call in emergencies.

In terms of emergency kits, start with the basics such as non-perishable food items, water, simple first aid kit and daily medications. Expand from there by adding a flashlight extra batteries, battery-operated radio and more. To take a look at a comprehensive checklist, go to [www.ready.navy.mil](http://www.ready.navy.mil).

Other topics covered during the stand-down included suicide prevention and distracted driving.

**Bowling Leagues**

**In the Doghouse League Standings as of Aug. 28**

Place	Team	Won	Lost
1	DNA	4	0
2	Los Leones	4	0
3	Here 4 Beer	3	1
4	Three J's	1	3
5	Spare Tires	1	3
6	3 Minds Gutter	0	4
7	Alley Cats	0	4
8	Ghost	0	0

**High Score Game-Men:** Michael Shipley, 278; Joey Soliz, 226.

**High Score Series-Men:** Michael Shipley, 577; Joey Soliz, 557.

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Pictured below, Former Ground Training Officer Charlie Michalk, left, and CS2 Jeffrey Hall set up tables under the tent. Pictured right, Navy League member Lance Hamm, front, and MWR's Cathy Powlas handled the cooking duties for the tailgate social.



## Tailgate kicks-off season as Javelinas open with win

Story & photos by Jon Gagné  
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK) Javelinas opened their 2012 season in grand style Sept. 1, with a 35-7 win over Central Washington at Javelina Stadium in front of more than 9,600 fans. In addition to unveiling the 2012 team, Texas A&M Kingsville also christened its new synthetic field turf with a victory.

Leading up to the game, the smell of barbecue curved its way around the tents and waving banners in the tailgate area where civic groups and 'Hoggie fans' got themselves revved up for the game. The Kingsville Navy League and the NAS Kingsville MWR department sponsored a tailgate tent for base personnel. The Navy League sponsored the food and beverages, while MWR provided the tent, tables and chairs. About 25 base personnel stopped by the tailgate area prior to the opening kick-off.

"We tried to set-up a larger tent but an afternoon shower and heavy winds didn't cooperate," said Navy League member Lance Hamm. "So, MWR brought a smaller tent and we set it up after the rain stopped and got everything ready to go."

Among those who stopped by the tent were Training Air Wing TWO Commander Capt. Joe and Stephanie Evans, Command Master Chief Randy Foust, Kingsville Commissioner Diane Leubert, and Dick and Sandra Messbarger. Hamm, former NAS Kingsville Ground Training Officer Charlie Michalk, MWR's Cathy Powlas, and CS2 Jeff Hall handled the set-up, while Hamm and Powlas tackled the grill.

As game time neared, the fans headed into Javelina Stadium and got their first

look at the new field. The Javelina marching band and TAMUK cheerleaders got the fans pumped up for the opening kick-off. And the Javelinas responded in a big way.

TAMUK got on the scoreboard first with a 23-yard field goal by Matt Stoll to take a 3-0 lead late midway through the first quarter. Stoll's second field goal of the game stretched the lead to 6-0 in the second quarter and a 14-yard touchdown run by running back Jonathan Woodson increased the lead to 12-0 with just over two minutes left in the first half. Central Washington got on the scoreboard in the final minute of the first half when quarterback Ryan Robertson hit wide receiver Tayoy Moore on a 15-yard touchdown pass to close the gap to 12-7 at halftime.

After the intermission, the Javelinas took complete control of the game on both sides of the ball. Another 14-yard touchdown run by Woodson capped a 5-play, 55-yard drive to start the third quarter. Three minutes later, following a Wildcat turnover forced by the Javelina defense, a shuttle pass from TAMUK quarterback Nate Poppell to wide receiver Robert Armstrong hit pay dirt to give the Hogs a 25-7 lead. TAMUK would add another field goal, Stoll's third of the game, to increase the lead to 28-7 heading into the final quarter.

Poppell would add the icing to the cake with a 48-yard touchdown pass to tight end Jake Willingham midway through the final quarter to cap the scoring.

The TAMUK defense forced four turnovers in the game and the Javelinas were able to score on each of them. The Hogs forced three fumbles on the night,

*see Javelinas on next page*



Capt. Joe Evans, left, and his wife Stephanie, right, chat with NAS Kingsville Command Master Chief Randy Foust prior to the opening kickoff.



The Javelinas take the field to open their 2012 season. Head Coach Bo Atterberry's squad hopes to rebound after a disappointing 6-5 season last year with another run at the playoffs.

**Javelinas from previous page**

recovering two, and picked off two passes. On the offensive side, Poppell went 14-for-29 through the air for 151 yards, with no picks and two touchdowns, while Woodson picked up 92 all-purpose yards (71/21) with a pair

of touchdown runs.

The win moved the Javelinas into the American Coaches Poll top 25 – a jump of 17 spots from the final preseason poll. The Javelinas, ranked 24th, travel to Abilene to

take on 9th-ranked Abilene Christian Sept. 8. ACU opened its season with a convincing 51-0 win over McMurray State, Sept. 1.

TAMUK will then take on West Texas University (0-1) at Cowboys Stadium in

Arlington Sept. 15, before returning home to take on Midwestern State in Kingsville Sept. 22.



Quarterback Nate Poppell (6) gets excellent protection from the offensive line as he looks to go deep during the second quarter.



Running back Jonathan Woodson (3) finished the night with two touchdown runs and 92 all-purpose yards for the Javelinas, including 71 yards rushing and 21 yards receiving.



**Wings of Gold --** Wings of Gold – Congratulations to the nine students who were winged Naval aviators on Aug. 24 at the Captain’s Club. Pictured are, from left: (bottom row) Lt. Col. Scott Schoeman, Training Squadron 22 (VT-22) executive officer (XO); Cmdr. Quino Alonzo, Training Squadron 21 (VT-21) commanding officer (CO); Lt.j.g. Jeffrey Deliz; Lt.j.g. Neal Dunne; 1st Lt. Marshall Clinkscales; Lt.j.g. John

Coleman; Capt. Joseph Evans, Commodore, Training Air Wing TWO (TW-2); Cmdr. Rey Molina, TW-2 chief staff officer; Cmdr. Brian Beck, VT-21 XO; (back row) 1st Lt. Nathaniel Thayer, of VT-21; Cmdr. Darren Guenther, VT-22 CO; Lt.j.g. Mary Ruttum; Lt.j.g. Jamison Schrock; Lt.j.g. Darren Elder; Lt.j.g. Thomas Flynn; Lt.j.g. Christopher Polhemus; Capt. Andrew Straessle, VT-22 instructor; Maj. Derek Bibby, TW-2 senior Marine. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs)

**Sept. 11 from page 1**

there was turmoil in the “battlestaff” space, a windowed-compartment behind the briefing area that houses the operations team and all their materials.

“I could tell there was a lot of commotion in the battlestaff, which is unheard of and not allowed when a VIP is on board, especially receiving a briefing,” McLaughlin said. “Then things got really interesting.”

McLaughlin said he felt the hand of his assistant working the computer behind him slip a note into his hand.

“My first reaction was, ‘I am going to strangle that kid for breaking all protocol only three feet away from Mr. Scowcroft.’”

The message contained three simple words: Captain. Battlestaff. Now.

“So I broke from protocol, excused myself to Mr. Scowcroft and looked straight at the NAOC commanding officer and told him his presence was requested in the battlestaff area immediately.

“Capt. (Joseph) Gershon (the NAOC CO) shot me a look that I wouldn’t wish on anyone, for again, it was breaking with protocol on briefing individuals at the highest levels of our government.”

McLaughlin said he continued his briefing, but could tell “something big was happening” because of the commotion in the battlestaff compartment.

“The second protocol followed during VIP briefings at this level,” McLaughlin continued, “is that once you leave the room, you never return until the brief is over. No distractions are allowed for the VIP or the briefer -- that is the rule.

“Capt. Gershon came back into the briefing spaces, gave me the standard Navy hold signal -- a raised fist -- and he said to Mr. Scowcroft, ‘it appears that the country is under attack, sir.’

“Adding to the confusion was that we were in a global exercise and many of us thought it was part of the exercise injects.”

But it rapidly became clear that the exercise was immediately terminated and real-world events were taking precedence.

McLaughlin explained that during the next few minutes, everyone began to fully comprehend that we (the country) were under attack.

“It became very apparent that our aircraft had to get airborne for safety reasons, so we did.

“We learned a few months later that when our aircraft departed Andrews Air Force Base and headed out to the northwest, we had flown right over the top of the aircraft that eventually impacted the Pentagon,” he said.

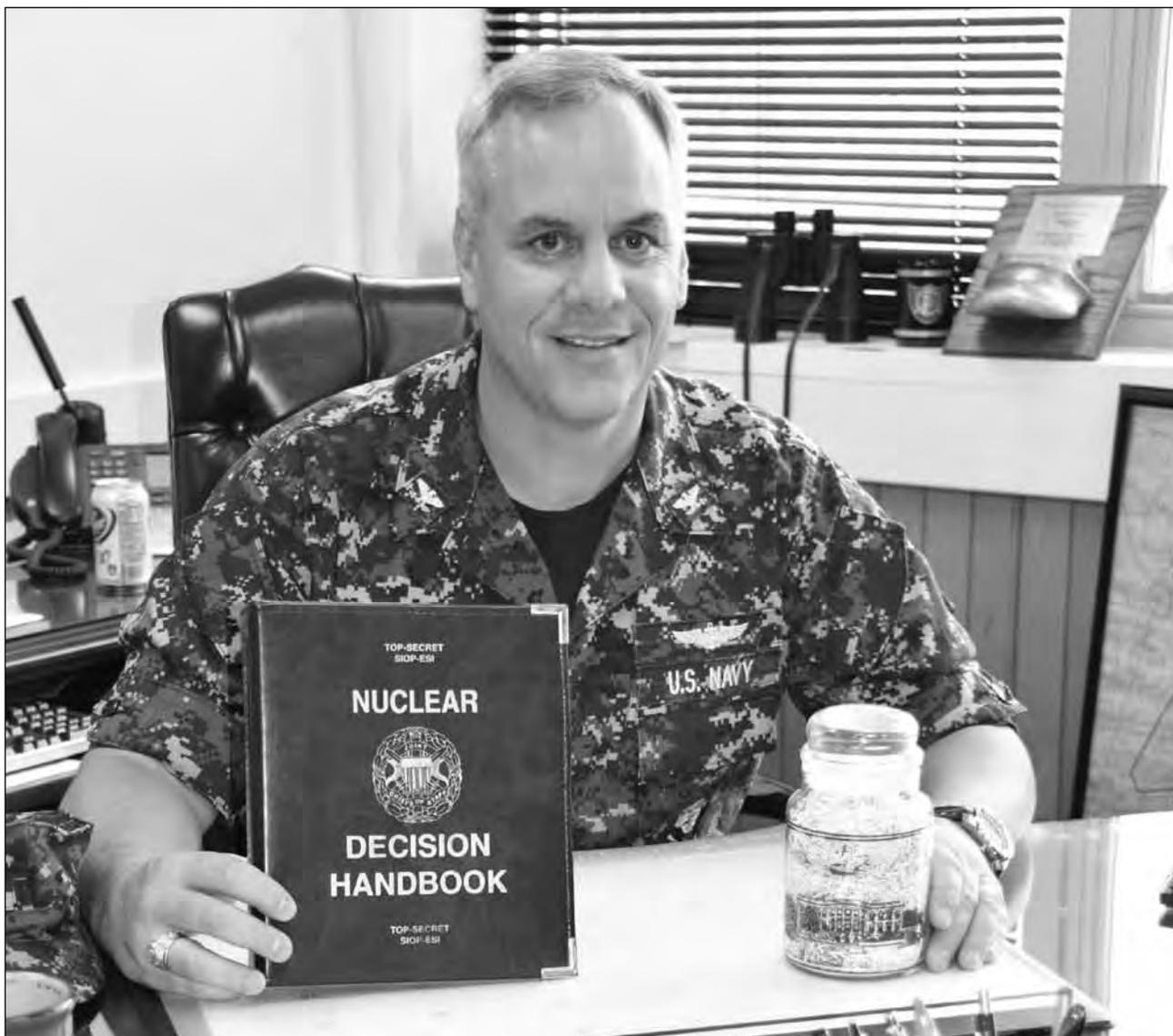
On Sept. 11, McLaughlin was assigned to Operations Team One as the Single Integrated Operations Plan Advisor to the National Command Authority -- the President and the Secretary of Defense.

“My job was to be the expert on nuclear war plans and give all the VIP briefs, and I was responsible for handling the Nuclear Decision Handbook.

“It was only supposed to be a single day of duty -- to provide the briefing to Mr. Scowcroft,” McLaughlin added. “It turned into being on duty for 34 straight days.”

The National Military Command Center (NMCC), which is the National Command Authority’s central command and control center, is located at the Pentagon. It never stood down during the crash and subsequent fire there. Miraculously, it was untouched and the staff there directed the “Flying Pentagon” to land in Omaha, Neb., so that Scowcroft and his staff could debark. Then, the aircraft resumed airborne operations.

McLaughlin said later they could see there was a lot of chaos in the country, but his team’s mission was to remain



Capt. Mark McLaughlin displays what remains of his Nuclear Decision Handbook that he carried Sept. 11, 2001. The glass jar contains the pages -- shredded and melted.

in the air.

All flights were cancelled nationwide and the only aircraft in the skies were military.

“During the very-extended conference call that began with the attacks and continued well into the next day, at about 3 a.m., our aircraft was advised by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration), that we were the only aircraft airborne over North America at that time,” McLaughlin said.

“All the fighter coverage had landed for fuel or crew swaps, and in that brief moment, we were the only aircraft flying, when normally there are more than 7,000 aircraft

airborne at any given time.

“The FAA commented that this probably hasn’t happened since the Wright Brothers. How many people can say that?”

Today, McLaughlin’s office carries mementos of that tour of duty with the NAOC and that day aboard the “Flying Pentagon.”

But he really doesn’t need those tokens to remind him of what happened on Sept. 11.

None of us do.

## Navy joins the nation in honoring 2012 Hispanic American Heritage Month

The Navy joins the nation Sept. 15 in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, which will be observed through Oct. 15.

With a national theme of “Diversity United, Building America’s Future Today,” the observance celebrates the histories, cultures and contributions of Americans who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

According to 2010 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Hispanics comprise 16.3 percent of the total United States population, or 50.5 million people, forming our country’s largest racial or ethnic minority. Additionally, it is projected that by 2050, a quarter of the nation’s workforce will be Hispanic. The Navy’s workforce reflects this diversity - today, over 58,000 Hispanic active-duty and Reserve Sailors and officers and nearly 15,000 Hispanic civilians serve in the Navy Total Force, including four Hispanic flag officers and

172 Hispanic master chiefs.

In his 2011 National Hispanic Heritage Month Presidential Proclamation, President Barack Obama noted, “The future of America is inextricably linked to the future of our Hispanic community. Our country thrives on the diversity and ingenuity of all our people, and our ability to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world will depend greatly on the success of Hispanics.”

For more information the history of Hispanics in the Navy, visit <http://www.history.navy.mil/special%20highlights/hispanic/hispanic-index.htm>. For more information and resources on Hispanics in the military and Hispanic American Heritage Month, visit the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) website at <http://www.deomi.org/SpecialObservance/>. ( *From Navy Office of Diversity and Inclusion Public Affairs*)

*Have you met ?.....*

## Cmdr. Scott Gunderson



**C**mdr. Scott Gunderson is NAS Kingsville's new Air Operations Officer. He's new to the job, but not to the air station. Gunderson has been stationed here twice before – once with Training Air Wing TWO and another tour with Training Squadron 22 as an instructor pilot.

"I'm excited to be here and hope, with my background, to enhance relationships with the Wing and squadrons," Gunderson said.

The 25-year veteran enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1987 as a P-3 air crewman. He later received a Secretary of the Navy nomination to the U.S. Naval Academy graduating in 1994.

Gunderson recently returned to South Texas from a busy tour in Bahrain and is looking forward to spending time with his wife and their four children, who range in age from 6 to 15. They live in Calallen and when he's not involved with the kids' soccer, swimming, track and gymnastics, he

enjoys fishing, hunting and other outdoor activities.

"I like spending my spare time with my wife and kids," Gunderson said. "It's important for me to 'reconnect' with my family on this shore tour."

The Northwoods, Wis., native sees his job as ensuring smooth operation of airfield facilities that directly relate to flight operations and taking care of his Sailors.

"This is my last tour and I'm glad that I will get to work with Sailors," Gunderson said. "One of the most important jobs I have here is to help my Sailors grow personally and professionally."

Gunderson adds that he likes football – is a Green Bay Packers fan and owner of a share of the team. He also loves V-8 engines and dislikes ketchup.

If there is one thing about him you should know it's that he prefers living in a cold climate. "But, I always get stationed in hot places .... Coincidence?" he asks.



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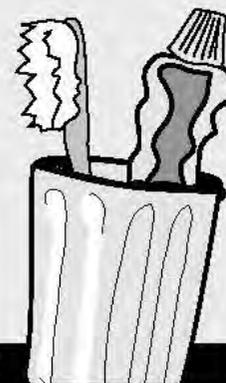
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### Summer reading

-- Several NAS Kingsville youngsters enjoyed the Library's summer reading program, which ended recently with an End-of-Summer Reading Party. Summer reading participants are pictured right: from left, (front row) Isabella Boatfield, Briana Santoscoy, Frankie Brown, and Bentley Santoscoy, (back row) Sadie Hamm, Sophia Hamm, Brianna Blue, Maria Brackeen, and Vickie Jacobson. (Courtesy photo)



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~ WEEK THREE OF EIGHT ~

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12. If at all possible, get your cat first, then add a dog to the household, not the other way around. This may reduce fighting over territories.
13. When introducing a kitten to your household, provide food, water, a litterbox, scratching post, bed and toys, and confine your kitten to a safe room (a bathroom or spare bedroom) for the first few days, and any time you cannot directly supervise him. A pheromone diffuser in this safe room can help keep a cat calm.
14. Keep all yarn, string, thread and needles in a secure cabinet. Yarn or string can become caught on a cat's barbed tongue and may be swallowed.
15. Don't give cows milk to kittens or adult cats because it may cause gas and diarrhea.

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