



Naval Air Station Kingsville FLYING K

Sailor selected to
join officer ranks
-- page 7

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Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

www.cnic.navy.mil/kingsville

February 21, 2014

NAS Kingsville to take part in Navywide Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield security exercise

Naval Air Station Kingsville will be participating in a Navy-wide security exercise Feb. 24-28. Exercise Solid Curtain - Citadel Shield is a required annual training evolution that will be conducted on all Navy installations in the continental United States.

This annual exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of Navy Security Forces to respond to threats to installations and units. Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield is a regularly scheduled security exercise and is not being conducted in response to any specific threat.

Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions to normal base and station operations during this exercise, but there may be times when the exercise causes traffic congestion around NAS Kingsville or delays in base access. Area residents may also see increased security activity associated with the exercise.

All personnel accessing the air station during this period are reminded that all vehicles are subject to search, and proper and current vehicle registration, proof of current insurance and valid driver's license is required for base access.

For more information about Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield, contact the NAS Kingsville Public Affairs Office at (361) 516-6375 or e-mail kngv-pao@navy.mil.

CORRECTION:

In our last issue of the *Flying K* we announced that nationally-known Wayne Boggs of Tampa, Fla., would be serving as the Air Boss for the 2014 Wings Over South Texas air show. Unfortunately, the contract has been awarded to another company, and the new company is David Shultz Airshows, LLC, out of Pennsylvania. We'll have more information on him in our next issue. We apologize for the error and any inconvenience our announcement may have caused.

Air show update:

World's smallest jet to herd with the Big Dawgs

By Jon Gagné
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The line-up for the Wings Over South Texas Air Show at NAS Kingsville, to be held March 29-30, already features the top military and civilian acts on the air show circuit. Headlining the show will be the legendary US Navy Blue Angels, world aerobatic champion Rob Holland, Greg Colyer and his "Ace Maker" T-33 Shooting Star and Randy Ball and his Russian-made MiG 17F. Now, the "Big Dawgs" will share the spotlight with the world's smallest jet – a variant of the BD-5 microjet aircraft flown by James Bond in the movie "Octopussy" in 1983.

The FLS Microjet, piloted by Justin Lewis, is a fully-updated version of the BD-5 featured in the film. The original BD-5 was created in the 1970's by Jim Bede of Bede Aircraft, Inc. It was an aircraft that could be built at home using a kit, offering a high performance propeller or jet aircraft at just a fraction of the normal costs. But due to logistics, the aircraft proved too difficult to build.

Bede Aircraft went out of business after just a few years, and it looked like the BD-5 was going to follow. But in 1992, BD Micro Technologies was formed and a long process to update the design of the aircraft with today's technical advances began. The result is the FLS (flight Line Series) series, which Lewis flies today.

Lewis, a former Naval Aviator and current pilot with the Arkansas Air National Guard, is excited to bring his microjet to NAS Kingsville for the 2014 Wings Over South Texas Air Show. For Lewis, who was born in Texas and raised in Virginia, Wings Over South Texas is a "homecoming" of sorts. He earned his wings of gold at NAS Kingsville in 2001 with VT-21. He came back to NAS Kingsville in 2007 and spent four years as an instructor pilot with VT-22 before leaving the Navy and shifting to the Arkansas Air National Guard.

"I'm excited to be coming to NAS Kingsville for the Wings Over South Texas air show," Lewis said recently. "I've got a lot of great memories from my time in Kingsville and our team is thrilled to be showcasing our aircraft during the show."

Lewis continues to fly in the Air National Guard today but he has also expanded his horizons to perform at air shows throughout



Pictured above, Justin Lewis poses with his FLS Microjets. Lewis, a former Naval Aviator and current pilot with the Arkansas Air National Guard is excited to bring his microjet to NAS Kingsville for the 2014 Wings Over South Texas Air Show. Top photo, his microjet soars through the skies. (Courtesy photos)

the country in his FLS microjet. He made his debut on the air show circuit in July 2011, and he has quickly become an act that air show directors seek out when they begin to plan their air shows.

The aircraft has a top speed of 320 mph, a maximum range of 200 nautical miles and a max landing of 6-plus G's. It has a wing span of 17 ft., a length of 13 ft., and stands 5 ft., 9 inches tall. It features a Quantum Turbine System engine, with a thrust of 265 lbs.

"Just look at it," Lewis says about the

aircraft. "You'd think there is no way a person could fit in the cockpit. It's so unique. It's impossible for people to believe that anything that small could also have such high performance."

Lewis is certain you'll walk away as impressed with this aircraft as he was the original BD-5 two decades ago.

Also on the card this year are two Texas natives who have performed at NAS Kingsville for more than 20 years. Air show

see *Air Show* on page 7

From the Bridge



Capt. Chris Misner
Commanding Officer



Shipmates,

On Feb. 23, we celebrate the 178th anniversary of the beginning of the 13-day siege of that tiny mission in San Antonio, the Alamo.

The Alamo is more than just our state's top tourist attraction or the inspiration for books and movies; it's a part of our history and heritage that transcends what transpired there. Outnumbered over 10-to-1 and facing overwhelming firepower and a constant bombardment, Colonel Travis and his men fought and died gloriously on the battle field.

Men like Colonel Travis, Sam Houston, Davey Crocket and Jim Bowie, fought and died for a cause they believed was much greater than them. Their actions became the "stuff" of legend – they become the modern-day superheroes everyone needs to look to when times are tough. I think we could only hope to be so lucky to have our children and grandchildren look up to people like them, rather than the so-called heroes our children are "bombarded with" every day by pop-culture.

I have shared this part of the Alamo legend before. The now famous letter from Colonel Travis was carried to Gonzales by Captain Thomas Martin. Captain Martin was an alum of Norwich University – the Military College. I earned my bachelors and masters degrees at Norwich and learned to march on those same parade grounds as Captain Martin. What made his part of the story so profound was that after delivering the letter to the reinforcement army, Captain Martin chose to return to his comrades-in-arms in San Antonio and later died in the battle. He lived the idea of "citizen soldier" and "service above self."

If you have never take time to study Travis' letter, you should. It has been called by some historians a "declaration of defiance" and a "masterpiece of American patriotism." He opens the letter by calling on "the People of Texas and all Americans of the world." Colonel Travis must have had a sense that this "grand experiment" called the United States of America, which fought for its own independence just 60 years earlier, would someday become an exceptional nation and a leader of the free world.

He writes, "I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded surrender at discretion; otherwise, the garrison is to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from

the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat."

He goes on to detail some of his logistical issues and ends by stating a reality that many of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have faced during these last 13 years of war, "If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country." He ends with his famous underlined point of "Victory or Death."

I am passionate about leadership and teaching my staff that service above self and having values and a moral compass to guide us in our decision-making is the key to our daily successes. I firmly believe that Naval Air Station Kingsville is a public institution and therefore we should work to never place our public trust in doubt. Thomas Jefferson said that those who hold public office should consider themselves public property.

I think America is at a crossroad. We continue to fight a war overseas, our econo-

my is still struggling and it sometimes looks as though our future is uncertain. I challenge each of you to take the next 13 days to spend some time with your children teaching them about what happened during those 13 days at the Alamo.

My family will spend those days not only talking about the Alamo, but also talking about our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence and the history of this great nation. My wife and I will teach our children that America is an exceptional nation. I will tell them to be proud of our accomplishments as a nation and not be ashamed for what we have or embarrassed for the things we have accomplished. We are Texans and most importantly, we are Americans. We need to be proud of it and we need to act like it. My mentor once told me never to bet against America. I think he is right.

One Team, One Fight, One Focus!
Skipper



Staying Navy -- Lt. Cmdr. Shane Dudley, Air Traffic Control Facility Officer, gives ACC (AW/SW) Dale Wagner the oath of reenlistment recently as Wagner's daughter Abigail looks on. Wagner reenlisted for three more years of service. The Houston, Texas, native has 21 years of U.S. Navy service and will report to USS Ford (CVN 78), homeported in Newport News, Va., in April. (Courtesy photo)

Flying K

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This paper is published for people like Ensign Alex Wordsworth who reported to VT-21 in July as a Student Naval Aviator. The Long Valley, N.J., native has two years U.S. Navy service.

Military Saves Week encourages personnel to make responsible financial decisions

Naval Air Station Kingsville joins Commander, Navy Region Southeast, in celebrating Military Saves Week.

Capt. Chris Misner, NAS Kingsville commanding officer, signed a proclamation designating Feb. 24 through March 1 as Military Saves Week.

The Fleet and Family Support Center will hold a Military Saves open house on Feb. 25, with financial experts on hand, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Military Saves Week is intended to encourage service members to make responsible financial decisions to build wealth and reduce debt. The proclamation officially recognizes the week and calls on all personnel to take action to improve their individual and household financial situations.

“Personal financial stability is an important issue for all of our Sailors,” said Rear Adm. Rick Williamson, commander, Navy Region Southeast. “It’s very difficult for Sailors and families who are experiencing financial difficulties to focus on the mission. Our goal with Military Saves Week is to encourage everyone to assess their financial situation and ask themselves what they can be doing to improve it. We have financial advisors and resources available through the Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC) for those who could use a little help.”

Military Saves is a program that focuses on helping service members achieve their financial goals by providing savings advice, financial tools and resources, and motivation. It is a part of the Department of Defense (DoD) Financial Readiness Campaign and has been a partner with DoD since 2003.

The Military Saves campaign is not only targeted at service members, but at the entire family, because spouses and children also play a huge role in overall financial stability.

“The personal financial readiness of our service members and their families directly supports mission readiness,” said Misner.

According to Williamson, raising awareness about Military Saves and promoting effective financial planning and decision making is the responsibility of all leaders throughout the region, not only during Military Saves Week, but year round.

Service members or dependents who would like more information about resources and services offered through Military Saves, should contact the Fleet and Family Support Center at 516-6333. More information is also available at <http://www.militarysaves.org/>.



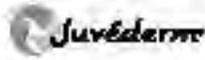
Capt. Chris Misner, NAS Kingsville commanding officer, signs a Military Saves Week proclamation as Ramon Panganiban, of the Fleet and Family Support Center, looks on. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)



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In the Break



Capt. Donald Nisbett Jr.
Commander
Training Air Wing TWO



Greetings NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO,

The rain and ice have subsided, the mercury is on the rise, and lots have happened since the last edition of the Flying K! Only five weeks remain until this year's Wings Over South Texas Air Show at NAS Kingsville. Don't miss it!

Congratulations again to our newest Naval Aviators: Lt.j.g. Brandon Allgood, Ensign Peter Buffkin, Ensign Albert Carter, Ensign James Davis II, Lt.j.g. Martin Doerr, Ensign Christopher Henley, Ensign Warren Holland, Lt.j.g. Corey Johnson, Lt.j.g. James Land, 1st Lt. Paul Lindholm, Ensign Kevin Lovell, 1st Lt. Kyle McLeod, Ensign Timothy O'Sullivan, Ensign Ryan Shults, Lt.j.g. Thomas St. George, and Lt.j.g. Casey Talbot, and 1st Lt. Kevin Tracy.

Training Air Wing TWO (TW-2) welcomes our newest member to the staff, James Duncan. Please give him a warm South Texas welcome when you see him in Admin.

BZ to one of NAS Kingsville's own, AC2 Langston, who has been selected as a candidate for Navy Officer Candidate School and departs this month for Newport, R.I.

Members of the TW-2 have also been very active in the local community. Most recently, Lt. Audrey Kovesci (VT-21), Lt. Ronnie Stahl (VT-22) and Lt.j.g. Alex Degelder (VT-22) volunteered their time to participate in Bishop High School's Career Day held Feb. 12. They took advantage of this great opportunity to interact with local students and give them a better sense of the training that takes place here on the base and aviation career alternatives in the military.

This past week, Pilot for a Day Ezekiel Ortiz and his family were welcomed aboard NAS Kingsville and given the royal treatment as they toured the facilities.

Over a three day span, students and instructor pilots enjoyed a fantastic opportu-

nity to get a detailed look and some "stick time" in the F-35 Lightning II Cockpit Demonstrator.

The Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, with Lockheed Martin as the prime contractor, is the Department of Defense's major effort for developing the next generation strike aircraft weapon systems for the Navy, Air Force, Marines, and our allies. Final assembly of the F-35 takes place at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in Fort Worth, Texas.

The U.S. Navy variant, F-35C Lightning II, will be a carrier-based, survivable strike fighter aircraft to complement the F/A-18E/F. Strike Fighter Squadron 101 (VFA-101) is the Fleet Training Squadron for the F-35C Lightning II, based at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

The U.S. Marine Corps variant, F-35B Lightning II, will have short takeoff and vertical landing capability and replace the AV-8B and F/A-18 as their only strike fighter. Fighter Attack Squadron 121 (VMFA-121) is the Corps' first operational F-35B Lightning II squadron based aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

Finally, on Feb. 19 to March 26, 1945, some of the fiercest fighting of World War II was waged on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima. The battle was a major initiative of the Pacific Campaign to secure strategic islands and airfields for strategic bombing and basing for the impending invasion of the Japanese mainland.

"The valor and sacrifice of the Marines and Sailors who fought on Iwo Jima is, today and forever, the standard by which we judge what we are and what we might become."

- General James L. Jones, 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, 27 U.S. military personnel (22 Marines and 5 Navy) were awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions during this two-month battle.

Col. David Krebs, commanding officer, MATSG -22, will be the guest speaker to commemorate this year's 58th anniversary on Feb. 22, from 10 to 11 a.m., at Sherrill Park (N. Shoreline Blvd. in Corpus Christi across the street from the Yacht Club). For more information, contact is Harry Alfeo at (361) 904-4278 or usmc545@gmail.com.

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Voting assistance available, primaries begin in March

If you would like to vote in a Federal Primary or Special Election in March, April or May, visit FVAP.gov for information about registering to vote and requesting absentee ballot, according to State deadlines and requirements.

If you are already a registered voter, states must provide requested absentee ballots 45 days before an election. If you do not receive your requested State ballot at least 30 days before an election, prepare, print and sign a

back-up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB), which you can find at FVAP.gov.

March Primary and Special Election Dates:

Texas, March 4

Florida (Special General Election), March 11

Illinois, March 18

April Primary Date:

District of Columbia, April 1

see *Voting on next page*

NAS Kingsville names Sailors of the Quarter

By FC1 (SW) John Sessions
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The commanding officer of NAS Kingsville, Capt. Chris Misner, recently announced his Sailors of the Quarter for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014.

AC1 (AW/SW) Courtney Blair was named Sr. Sailor of the Quarter.

Joining the Navy in September 2000, Blair has been stationed at NAS Kingsville for four years. The Birmingham, Ala., native is an air traffic control facility watch supervisor and starboard watch section leading petty officer.

Blair recently received orders to Naval Air Station Pensacola to teach Air Traffic Controller "A School."

"It's an honor to be selected as Sailor of the Quarter and to be able to stand next to my peers and other Sailors selected in the past," Blair said.

"AC1 Blair is a mentor who takes personal interest of each air traffic controller and the success of the division. He commands tremendous respect from his peers and subordinates," said Cmdr. Scott Gunderson, NAS Kingsville Air Boss.

ABH2 Philip Baker was named Jr. Sailor of the Quarter.

Baker enlisted in May 2005 and has been stationed at NAS Kingsville for two years

with his wife Crystali and two sons Kaiden and Kyler. The Venice, Fla., native works at NALF Orange Grove as an aircraft rescue fire fighter and HAZMAT coordinator.

In his spare time, Baker volunteers at the Kingsville Animal Rescue Clinic and Orange Grove Elementary School. He also is working toward being certified as a personal trainer.

To other Sailors going up for the SOQ board, Baker says, "Have a strict military bearing and study as much as possible. Also, knowing current events and what is going on in the world is a must. We sometimes don't think about our Navy heritage, terms and traditions as much as we should.

"I would definitely recommend reading into those as well," he adds.

"Petty Officer Baker continuously engages on the deck plates providing Sailors with excellent physical readiness guidance, ensuring all Sailors are optimally trained to carry out the Navy's mission, said ABH1 (AW/SW) Edwin Castro, NALF Orange Grove leading petty officer. "He is a team player who contributes greatly to unit cohesiveness and morale."

AC3 Timothy Houck was selected as Bluejacket of the Quarter.

The Esko, Minn., native works in the Air Operations department as an air traffic controller.



Blair



Baker



Houck

Houck enlisted in the Navy in March 2012 and has served at NAS Kingsville for just over a year with his wife Karissa.

In his free time, Houck volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and is a member of the NASK Honor Guard.

To future bluejacket nominees, Houck says, "Take a deep breath and remain calm. Nerves have a great deal to do with performing well during the board.

"Be confident in yourself; you are already nominated so that's halfway there."

"Houck's dedication and loyalty to service has earned himself to be called 'Elite,'" said AC1 (AW/SW) Elicio Catalan. "His work ethic has earned him to be the only petty officer third class to be qualified Tower Supervisor, which includes the duties of supervising up to seven Sailors, of any rank, in the safe and orderly operation of NAS Kingsville's Control Tower; a position normally suited for a second class and above."



Wings of Gold—A winging ceremony was held Feb. 7, at the NAS Kingsville Captain's Club. Congratulations to the Student Naval Aviators who earned their coveted Wings of Gold. Pictured above are leadership and students who were winged. From left are (front row) Cmdr. Natesh Rao, XO, VT-22; Cmdr. Charles Stahl, CO, VT-21; Lt.j.g. Thomas St. George; Ensign Ryan Shults; 1st Lt. Paul Lindholm; Lt.j.g. James Land; Ensign Timothy O'Sullivan; Capt. Donald Nisbett, Commander, TW-2; Cmdr. Corey

Plocher, XO, VT-21; Cmdr. Rey Molina, XO, NAS Kingsville; (second row) Capt. Chris Misner, CO, NAS Kingsville; Ensign Warren Holland; Ensign James Davis II; Ensign Christopher Henley; Lt.j.g. Corey Johnson; 1st Lt. Kevin Tracy; Lt. Col. Scott Schoeman, CO, VT-22; (back row) Cmdr. Matthew Perun, CSO, TW-2; Ensign Kevin Lovell; 1st Lt. Kyle McLeod; Lt.j.g. Casey Talbot; Lt.j.g. Martin Doerr; Lt.j.g. Brandon Allgood; Ensign Albert Carter; Ensign Peter Buffkin; and Lt. Col. Kevin Heartwell, XO, MATSG-22. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs)

Sailor who manages air traffic selected to join the officer ranks, fly

By FC1 (SW) John Sessions
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

On a normal Wednesday morning at NAS Kingsville's auxiliary landing in Orange Grove, Texas, Air Traffic Controller Second Class Michael Langston received a phone call from an unexpected caller.

"Our commanding officer, Capt. Chris Misner, was on the other end saying he had bad news, that he was going to lose me," Langston said. "At that point I thought for sure I was going on an IA (Individually Augmented contingency support assignment). But then, he asked me how would I like Newport, R.I. I knew right then that I had been selected for Officer Candidate School (OCS)."

AC2 Langston, a 27 year-old native of Greenville, S.C., graduated from Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., in 2009 with a Bachelor's Degree in business administration. He's been stationed at NAS Kingsville for the past two years with his wife Kristin, son Jack and daughter Emma. He currently serves as a Facility Watch Supervisor at NALF Orange Grove. Langston has been pursuing his Master's Degree in business administration in aviation online at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Langston applied for the Navy's OCS Program in November 2013 under the Naval Flight Officer (NFO) designation. After the 12-week OCS program, he'll undergo an 18-month NFO training pipeline at NAS Pensacola, Fla.

"I'd like to be tailhook, which would mean I fly E-2 Hawkeyes, F/A-18 Super Hornets or E/A-18 Growlers. It's always been my dream to be an aviator," Langston said.

His next goal would be to complete his master's degree, however, considering his upcoming commission he may have to find bigger goals to shoot for. When asked if he intended on making the Navy a career, Langston responded in saying, "I plan to turn the lights out."

Langston offered advice to any Sailor aspiring for a commission.

"Try it, give it a shot and submit your package," he

said. "The worst thing that could happen is [they] might say 'no.' But then again, this was my first try and I got selected, so you never know until you try."

Langston admits he's excited about the move from the enlisted ranks to the officer wardroom. "It has a lot to do with leadership and the ability to mentor your peers," he said. "Decision making abilities are critical when operating at that level. I understand that I will have greater responsibilities and that at the end of the day it's not just about performing well at your job, but contributing to the bigger picture and accomplishment of the overall mission."

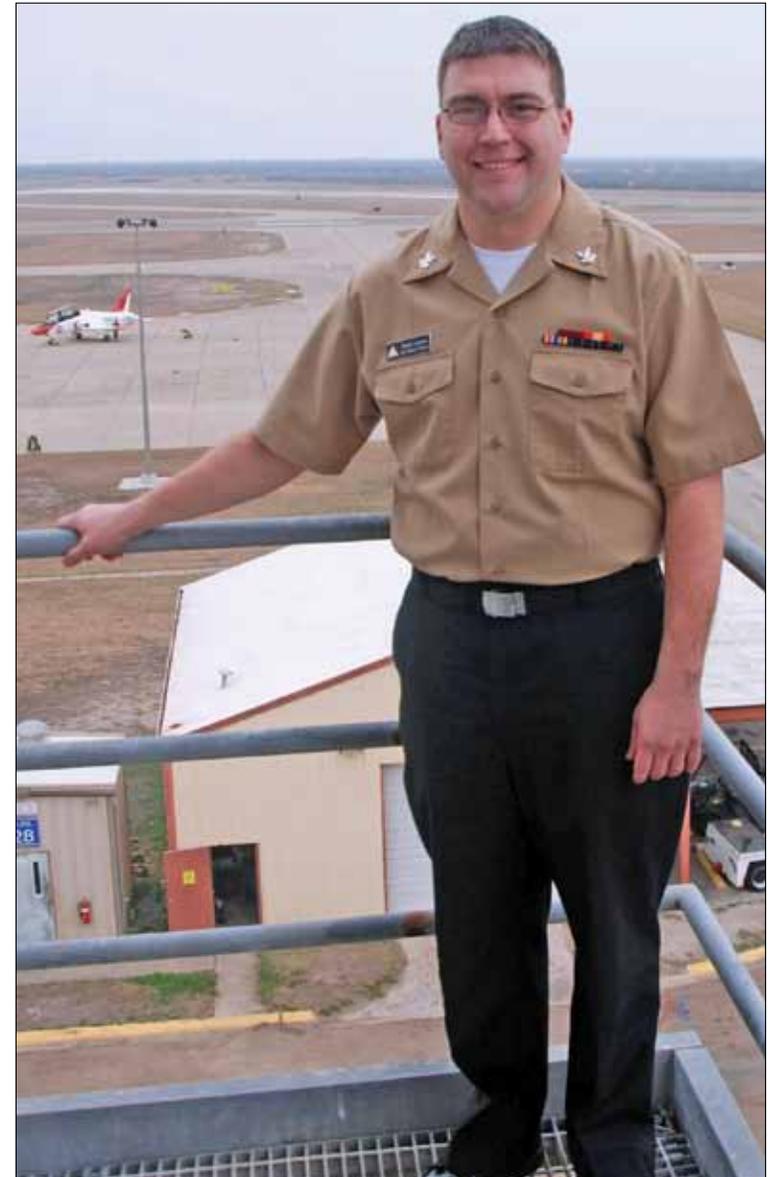
"AC2 Langston is a hard worker who sets goals for himself and is committed to seeing them through," said Lt. Cmdr. Shane Dudley, Air Traffic Control Facility Officer.

"His selection shows two things, that hard work and perseverance are a small price to pay toward achieving your goals and that the Navy recognizes these attributes and rewards them. Becoming a "Mustang" is a feat few people can claim. You are unique members of the Wardroom. Though the term "Mustang" is traditionally reserved for the LDO/CWO community, it actually applies to all prior Enlisted Officers with at least 4 years of service. One of the more famous quotes regarding the unique leadership style that Mustangs bring to the wardroom comes from Maj. Gerald Averill who said, 'he (The Mustang) possesses the one thing that the direct commissions may pretend, but can never attain: the sure knowledge of what goes on in the hearts and minds of enlisted men.'"

Langston adds that his family is "absolutely elated" in his selection to OCS, and that new opportunities are presenting themselves every day.

"I'd like to thank those in my chain of command for their help in organizing and submitting my package," he said. "I'd also like to thank Lt. Cmdr. Shane Dudley, Lt. Cmdr. Robert MacFadden, and Lt. Cmdr. Sergio Kontek of VT-21 for their mentorship throughout the entire process."

Petty Officer Langston reports to OCS in Newport, R.I. on Feb. 23, and expects to receive his commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy mid-May.



AC2 Michael Langston, who serves as facility watch supervisor at NALF Orange Grove, is heading to Newport, R.I., to attend Officer Candidate School.

Air Show from page 1

veteran Jan Collmer of Dallas will feature his EXTRA 300L aircraft. Collmer has flown in more than 600 air shows over a 30-year career on the air show circuit.

Collmer's EXTRA 300L was built in 1996. It was designed and built in Germany by Walter Extra and is Serial No. 19 of the EA 300L series. Prior to the 300L, Extra designed the 230, 300 and 300S. The 300L is the newest design and has been in production since early 1995. The EXTRA 300L is a two-seat, low-wing monoplane powered by a 6 cylinder, 540 cubic inch, 300 HP Lycoming engine. The propeller is three-bladed and made of lightweight composite materials designed and built by MT of Germany.

Also on the card is former King Ranch pilot and Corpus Christi native Paul Fiala and his Great Lakes Biplane. Fiala had worked as a corporate pilot for the King Ranch for more than 37 years when he retired in 2012. When he wasn't flying for the Ranch, he started participating in air shows. His performed at his first air show at NAS Corpus Christi in his Great Lakes Biplane in 1982, and over years has made numerous visits to NAS Kingsville. During his 40-plus years of flying he has performed at more than 200 air shows.



All in a name --

L-3 Vertex employees Ernest Garza, left, and Larry Trejo pose for a photo at the NAS Kingsville Blue Angel static aircraft display recently. Garza and Trejo changed the name on the jet to reflect the new commanding officer of the Blue Angels, Cmdr. Tom Frosch. Must be a sign that the Wings Over South Texas air show is getting close! (Courtesy photo by David Figueroa, L-3)



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Navy celebrates African-American/Black History throughout the month of February

John Henry Turpin enlisted in the Navy on Nov. 4, 1896 at just 19 years old. He was a surviving member of USS Maine's (ACR 1) crew when she was destroyed by an explosion in February 1898. He also survived the boiler explosion on USS Bennington (PG 4) in July 1905.

He served on several other ships and left active duty in 1916. He was recalled in April of 1917, when the U.S. entered World War I. On June 1 of that year, aboard the USS Marblehead (C 11), Turpin became a chief gunner's mate; one of the Navy's first African American chief petty officers. He served actively in that rank until he transferred to the Fleet Reserve on March 8, 1919. John Henry Turpin retired as a chief gunner's mate on Oct. 5, 1925.

Master Chief Carl Brashear, the Navy's first African American master diver, taught people world-wide that you can achieve your goals and can be held accountable by your characteristics as a person, and not by the color of your skin.

Brashear joined the Navy in 1948. His unwavering determination to serve as a Navy diver paid off in 1954 when he was accepted and graduated from the diving program. In 1967, a year after an injury aboard the salvage ship USS Hoist (ARS 40) cost him his left leg, Brashear became the first Navy diver to be restored to full active duty as an amputee.

He was the first black man to ever become a master diver in the Navy, a position he held from 1970 to 1979.

For **Harriet Ida Pickens** and **Frances Wills Thorpe**, Dec. 21, 1944 was one of the most exciting days of their lives. It was the day they were commissioned as officers in the United States Navy. It was also the day they stepped into history as the first African American women ever to receive such commissions.

These two accomplished and well-educated women were more than qualified to serve their country as military officers in a time of war, with only their race standing in their way. However, the remarkable pair would help to tear that barrier down.

The two were forever linked when together they were sworn into the U.S. Navy as apprentice seamen, then went on to join the last class of the Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School at Smith College in Northampton, Mass.

As part of the U.S. Navy's underwater demolition teams, which were a precursor to the current U.S. Navy SEAL Teams, Fred "Tiz" Morrison was the first African-American Navy SEAL/Frogman. Morrison was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroics in the Korean War as part of UDT Team 12. Morrison was known as an expert in underwater demolitions. He was a veteran of the World War II and was part of UDT Team 1 in 1948. His official rank is U.S. Navy Ensign 2. Nicknamed "The Real Tarzan," there is little information on the life of Tiz Morrison. He has since passed on, but will always be remembered as the Navy's first



John Henry Turpin



Master Chief Carl Brashear

African American Navy SEAL.

Sailors and their commands are encouraged to use this month to celebrate and recognize the exceptional and distinctive contributions and the unique histories and cultures that our African American and black shipmates bring to the Navy.

This year's theme is "Civil Rights in America." More information on the many milestones achieved by African American and black Sailors and the history of the African American Navy experience can be found on the Naval History and Heritage Command's website. A full-color brochure on the history of African Americans in the United States Navy is also available for download through the Naval History and Heritage Command link.

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Wanted: National Anthem Singer for Military Appreciation Night at the Buc Days Rodeo!

We are looking for that next special VOICE to sing the National Anthem at the American Bank Center on April 24, 2014 for opening Night of the Buc Days PRCA Rodeo. We will be holding a fun style karaoke competition to pick a winner. If you, or someone you know, are active or retired military can sing the National Anthem loud and proud, and would love to sit front row to enjoy the show, please email mrsjamesbaker@yahoo.com or call 361-446-9031 for date, time, and place for this fun-friendly competition. There will be prizes!

Signups for Military Dependents to be entered into the drawing for one of two spots being reserved for the adorable Mutton Bustin' event at the Buc Days PRCA Rodeo! Details for qualifications can be found on www.bucdays.com.

For more information on all of the Buc Days Events and Festivities - Please go to the website and also follow us on FaceBook for special promotions as they are released. Rodeo Tickets are available now at Ticketmaster.com and will be available aboard NAS Corpus Christi and NAS Kingsville very soon!

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Staying Navy -- ABH2 (AW) Tyler Lambertson, a native of Underwood, Iowa, recently reenlisted for six more years of Naval service. NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Chris Misner, right, administered the oath of reenlistment. (Photo by FC1 (SW) John Sessions)

Navy e-Learning now offers personnel direct access

By Ed Barker
 NETC Public Affairs

Delivering on their goal of providing access to Navy training anytime, anyplace, the Navy Education and Training Command and the Sea Warrior Program Office announced Feb. 13 the availability of direct Internet access to Navy e-Learning (NeL) content.

"Most Navy Learners were previously accessing NeL through Navy Knowledge Online," said Hank Reeves, NeL project director. "That was a multi-step process that is now significantly streamlined with the ability to access courses directly, without going through NKO."

Using the direct NeL link of <https://www.aas.prod.nel.training.navy.mil> will take you directly to the 'My Learning' and 'Course Catalog' tabs of the NeL learning management system after login.

"Going directly to NeL will make searching for their desired content much easier," said Brenda McCreary, NKO service desk manager. "Going directly to NeL lets you use their search engine and that gets you strictly learning-related returns, streamlining finding the course you are looking for."

Although direct access to NeL is available through the Internet, a Common Access Card (CAC) is still required for NeL login. Courses on NeL have been standardized to run using the Internet Explorer (IE) browser.

"Many of our courses take advantage of the latest in multi-media content to improve the learning experience," Reeves added. "In order to ensure compatibility with these courses, NeL provides configuration guides

for many of the latest versions of IE."

According to Reeves, NeL is the world's largest learning management system in terms of volume.

"Virtually every Sailor, government civilian and contractor uses NeL to keep current with required General Military Training, including the newly updated Department of Defense Cyber Awareness Challenge Course," said Reeves. "Last year, the Cyber Awareness Challenge course had more than 232,000 completions, and last year we had more than four million completions for all courses."

"From the beginning, it was a goal as we implemented our new Learning Management System to offer direct access to our NeL users in addition to access through NKO," added Reeves. "Although NKO was designed as a one-stop-shop portal for the lion's share of Navy electronic content, allowing access options for our customers only makes sense."

Since 2001, Sailors have depended on Navy e-Learning (NeL) to help advance their careers and stay current with training requirements. Courses range from Privacy and Personally Identifiable Information Awareness Training - required of all Sailors, Marines, civilians, and contractors - to specific training for individual units. Trainees using NeL complete between four and five million online courses annually from an offering of more than 8,700 courses. The Naval Education and Training Command relies on NeL for use in schoolhouses for individual skills and skill refresher training.

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