

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

2016 Hurricane Preparedness Exercise and Public Information Campaign

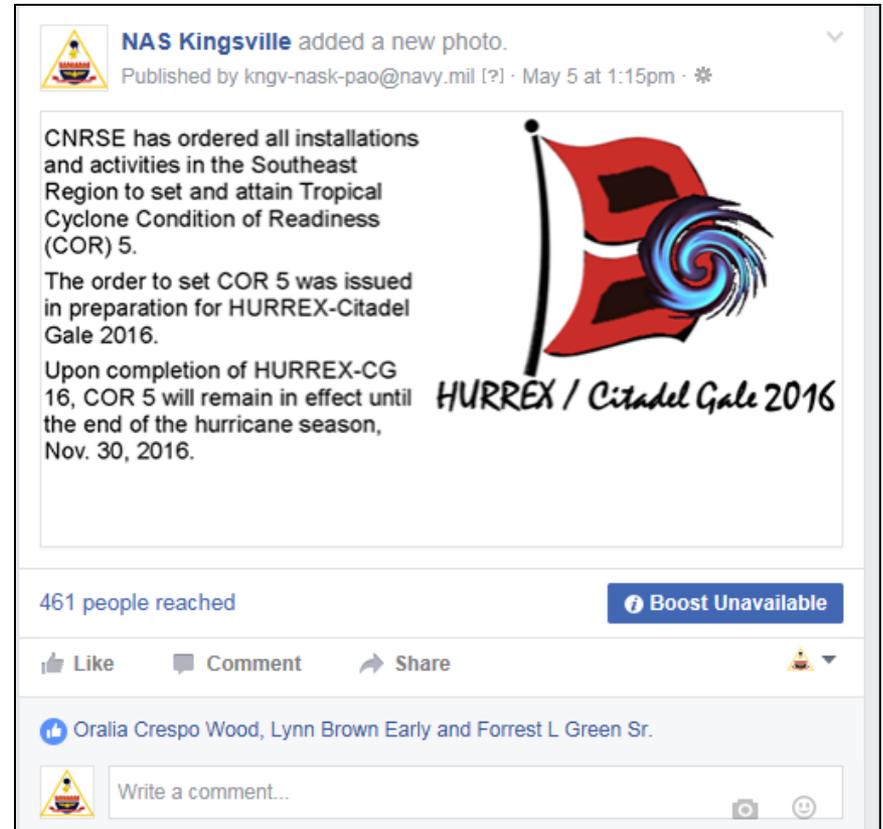


In May 2016, the U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFFC) and Commander, Naval Installations Command (CNIC) jointly conducted a hurricane preparedness exercise called HURREX/Citadel Gale 2016.

The two-week exercise was designed to simulate the approach and eventual landfall of a catastrophic storm, prompting installations to exercise their preparation, evacuation, and recovery plans.

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas took its participation in the table-top exercise to a new level by incorporating “real world” preparedness training and public information.

Prior to the start of the exercise, the base began providing storm preparedness information by an electronic message distribution system called Athoc, by email, and through social media.



The image shows a Facebook post from NAS Kingsville. The post text reads: "CNRSE has ordered all installations and activities in the Southeast Region to set and attain Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness (COR) 5. The order to set COR 5 was issued in preparation for HURREX-Citadel Gale 2016. Upon completion of HURREX-CG 16, COR 5 will remain in effect until the end of the hurricane season, Nov. 30, 2016." To the right of the text is a graphic of a red and white flag with a blue and white hurricane swirl, with the text "HURREX / Citadel Gale 2016" below it. The post shows 461 people reached, a "Boost Unavailable" button, and interaction options for Like, Comment, and Share. It also lists users who liked the post: Oralia Crespo Wood, Lynn Brown Early and Forrest L Green Sr. At the bottom is a comment box with a "Write a comment..." placeholder and icons for photo and emoji uploads.

NAS Kingsville added a new photo.
Published by kngv-nask-pao@navy.mil (?) · May 5 at 1:15pm · *

CNRSE has ordered all installations and activities in the Southeast Region to set and attain Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness (COR) 5.

The order to set COR 5 was issued in preparation for HURREX-Citadel Gale 2016.

Upon completion of HURREX-CG 16, COR 5 will remain in effect until the end of the hurricane season, Nov. 30, 2016.

HURREX / Citadel Gale 2016

461 people reached [Boost Unavailable](#)

Like Comment Share

Oralia Crespo Wood, Lynn Brown Early and Forrest L Green Sr.

Write a comment...

The exercise commenced May 9. The installation used the kick-off announcement to inform people where they could expect to find pertinent storm information, and to remind them of the need to ensure their contact information was current.

Registering for Athoc and ensuring contact information was current were prevailing themes during the early phases of the exercise.

 **NAS Kingsville**
Published by kngv-nask-pao@navy.mil [?] · May 9 at 9:07am · ✱

NAS Kingsville has commenced its participation in HURREX / Citadel Gale 2016 May 9-20. In the event of a storm approaching the area, NASK would begin providing routine weather updates and instructions on this Facebook page. Additionally, personnel and their families would receive Athoc messages with storm information and instructions. If you or your family members have not signed up for the Athoc notifications, please contact your division representative today.



HURREX / Citadel Gale 2016

571 people reached Boost Unavailable

Like Comment Share

Hilary Watt, Danielle Hale and 2 others

1 share

 Write a comment...  

The command issued a press release May 9 announcing the start of the exercise.

The release included an invitation to the media to attend the base's mandatory Hurricane Preparedness training May 13.

Inviting media to the training satisfied a CNIC mandate that all installations conduct a Media Day during the exercise.

The release was picked up by all local print media and KIII-TV covered the training event.

Naval Air Station Kingsville

554 McCain Street, Kingsville, Texas 78363-5054



Point of Contact:
Kevin Clarke
KNGV-PAO@navy.mil
Phone: (361) 516-6500

Release Number: 16-2016

May 9, 2016

News Release

NAS Prepares for Hurricane Season

Citadel Gale Training Exercise May 9-20

NAS KINGSVILLE, TEXAS – The 2016 Atlantic Basin hurricane season extends from June 1 to November 30. To ensure that their Sailors and facilities are ready for whatever Mother Nature doles out, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Commander, Navy Installations Command have directed all Navy installations on the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico to conduct Exercise Citadel Gale May 9-20.

The two-week exercise is designed to simulate the approach and eventual landfall of a catastrophic storm, prompting installations like Naval Air Station Kingsville to exercise their preparation, evacuation, and recovery plans.

“Exercising our preparation and response to natural disaster scenarios enhances our readiness,” said Capt. Erik Spitzer, the new air station commanding officer. “When you consider that subtropical Storm Alex developed into a hurricane on Jan. 14 of this year; there is no time to lose. The time to prepare is now.”

Hurricane Alex was the first hurricane to form in January since 1938 and it prompted speculation that this year's hurricane season could be an active one. On April 14, the Tropical Meteorology Project from Colorado State University predicted the 2016 Atlantic basin hurricane season would have approximately average activity, estimating a total of 13 named storms and six hurricanes.

As part of the exercise, the air station will conduct mandatory training for base personnel Friday, May 13. Representatives from Texas Emergency Management, TexDOT, the American Red Cross, and other base support agencies will participate.

--more--

The exercise scenario was designed to require the base to begin preparations to evacuate its personnel and their families to a safe haven in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Prior to the simulated departure, the base provided emergency information phone numbers and web sites so people could stay informed.

The information was distributed by email and through social media using the command's Facebook and Twitter pages.

NAS Kingsville
Published by kngv-nask-pao@navy.mil [?] · May 10 at 10:14am · *

If you need emergency information, here are some numbers that may be of use.

NAS Kingsville Emergency Information	
Command Information Line	1-855-267-9172
Emergency Operations Center	361-516-4170
Navy Marine Corps Relief Society	361-961-3482
American Red Cross	1-877-272-7337
NOAA 24 Hour Weather Information	361-289-1861
TXDOT Road Conditions	1-800-452-9292

Web site: www.cnic.navy.mil/kingsville/index.htm
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nas.kingsville.5/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NASKPAO>

607 people reached **Boost Unavailable**

Like Comment Share

Elaine West

1 share

Write a comment...

428606/?type=3

At the start of the exercise, the Commanding Officer instructed the staff to conduct the exercise in a manner that would truly evaluate the condition of stores and equipment, and the levels of effort required to conduct key activities.

Equipment was broken out, set up, and tested to give operators hands-on experience of what it would be like operating in degraded conditions.

The Public Affairs Office used these real world training opportunities to highlight the command's "above and beyond" approach to exercise activities through social media.

 **NAS Kingsville**
Published by kngv-nask-pao@navy.mil [?] - May 11 at 5:03pm - *

Communications specialist Jamie Williams discusses use of emergency satellite communication equipment with, from left, Cmdr. Rey Molina, NASK executive officer; ABFC Joseph Determan, NASK emergency manager (seated); Capt. Erik Spitzer, NASK commanding officer and CMDCM Tomas Garcia, NASK command master chief. The demonstration was part of HURREX Citadel Gale 2016 in preparation for hurricane season.



1,318 people reached [Boost Unavailable](#)

 Like  Comment  Share 

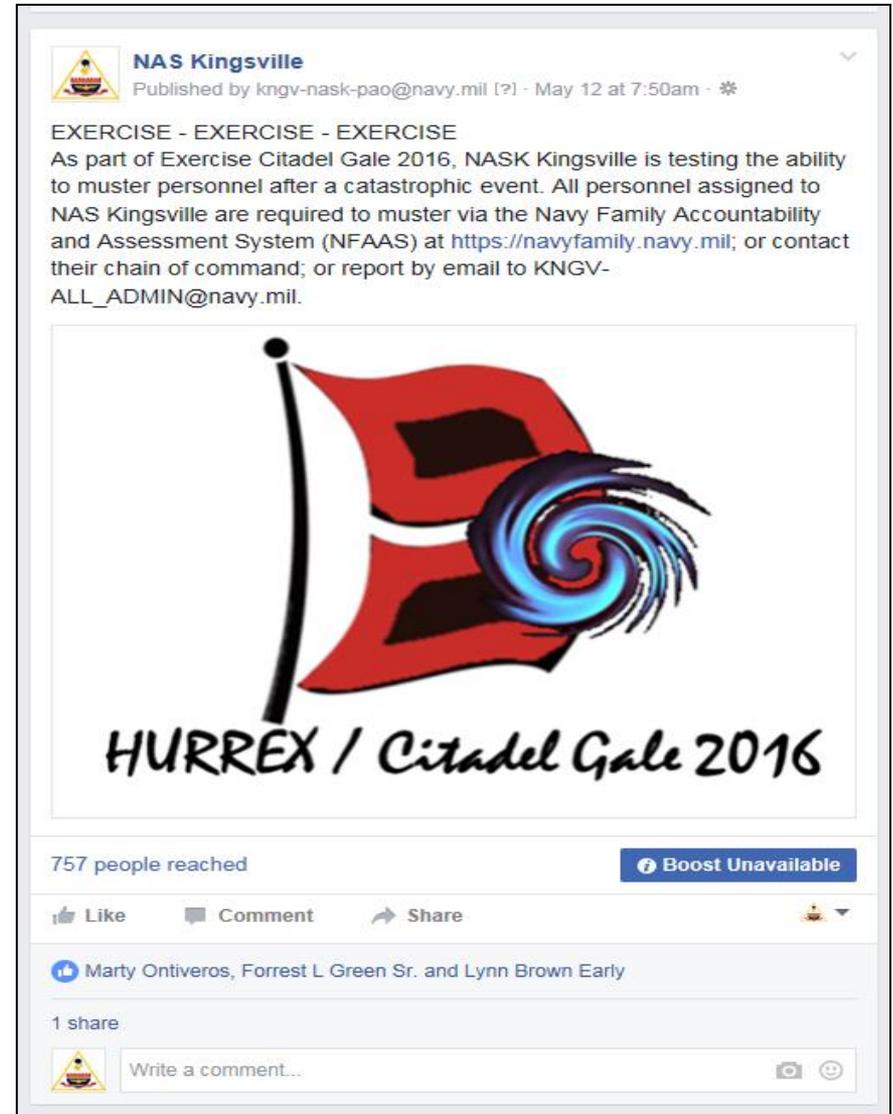
 Jay West, Galen Davis and 18 others

 Write a comment...  

One of the key components of the HURREX / Citadel Gale exercise was the requirement to conduct a muster of all personnel and their family members after the storm had passed.

Based on an assumption that telephone land line, cell phone, and internet service may be degraded or unavailable, the base created several alternate means of communicating with the command in times of disaster.

Athoc, email, and social media were used to distribute this critical information.



NAS Kingsville
Published by kngv-nask-pao@navy.mil [?] · May 12 at 7:50am · *

EXERCISE - EXERCISE - EXERCISE
As part of Exercise Citadel Gale 2016, NASK Kingsville is testing the ability to muster personnel after a catastrophic event. All personnel assigned to NAS Kingsville are required to muster via the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) at <https://navyfamily.navy.mil>; or contact their chain of command; or report by email to KNGV-ALL_ADMIN@navy.mil.



HURREX / Citadel Gale 2016

757 people reached Boost Unavailable

Like Comment Share

Marty Ontiveros, Forrest L Green Sr. and Lynn Brown Early

1 share

Write a comment...

HURREX / Citadel Gale 2016 coincided with the semi-annual requirement to conduct a Safety Standdown. The Safety Manager and Emergency Management Officer took advantage of a non-flying day for the Training Wing to conduct mandatory training that included Hurricane Preparedness.

Representatives from the Texas Department of Public Safety, American Red Cross, and Texas Department of Transportation presented informational briefs designed to educate Sailors, family members, civilian employees, and contractors of the actions they should take before, during, and after a hurricane.

Topics included preparing evacuation kits, routes and possible destinations for evacuation, how to update emergency contact and accountability information, and knowing what agencies and organizations are available to provide support if homes or other property are damaged or destroyed.



NAS Kingsville added 2 new photos.

Published by kngv-nask-pao@navy.mil [?] · May 13 at 3:54pm · *

NAS Kingsville held a Safety Standdown May 13, combining summer safety and hurricane preparedness. State Trooper Nathan Brandley discussed the dangers of intoxicated and distracted driving, while representatives of Texas Department of Transportation and Department of Public Safety explained hurricane preparedness, evacuation and return procedures.

1,126 people reached

Boost Unavailable

Like Comment Share

The base continued to provide Hurricane Preparedness information via Facebook and Twitter during the weekend pause in the exercise, which also coincided with the start of Hurricane Preparedness Week at Ready.gov.

 **NAS Kingsville**
Published by kngv-nask-pao@navy.mil [?] · May 15 at 8:26am · *

Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Their impacts can be felt hundreds of miles inland. The U.S. has not been directly impacted by a major hurricane (Category 3 or higher) in more than a decade. However, hurricanes such as Ike and Isaac reminded us that significant impacts can occur without it being a major hurricane. Hurricane Preparedness Week (May 15-21, 2016) is your time to prepare for a potential land-falling tropical storm or hurricane.

<http://weather.gov/hurricanesafety>
<http://hurricanes.gov/prepare>



Hurricane Preparedness Week
May 15-21, 2016

980 people reached **Boost Unavailable**

Like Comment Share

Nena Hinojosa, Lori Ostrander- Thomas and 2 others

1 share

 **NAS Kingsville** shared a link.
Published by kngv-nask-pao@navy.mil [?] · Yesterday at 9:40am · *



Evacuating Yourself and Your Family | Ready.gov

Evacuations are more common than many people realize. Fires and floods cause evacuations most frequently across the U.S. and almost every year, people along coastlines evacuate as hurricanes approach. In addition, hundreds of times a...

READY.GOV

884 people reached **Boost Unavailable**

Like Comment Share

Dorey Lewis and Jill Stainko **Top Comments**

1 share

 Write a comment...

When the exercise recommenced May 16, the base simulated issuing a press release announcing the return of Mission Essential Personnel to the base.

The Public Affairs Officer began making preparations to establish a Joint Information Center should the base be used as a staging area for federal assistance.

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

Naval Air Station Kingsville

554 McCain Street, Kingsville, Texas 78363-5054



Point of Contact:
Kevin Clarke
KNGV-PAO@navy.mil
Phone: (361) 516-6500
Cell: 361-438-8197

Release Number: XXX

XXXX, 2016

News Release

Naval Air Station Kingsville Leaders Return

Evaluation of Base Facilities and Air Field Underway

NAS KINGSVILLE, TEXAS – The commanding officer and a contingent of 61 other mission-essential personnel returned to the Naval Air Station Kingsville today to survey the damage inflicted by Hurricane Craig. They were joined at the main gate by a Damage Assessment Team sent by Commander, Navy Region Southeast, NAS Kingsville's parent command.

One of the first priorities is to determine the condition of the base's runways and hangars. If useable, Kingsville will become a hub for receiving, storing and deploying relief equipment, supplies, and personnel from Federal, State, and Department of Defense support agencies.

"At first glance, the base looks to be serviceable," said the commanding officer, Capt. Erik Spitzer. "We moved quickly to reestablish perimeter security and are making preparations to receive other personnel being sent to the area to assist in recovery and reconstitution here and at NAS Corpus Christi (NASCC).

Spitzer said while several buildings on the base were destroyed or heavily damaged, the majority of the base sustained minimal damage. Restoring power and water are high on his team's priority list.

"Once you've restored power and water, the rest is easier to deal with," Spitzer said.

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The installation Emergency Management plan identifies the All Hands Club as the secondary Emergency Operations Center and a temporary berthing facility.

The Emergency Management Officer and Installation Mission Readiness Officer tested the feasibility of using the facility in that capacity by assembling cots in the club's main ballroom.

The test provided information on the material condition of the cots, as well as hands-on knowledge of the level of effort required to establish a temporary shelter for the 62 people identified as Mission Essential Personnel.

 **NAS Kingsville** added 5 new photos.
Published by kngv-nask-pao@navy.mil 1? · 2 hrs · 🌐

NAS Kingsville Installation Mission Readiness Officer Randy Foust and Emergency Management Officer Chief Joe Determan assembled cots in the ballroom of the base club May 17 to simulate field conditions as part of HURREX/Citadel Gale 2016. The exercise scenario calls for the base to establish an Emergency Operations Center and temporary living quarters at the club in the aftermath of a hurricane. The two-week exercise runs through May 20 and is designed to simulate the approach and eventual landfall of a catastrophic storm, prompting installations like Naval Air Station Kingsville to exercise their preparation, evacuation, and recovery plans.



402 people reached Boost Unavailable

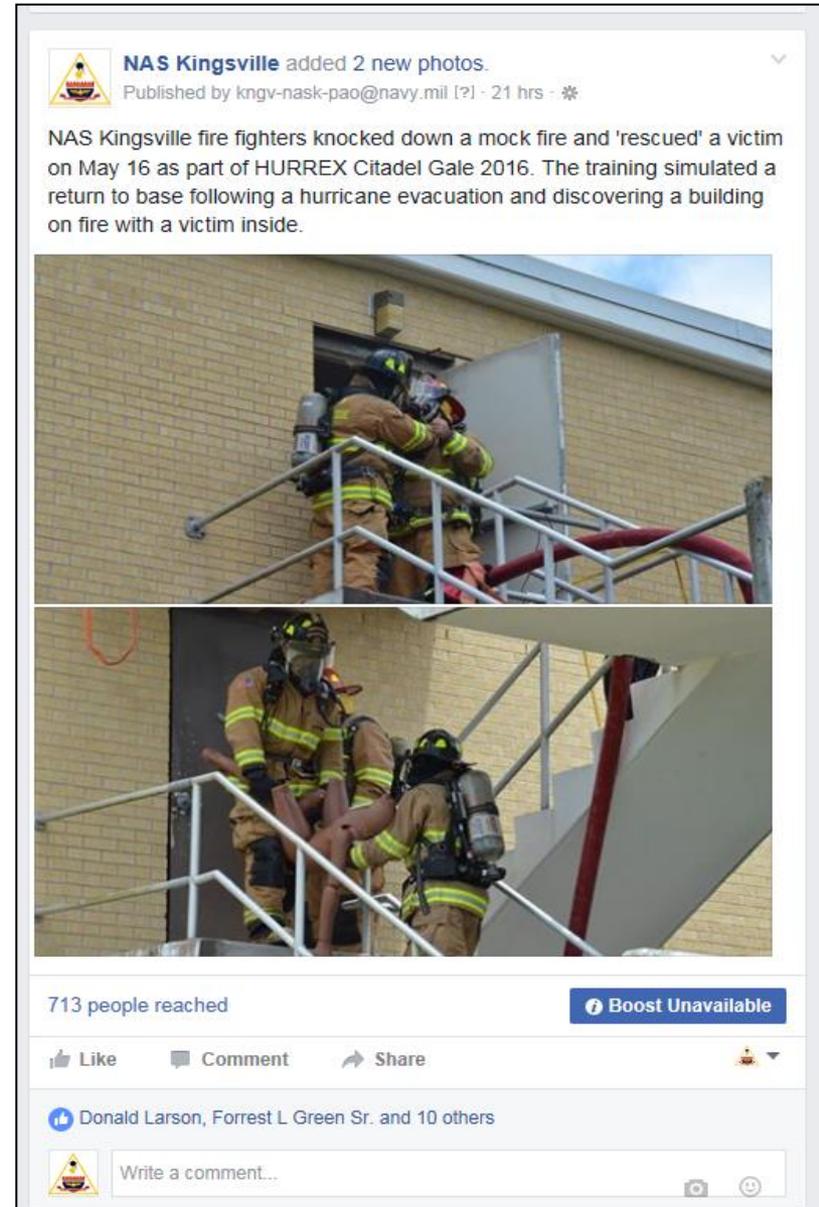
👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

👍 Laura Foster Clarke, Krystal Seidel Emery and 4 others

 Write a comment...

A field training event by the installation's Federal Fire Department was yet another example of how the base injected realistic training into the exercise as a means to evaluate its response plans and equipment.

It also provided another opportunity to highlight the base's exercise activities through social media.



NAS Kingsville added 2 new photos. Published by kngv-nask-pao@navy.mil [?] · 21 hrs · *

NAS Kingsville fire fighters knocked down a mock fire and 'rescued' a victim on May 16 as part of HURREX Citadel Gale 2016. The training simulated a return to base following a hurricane evacuation and discovering a building on fire with a victim inside.



713 people reached [Boost Unavailable](#)

Like Comment Share

Donald Larson, Forrest L Green Sr. and 10 others

Write a comment...

As alluded to earlier, it is presumed that NAS Kingsville would be used as a central staging point for federal emergency aid in the event of a disaster with regional impact.

Though not exercised during HURREX / Citadel Gale 2016, the staff conducted the planning to execute support to a lead federal agency, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), should it become necessary.

The discussions led to several amendments to the Mission Essential and Mission Critical personnel lists to ensure the appropriate subject matter experts and/or skilled personnel were available at the appropriate times.

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

Naval Air Station Kingsville

554 McCain Street, Kingsville, Texas 78363-5054



Point of Contact:
Kevin Clarke
KNGV.PAO@navy.mil
Phone: (361) 516-4500
Cell: 361-428-8197

Release Number: XXX

May 18, 2016

News Release

NAS Kingsville Runways Operational

First Aircraft Carrying Relief Supplies Lands Today

NAS KINGSVILLE, TEXAS – The first aircraft carrying disaster relief personnel and supplies arrived today at Naval Air Station Kingsville.

Fifty personnel from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) immediately deplaned and began unloading vehicles, equipment, and food and water supplies.

NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Captain Erik Spitzer provided the FEMA senior staff a windshield tour of the air field. The base is expected to become a vital regional hub for the federal aid that is streaming toward Texas.

"I could not be more proud of how quickly my staff was able to get the airfield fully operational and ready to receive federal assets," Spitzer said. "We have ample space to receive and store relief supplies and we are ready to assist FEMA in any way that we can."

Spitzer said he recalled 53 additional staff members from their sheltered location in Dallas to support the increased activity around the air station.

-30-

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE



Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) vehicles and equipment are unloaded from a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft today at Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas.



Naval Air Station Kingsville Air Operations personnel unload bottled water to support the growing number of personnel aboard the air station. The base has become a regional hub for disaster relief efforts headed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

