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Chief Petty Officers salute a "Shipmate Going Ashore" as NAS Kingsville Command Master Chief closes 27-year career

Story by Jon Gagné, photos by EN3 Brenda Acevedo,
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

NAS Kingsville Command Master Chief Gene Tourtellotte closed the log book on her 27-year active duty career Monday, Sept. 29 during an official retirement ceremony held in the NAS Kingsville Captain's Club. Nearly 150 family, friends, and shipmates were in attendance, including Tourtellotte's mother Estela Raquin, and sister Alicia Holden of San Antonio.

Guest speaker for the ceremony was NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer CAPT Phil Waddingham, and presiding officer was CDR Scott Allen, NAS Kingsville Executive Officer. Chaplain (LCDR) Mark Tews provided the invocation and benediction, and retired Senior Chief Yeoman Maryann Shramko was the master of ceremonies.

CAPT Waddingham focused his remarks on Tourtellotte's dedication to junior Sailors and her many accomplishments during an amazing 27-year career that brought her from the rank of airman recruit to the highest enlisted rank of E-9 and the prestigious position of Command Master Chief.

"Looking over Master Chief's amazing career," Waddingham said, "you can see how she ended up as Command Master Chief at one of only two advanced strike training bases in the Navy. Although she didn't know it at the time, she has been groomed from day one as a senior enlisted leader, mentor, and advisor. All of her assignments during her 27-year career provided her the background and ex-



CMDCM(AW) Genetrix R. Tourtellotte
United States Navy, Retired.

perience she would need to take care of the Sailors attached to NAS Kingsville."

Waddingham then highlighted Tourtellotte's tours of duty that began with recruit training in Orlando, Fla., and her first duty assignment at NAS Kingsville, to various squadrons assignments and deployments. "The key take away from her this varied list of duty assignments," Waddingham said, "is that they were all well dispersed geographically, including overseas, and represent a mix of shore duty units as well as deploying units – TACAIR, rotary wing, maritime, [and] naval air stations. You can see what I mean when I say [that] she has been groomed for this job. She has

done it all and she has done it with constant professionalism. In a word ... she has done it with leadership."

CDR Allen echoed the skipper's praise during his comments, focusing on Tourtellotte's dedication to junior Sailors. "When I first checked in to NAS Kingsville as executive officer and I first met the master chief, she told me that it was our job to take care of our Sailors. And by our job she meant it was mine as the command executive officer. And as time went by, it occurred to me that if I had a nickel for every time [she] reminded me of that over the course of the past year, I could take every one of you out to the Kings Inn for dinner tonight. But time has proven her wise. In this business of shore installation management, if we don't look out for our Sailors, who will? And this wisdom and sense of purpose shouldn't really come as a shock to anyone who has worked with the Command Master Chief; after all, only one percent of all Sailors become CMCs. They are truly, the best of the best. They must fight for what's right, and they must stay in the fight until the end. Make no mistake --Master Chief Tourtellotte may look small, but I'd put her up against anybody. She is tough."

CDR Allen then presented Tourtellotte the Navy Meritorious Service Medal which recognized her service as NAS Kingsville CMC from August 2005 to September 2008. Her citation

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From the Bridge



CAPT Phil "Waddz" Waddingham
Commanding Officer, NAS Kingsville

Greetings, Kingsville! A lot going on around here and there is plenty to talk about. The first item that comes to mind is that the 233rd Navy Ball is just two weeks away! Have you purchased your tickets yet? This year's Ball will be a slight departure from previous years in that there will not be a sit down dinner. Instead, there will be heavy hors d'oeuvres served during cocktails, in addition to the usual program itinerary and DJ led dancing. I personally guarantee everyone who comes will have a good time. So, if you haven't picked up your tickets yet, stop by the Headquarters front office and see Janie Ramos. Limited tickets are available, and they are going fast! I hope to see you there!

This past Monday marked a change of the guard for

the NAS Kingsville command master chief. CMDCM (AW) Genetrix Tourtellotte turned over her office to ETCM (SW) Isaias Gamez at a retirement ceremony held on Monday, September 29 at the Captain's Club and Convention Center. Master Chief Tourtellotte has served at NAS Kingsville twice, first during the period February '82 - October '85, and now beginning April '05. She has served the U.S. Navy since 1981, and has done so with distinction at every command. Her accomplishments while serving as NAS Kingsville command master chief are numerous, but none is more illustrative of her passionate concern for her Sailors than when she took on the Navy and successfully made a case to increase the BAH rates for Kingsville residents. This was a true quality of life initiative, and not one that happened simply by asking the question. She exercised the sort of leadership and care of Sailors that was her hallmark. As the XO said at her retirement ceremony, she may be small, but she is a force to be reckoned with. Master Chief Tourtellotte, we will all miss you. Fair winds and following seas. Good luck Master Chief Gamez!

We had the pleasure of hosting the Honorable BJ Penn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for installations and environment (ASN I&E) on Thursday. Secretary Penn took time out of his busy schedule to come to Kingsville to tour our base and learn what he should be

doing in Washington to help us out. His visit included a joint command brief by NASK/TW-2, and visits to the Branch Health Clinic, Ground Training Building, Chapel, Gym, Barracks, Jet Engine Test Cell, Hangars, Fuel Farm, Water Treatment Center, Child Development Center, and PPV Housing. I have no doubt the Secretary walked away with the impression that NAS Kingsville is a great base, with awesome potential, and that continuing to support our assigned missions, in the present and in the future, is a priority. He certainly saw firsthand how Kingsville PRIDE resonates in each and every department and command located here. Thanks to all who helped to make the visit a successful one.

Finally, I want to thank the Texas A&M Athletic Department for hosting a military appreciation night, including free tailgating for our Sailors, last Saturday at Javelina Stadium. Unfortunately, the Hogs lost to the West Texas A&M Buffaloes--but not before an exciting finish. We'll prevail next time! Our partnership with the university is one built on mutual pride, and we look forward to hosting Javelina teams at our Club in the near future. Stay tuned for details. Until then, remember to support our community's university by checking out their full line of Fall sports and becoming a fan. See you around our campus, and theirs. Waddz sends.



Tews' Views



Chaplain (LCDR) Mark Tews
NAS Kingsville, Religious Ministries

A (True) Tennessee Tale:

"YOU ARE ONE OF GOD'S CHILDREN I SEE THE RESEMBLANCE"

A Seminary professor was vacationing with his wife in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. One morning, they were eating breakfast in a little restaurant, hoping to enjoy a quiet, family meal. While they were waiting for their food, they noticed a distinguished looking, white haired man moving from table to table, visiting with the guests. The professor leaned over and whispered to his wife, "I hope he doesn't come over here." But sure enough, the man did come over to their table.

"Where are you folks from?" he asked in a friendly voice. "Oklahoma," they answered. "Great to have you here in Tennessee," the stranger said. "What do you do for a living?" "I teach at a seminary," he replied. "Oh, so you teach preachers how to preach, do you? Well, I've got a really good story for you." And with that, the gentleman pulled up a chair and sat down

at the table with the couple. The professor groaned and thought to himself, "Great, just what I need--another preacher story!"

The man started, "See that mountain over there? Not far from the base of that mountain, there was a boy born to an unwed mother. He had a hard time growing up, because every place he went, he was always asked the same question ... 'Hey boy, who's your daddy?' Whether he was at school, in the grocery store or drug store, people would ask the same question. 'Who's your daddy?' He would hide at recess and lunchtime from other students. He would avoid going into stores because that question hurt him so much.

When he was about 12 years old, a new preacher came to his church. The boy would always go in late and slip out early to avoid hearing the question, 'Who's your daddy?' But one day, the new preacher said the benediction so fast, the boy got caught and had to walk out with the crowd. Just about the time he got to the back door, the new preacher, not knowing anything about him put his hand on his shoulder and asked him, 'Son, who's your daddy?' The whole church got deathly quiet. He could feel every eye in the church looking at him. The new preacher, though, sensed the situation around him and said the following to the scared little boy. 'Wait a minute!' he said. 'I know who you are. I see the family resemblance now. You are a child of God.' With that, He patted the boy on his shoulder and said. 'Boy, you've got a great inheritance. Go and claim it.' With that, the boy smiled for the first time in a long time and walked out the door a changed person. He was never the same again. Whenever anybody asked him, 'Who's your Daddy?'

he'd just tell them, I'm a child of God."

The distinguished gentleman got up from the table and said, "Isn't that a great story?"

The professor responded that it really was a great story! As the man turned to leave, he said, "You know, if that new preacher hadn't told me that I was one of God's children, I probably would never have amounted to anything!" And he walked away. The seminary professor and his wife were stunned. He called the waitress over and asked her, "Do you know that man who just left that was sitting at our table?" The waitress grinned and said, "Of course. Everybody around here knows him. That's Ben Hooper. He's the former governor of Tennessee!"

Perhaps you or someone in your life today needs a reminder that they are one of God's children.

Musing & Pondering: It is most important to our spiritual welfare that we hold in our minds a right concept of God. If we think of God as cold and exacting, we shall find it impossible to love the Lord, and our lives will be ridden with servile fear. But neither is the Lord to be perceived as one who is overly meek in whom we would find no awe. We please God most, not by frantically trying to make ourselves good, but by humbly throwing ourselves into His arms with all of our imperfections and believing that He, our Father, understands, loves and mercifully accepts us as we are.

"If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

~Ronald Reagan

"The degree of blessing enjoyed by any man will correspond exactly with the completeness of God's victory over him." ~A.W. Tozer



In The Break...



CAPT Bill "BD" Davis

Commander, Training Air Wing TWO

A year ago at this time we lost two aircraft. One related to engine problems and a second to a bird strike. A month later we lost our third aircraft to pilot error when the aircrew missed the gears pins hanging from the nose of the aircraft. Already this year we have had a couple of major bird strikes. One of them went through the canopy striking the front seat student; the student was unable to talk because his mask had been damaged by the bird strike. Fortunately, through the professionalism of both aircrew, the front seat student was able to use hand signals to communicate he was OK and the rear seat IP who had taken control of the aircraft was able to look out the side and safely land the aircraft.

We understand these risks are part of our environment and not only do we brief for such contingencies but together with the base we are taking steps to mitigate the bird hazards. The base has enacted a vigorous BASH program that has reduced the vegetation around the base and areas that attract birds. Together we have coordinated to get a Merlin radar system on loan for the next couple of months. Our goal is to evaluate its effectiveness in locating birds. Our goal is to use the tracking data to improve SA to aircrew as well as to determine bird movement patterns in order to better schedule around the times of high risk bird activity. We have also been investigating different tools to move birds away from the airfield. These include the use of a Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) as well as other tools such as pyrotechnics and lethal devices – the old fashioned shotgun. This program is being lead by our base biologist Eddie Earwood, and it has been effective in reducing the bird population that was hanging out over the airfield. We are also working to simplify our BASH instruction and that should be on the streets sometime next week.

After these accidents we instituted monthly training focusing on Operational Excellence. We have been working to bring in guest speakers to discuss a wide range of subjects; such as Gene Kranz and NASA's Apollo program, Dr. Hooper on "human error," and COL Clark with "Coopers Color Code." Additionally, we have retired United Airlines pilot Captain Al Haynes, who landed a crippled 727, scheduled for October; Gen. Ritchie, a Vietnam Ace, in January; and Dr. Samuel Betances, a world renowned speaker on culture and differences in February. We are headed down the right path, but professionalism starts and stops with us as individuals. We can provide all these

speakers and briefs on past mistakes, but it is up to each and every one of us to incorporate the lessons learned into our day-to-day habits.

If you were to ask me what keeps me awake at night, I would have to tell you that, despite all these efforts, we still tend to be our own worst enemy. Recently we had an aircrew almost repeat the exact same mistakes of the aircrew and the aircraft we lost in Acadiana, La., when they missed a landing pin still in a main mount (fortunately without the same result, a lost aircraft). In the case of birds, we know we can't control nature. But when it comes to human error we have to do a better job as professionals, focusing on attention to detail as well as our NATOPs procedures and our aircraft systems.

A common theme I have found in looking at these incidents, is that habit patterns being broken, lead to aircrew error. If it was not taught to you from day one in training, you need to remember this: anytime a habit pattern is broken you need to restart whatever you were doing – checklist, preflight etc.

Col. Clark provided a brief about six months ago regarding "The Combat Hunter" and "Cooper's Color Code". In his brief he talked about the different levels of preparedness and the effect on our ability to safely do our mission. When we are unprepared and start to make mistakes we can trace those errors to Cooper's Color code and being in Condition White – not prepared. Cooper described Condition White as: "In Condition White one is unaware, not alert, or oblivious. This state can be characterized as "day-dreaming" or "preoccupied." People in White tend to walk around with their heads down, as if watching their own feet. They do not notice the impending danger until it literally has them by the throat."

In aviation, our profession, we cannot afford to be in Condition White. We have to be aware of the impending danger and we need to operate in Condition Yellow: "This is a relaxed state of general alertness, with no specific focal point. You are not looking for anything or anyone in particular; you simply have your head up and your eyes open. You are alert and aware of your surroundings. You are difficult to surprise, therefore, you are difficult to harm. You do not expect to be attacked today. You simply recognize the possibility." (You can Google Cooper's Code for a discussion of the colors and their meanings).

As a military, and as professional aviators, we must continually improve to be the best Combat Warriors in the world. We must stay prepared, mentally awake and recognize when something is not right. When our habits patterns have been broken or checklists are interrupted, we need recognize the fact and take action. We need to be aware of the danger that is lurking and prepared to do what we have been trained to do as professional aviators. As always, I appreciate the professionalism that you show each and everyday as officers and aviators in preparing for events, instructing and in your performance in our aircraft. Stay focused, fly safe and be the best that you can be. BD

The Flying K

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Sailors paying bills even in lean times

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (AW) LaTunya Howard,
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Navy Personnel Command released the results of the 2008 Navy Financial Health Quick Poll, Sept. 24.

The poll was directed by the Secretary of the Navy and administered by Navy Personnel Research, Studies and Technology online, May 13-27. Data was compiled from 3,761 Navy personnel who responded.

The objective of the Quick Poll was to measure the level of financial stress recent economic changes e.g., increased gas prices, insurance rates and higher housing cost are having on Sailors Navywide. The areas of focus included overall financial comfort, living expenses, and how Permanent Change of Station moves impact Sailors financially.

Eleven percent of enlisted personnel describe their financial condition as "keeping my head above water" or "in over my head." This is slightly lower than the 15 percent responding in 2006 Quality of Life Survey.

The top financial problems for Sailors this past year related to housing costs, increased utilities expenses, insurance costs, property taxes, mortgage or rent.

Of those polled, 22 percent of enlisted and 43 percent of officers are home owners, most of whom have fixed-rate loans. A small percentage of Sailors have adjustable or interest-only loans.

The Quick Poll also inquired about a Sailor's ability to save. Sixty-four percent of enlisted and 82 percent of officers who participated in the poll report contributing to some type of savings account. Fifty-seven percent of enlisted personnel and 58 percent of officers polled contribute to the Thrift Savings Program.

Most Sailors agreed that they are able to pay the bills and meet their financial obligations.

Financial health is important in the Navy because poor finances can impact readiness.

Financial problems can contribute to loss of security clearance, loss of job assignment, inability to

pass overseas screening or other special duty screenings, increase in alcohol consumption, increase in domestic violence, increase in stress causing negative affects on health and could result in an unaccompanied tour.

The top four solutions Sailors recommended to combat financial stress were; subsidize transportation cost, stabilize work schedule for second job, offer spouse employment opportunities and make childcare readily available and more affordable.

Sailors experiencing financial stress should consult their chain of command or contact the Fleet and Family Support Center.

Navy Personnel Command's Web site offers tips promoting financial fitness.

The Navy regularly surveys Sailors and their families. Some of the initiatives the Navy and DoD have taken that were influenced by the results of past surveys:

* Largest pay increase in the past 10 years

* Raising the housing allowance to 100 percent coverage

* Design changes in shipboard berthing compartments

* Increased funding for needed parts and supplies

* Expanded career sea pay to include junior officers and junior enlisted

* Changes in detailing to focus on Sailors' career needs and desires

* Determining the correct level of SRBs and continuation pay in various communities/ratings, and

* Increased information on career development in the Navy provided to Sailors, career counselors, supervisors, and families

For more information on Navy Quick Polls, visit the Navy Personnel Research, Studies, and Technology Web site at www.NPRST.navy.mil.

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



Military awards

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal



ABEC(AW/SW) Bernard L. Diaz

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal



LT Joe Heuser



AM2(AW)
Arlie Chambers

Good Conduct Medal



CS3 Keturia Laidlaw

Room of the Month



EN2 Julian Jaynes



For Sale: Canon EOS 650 35mm camera w/eflash & 70-210 telephoto lens included, \$100 OBO; solid oak roll top desk w/chair, \$500. Call Meg at 455-1814.

Two generations come together for a game of Chalupa

NAS Kingsville Junior Enlisted Association (JEA) deals to the residents of the Kingsville Nursing and Rehab Center



DC3 Javier Morgan (left) calls out the "El Soldado" card to the residents during a game of Chalupa.



Right: CS2 Anthony Court points to a resident's card showing her where to place the pop top. Below: CS2 Robert Toler (left) helps a resident find the card called as AC2 Carl Ross looks on.



JEA President (below), CS2 Bernice Meno helps a resident find the card.



Left: AM2 Arlie Chambers assists a resident with her cards. Below: CS3 Keturia Laidlaw joins in the game with residents.



Photos by AC2 Frank Broom, NASK JEA

Around the Navy in 30 seconds.....



PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (Oct. 1, 2008) Children sit in a scale model of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) as the ship makes her way pier side to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor. Russell returned to its homeport of NAVSTA Pearl Harbor after a six-month deployment to the western Pacific supporting the Global War on Terrorism as part of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael A. Lantron/Released).



PACIFIC OCEAN (Sept. 30, 2008) Sailors act as "prop safeties" as a C-2A Greyhound from the "Providers" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 30 performs pre-flight checks on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). Stennis is conducting fleet replacement squadron carrier qualifications off the coast of California. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Josue L. Escobosa/Released).



PACIFIC OCEAN (Sept. 29, 2008) Aircraft assigned to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 fly over the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in formation during an air power demonstration. The Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility operating in the western Pacific and Indian oceans. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class James R. Evans/Released).

POW/MIA ceremony has special meaning for Corpsman

By: EN3 Brenda Acevedo, Public Affairs Office

Photos by Maryann Shramko

The NASK Branch Naval Clinic's POW/MIA commemorative ceremony Friday, Sept. 19 held to recognize the commitments and sacrifices made by our nation's past prisoners of war (POW) and those who listed as missing in action (MIA) provided all in attendance an opportunity to reflect upon the personal sacrifices that come sometime come with serving in the military. Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Steven J. McKinley was exceptionally emotional at the ceremony due to his personal experience while serving in Fallujah, Iraq in 2005.

During a routine observation mission with 2nd Battalion / 7th Marines Weapon Company, McKinley's convoy hit an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). The explosion caused the vehicle's door to plunge towards him sending his body directly onto a mound of ammunition inside the Humvee.

"I woke up six hours later in the hospital," he recalled. "I didn't know what happened. I was informed later on, how I immediately assessed one of the wounded Marines, before passing out from my [own] injuries," said McKinley.

After being transported to Fleet Hospital Camp Fallujah, McKinley was treated for a ruptured spleen, a Grade 3 concussion, and a 25 percent hearing lost in his right ear. Two weeks later, he was back with

his battalion, where he was presented a Purple Heart award. He also received a personal visit from Vice President Dick Cheney.

McKinley's personal experiences in Iraq made the Clinic POW/MIA ceremony special. "At the ceremony, I could really feel heart-felt emotion," McKinley said, "because [a lot of people] in that room knew someone close to them that had not come back."



HM3 Michael Garcia (left) reads the history behind the POW/MIA table as HM3(FMF) Steven McKinley stands-by to due the honors of lighting the candle.



HM3(FMF) Steven McKinley lights the candle on the POW/MIA table to recognize our military members that have yet to return home.



Seven aviators pin on Navy-Marine Corps Wings of Gold

By Maryann Shramko, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Seven Navy and Marine Corps flight students were designated as "Naval Aviators" during Training Air Wing TWO's monthly winging ceremony at the Captain's Club Friday, Sept. 19. The ceremony marked the end of nearly 13 months of training at NAS Kingsville for the group and nearly two years of aviation training. TW-2 Commander CAPT Bill Davis presided over the ceremony along with squadron skippers CDR Bill Bulis (VT-21) and CDR Chris Kirby (VT-22). Also in attendance was Marine COL Timothy Clark, Commander, Marine Aviation Training Support Group Corpus Christi. More than 125 friends, shipmates and family members people attended the ceremony.

Receiving their Wings from VT-21 were: LTJG John Mulcair, Fort Collins, Colorado; LTJG Matthew R. Reed, Coronado, Calif.; 1st Lt. Patrick Wherry, Kent, Wash.; and LTJG Eric Wilson, Rhineland, Wis. From VT-22: 1st Lt. David Caribardi, St. Marys, Pa.; Capt. John Q. Dinh, Saigon, Vietnam and 1st Lt. Jonathan McGrath, Downingtown, Pa.

LTJG Wilson was also recognized during the ceremony for outstanding performance by being named to the Commodore's List for academic excellence. CAPT Davis made the presentation.



Front row (from left): CDR John L. Kelsey, Executive Officer, VT-21; CDR Timothy Carr, Chief Staff Officer, CTW-2; 1st Lt. Jonathan McGrath; LTJG John Mulcair; 1st Lt. Patrick Wherry, Col. Thomas S. Clark III, Commanding Officer, MATSG-22 and CAPT Bill Davis, Commander, CTW-2. Back row (from left) CDR Chris Kirby, Commanding Officer, VT-22; 1st Lt. David Caribardi; LTJG Matthew R. Reed; LTJG Eric Wilson; Capt. John Q. Dinh and CDR William A. Bulis, Commanding Officer, VT-21. Photo by Richard Stewart.

(Retirement from page 1)

cited her "...sincere desire to mentor and counsel both juniors and seniors alike [which] created an enduring climate conducive to a commitment to excellence, and made a positive impact on the professional development of both military and civilian co-workers assigned to the Naval Air Station. Her unrelenting adherence to high standards ensured the command's continuity of operations during numerous base realignment and closure data calls, hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Dolly, Air Installation Compatibility Uses Zone and Encroachment issues, Joint Land Use studies, two phenomenally successful air shows, and the planning and execution during the transition to Navy Region Southeast."

When it came time for Tourtellotte to make her remarks, she fought back her emotions with humor.

"When I grew up in the Philippines I never dreamed that I'd be where I am today," she said. "I always thought that I'd become a nurse or a nun ... so, Navy, nurse, nun. At least they all start with N. But I believe that it is no coincidence that I am here today. And the time has come. It is unbelievable to think that 27 years ago, I enlisted in the Navy. Time flies.

"And now," she continued, "at the place where my active duty career started – NAS Kingsville, is where my active duty career comes to an end after 27 years."

Tourtellotte recalled reporting aboard NAS Kings-



CDR Scott Allen presents Tourtellotte with a Meritorious Service Medal.



CPOA president, CSC Prelvis Lofties presents Tourtellotte with a National Ensign unfurled at the Women in Military Service Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.

ville in 1982 as an Airman Recruit fresh out of boot camp. "I had been expecting to be assigned as a disbursing clerk because I had previously worked as a payroll clerk, and because my recruiter told me that I could become whatever I wanted to be if I enlisted as an undesignated striker," she said with a chuckle. "Did my recruiter lie to me? No. As an undesignated striker you can become whatever you want to be. But it's up to you how you get there."

"My first assignment here was as the [barracks] clerk, and I can still remember walking behind my XO and jotting down discrepancies during barracks inspections. I also recall that I found a new companion during that tour – a lawn mower. Every four days I got to mow about every inch of grass on this Naval Air Station. I got to learn a few other things, too, that helped me learn my role in the Navy, and I learned about setting goals."

Tourtellotte added that she set an early goal for herself during that first tour of duty in Kingsville.

"I wanted to make Petty Officer 2nd class," she said. "Why? Because I wanted to become the mustering petty officer ... instead of [the one always] being mustered. It took me two and half years to reach my goal."

As Tourtellotte concluded her remarks, she fought back the tears that tend to surface when someone is speaking from the heart. "I am so grateful to this organization," Tourtellotte said, "for I have received so much more back than I have given. I am grateful to superiors, my peers and subordinates, and my family. But most importantly, I am grateful to God and his son Jesus for I feel I am truly blessed to have made it

this far."

Tourtellotte ended her remarks with four words that she said became her foundation in life – "service, sacrifice, and selflessness." The "Old Glory" ceremony followed, with ACAN Foy Fleming, MA3 Joshua Walsh, AC2 Kelly Moynihan, GM1 (SW) Kevin Hooks, CSC (SW) Prelvis Lofties, and ETCS (SW) Brian Meyer participating. Other participants included Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Clarence Hodges, and the NAS Kingsville Color Guard consisting of AC2 Nick Morgan, AC3 Craig Regan, RP3 Norman Otters, and AC2 Carlos Lopez-Haver.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, all Chief Petty Officers in attendance posted with the side boys, as the boatswain piped Tourtellotte ashore.



First Class Association President, AC1 Marcos A. Marrero (right) presents Command Master Chief Tourtellotte (center) with a plaque on behalf of the association. Other association members from left are: HM1 Ralph Sample, ET1 Heath Britt, AC1 Richard Holbach, and AC1 William Bowman.

Today...we stop all engines...Lie to...Drop the anchor...And stand by to honor one of our shipmates...a Shipmate who is going ASHORE...!



AC2 Kelly Moynihan salutes the National Ensign prior to accepting it from MA3 Joshua Walsh.



Command Master Chief Tourtellotte presents the National Ensign to her mother Estela Raquin as her sister Alicia Holden looks on.



Command Master Chief (Aviation Warfare Specialist) Genetrix R. Tourtellotte, Retired, Departing!

Fire Prevention Week Oct. 5 - 11

“Prevent home fires”

Fire Prevention Week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire - the two day blaze that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 more homeless, and destroyed more than 17,000 buildings Oct. 8-9, 1871.

That tragedy inspired reform across America, spurring new fire safety codes and public awareness campaigns.

Each Oct., the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sponsors a fire prevention campaign to highlight the importance of fire safety education. This year's theme focuses on preventing fires in the home - where we spend most of our time and where 80 percent of U.S. fire deaths occur. Join us in helping to prevent home fires!

Dec. and Jan. are the peak months for home fires and home fire deaths. Home structure fires are more likely to happen around the dinner hours between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. The leading causes of fires in the home are cooking (which leads to the most fires and injuries), heating equipment, and electrical. Smoking materials and heating equipment are leading causes of home fire deaths.

You can protect yourself and your home from the major causes of home fires by taking some basic precautions. Check each room in your home for these common hazards and learn to spot situations that may create a fire risk.

- Are portable space heaters placed at least 3 feet from anything that can burn?
- Are matches and lighters kept in a locked cabinet where children cannot reach them?
- Has your wiring been inspected to make sure that it meets code requirements?
- Are your electrical cords in good condition, not frayed or cracked?
- Do you have a smoke alarm in each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home?



From left: Fire Fighters Frank Retault and Greyson Watkins; Captain Michael Cavasos; Fire Fighters Shannon Malone; Alan Morales; John Davis; David Ramirez and Fire Inspector Arnold Carranco.

- Are your smoke alarms interconnected so that when one sounds they all sound?
 - Do you test your smoke alarms once a month?
 - Does your family practice your home fire escape plan twice a year?
 - Does your home have an automatic sprinkler system, which will contain a fire?
 - Does your home have carbon monoxide alarms?
- Sound the alarm, it's time for the great American fire drill! NFPA is asking kids and families all across the United States to practice their home fire escape plans. Let's get started!
- Pick a date, anytime in Oct.
 - Make your escape plan.
 - Sound the alarm.

Practicing your escape plan can be lots of fun. But don't forget that this is serious business. Fire can grow and spread through your home very quickly. When the smoke alarm sounds, you need to act right away and know exactly what to do, which takes plan-

ning and practice.

Here are some escape basics we can all live with:

- Make sure your home has working smoke alarms and everyone knows the sound it makes and will be awakened by the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Sit down with everyone in your home and talk about the best ways to get out quickly in the event of a fire. Make a plan for anyone in your home who might need assistance escaping.
- Plan two ways out of every room and pick an outside meeting place.
- Practice your home fire escape drill at least twice a year.

For more information go to www.sparky.org to make your drill count!

U.S. Fire Facts

** The leading causes of fires in the home are cooking (which leads to the most fires and injuries), heating equipment, and electrical. Fires caused by smoking materials and heating equipment are the leading cause of home fire deaths.*

** In 2006, U.S. fire departments responded to almost 400,000 home structure fires.*

** Home fires killed on average 7 people every day in 2006.*

** In 2006, 12,500 fires injuries from home fires were reported to U.S. fire departments.*

** 65 percent of reported home fire deaths occurred in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.*

** Dec. and Jan. are the peak months for home structure fires and deaths.*



Accelerate your mind!

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USS Nassau concludes Hurricane Ike disaster response efforts

From U.S. Fleet Forces Command

GALVESTON, Texas (NNS) -- USS Nassau (LHA 4) weighed anchor Sept. 23 to return to her homeport in Norfolk, Va., after a week of supporting local, state and federal civil authorities in Galveston's recovery effort in the wake of Hurricane Ike.

Nassau's Sailors and Marines accomplished a variety of disaster relief tasks set out by local officials. They distributed 16,440 meals ready-to-eat; 13,835 cases of water; 25,285 bags of ice; took part in emergency debris removal, clearing 1,075 cubic yards of debris; delivered medical aid for 12 minor medical cases; and assisted in bringing critical infrastructure, such as the Port of Galveston and Scholes International Airport, back on line.

"Our Sailors and Marines were able to come to the



GALVESTON, Texas (Sept. 21, 2008) Residents of Galveston receive bleach, cots, food, ice and water from Sailors assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4) and members of the Army National Guard during a food convoy to various neighborhoods to supply people affected by Hurricane Ike. Nassau is anchored off the coast of Galveston to support civil authorities in disaster recovery as directed in the wake of Hurricane Ike. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Chris Hoffpauir).

the "Dragon Whales" of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 28, Detachment 4; Tactical Air Control Squadron 21; four landing craft utilities from Assault Craft Unit 2; Beachmaster Unit 2; Amphibious Construction Battalion 2 (Seabees); and Fleet Surgical Team 2 to Galveston.

aid of their fellow Americans," said CAPT Bob Lineberry, Commander, Amphibious Squadron 6. "Disaster relief and humanitarian assistance is a capability that we take around the world, and it was just as important to help our own citizens. We will sail away from here proud of our accomplishments."

Amphibious assault ships like Nassau have unique capabilities and can provide a variety of assets that can support recovery efforts following natural disasters. Nassau brought two MH-60S Knighthawk search and rescue helicopters from

The ship also deployed Galveston Assistance Team - Overhaul Recovery (GATOR) which is a team of more than 300 Sailors from the ship who volunteered to provide additional manpower ashore.

U.S. Fleet Forces directed Nassau Sept. 17 to proceed to Galveston following Hurricane Ike's landfall. U.S. Fleet Forces is the maritime component command of U.S. Northern Command, Department of Defense's lead supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The ship was already underway conducting routine training

operations off the coast of Virginia when called upon to prepare for possible disaster relief efforts for Hurricane Ike.

Nassau's mission is to embark, deploy and land a Marine landing force by helicopter, attack aircraft or amphibious vehicle. This multipurpose ship has a highly trained crew and ready capabilities to perform many types of missions, including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.



GALVESTON, Texas (Sept. 19, 2008) The wreckage of a home on the Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston, Texas, is shown in this aerial photograph. Hurricane Ike struck the Texas Gulf Coast as a strong category 2 storm Sept. 13, causing wide-spread damage to the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Chris Hoffpauir).



GALVESTON, Texas (Sept. 21, 2008) Operations Specialist Anthony Ford, left, Seaman Casey Johnson and Chief Warrant Officer Damian Schmitt, all embarked aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4), move sewage waste and debris from the Lone Star Flight Museum in Galveston. The museum floor and antique airplanes were covered in sewage waste left behind from Hurricane Ike. Nassau anchored off the coast of Galveston to support civil authorities in disaster recovery as directed in the wake of Hurricane Ike. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kenneth R. Hendrix).



Branch Health Clinic Kingsville Health Fair



FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING!!!

Ever wonder about your blood pressure?

Well stop on by for a free check.

Date: Tuesday, 7 Oct.

Location: NASK Commissary

If you have any questions feel free to contact HM2(FMF/SW/AW) Michael Parke at (361) 516-6313



Hogs put up a good fight but West Texas claims 55-35 win on Military Appreciation Night

Story and photos by Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs, and TAMU-K sports

Nearly 9,000 fans jammed Javelina stadium Saturday, Sept. 27, to see the Texas A&M-Kingsville Javelinas go toe-to-toe with the nation's number-6 rated West Texas A&M. By the end of the first half, Hog fans were wondering if Kingsville was out-matched. But by the end of the fourth quarter, they knew the Hogs had stood up to the test.

The Hogs wasted little time getting on the scoreboard, jumping out to a 7-0 lead early in the first quarter on a 16-yard pass play from senior quarterback Billy Garza to sophomore wideout Damain Couthren. But from that point on, the first half belonged to the visiting Buffaloes.

After the intermission, the Hogs and the Buffaloes settled in to a dogfight. West Texas scored on a 97-yard pass play on their play from scrimmage in the second half to take a 38-7 lead. Kingsville came right back, after a 37-yard kickoff return by Eric John gave the Hogs good field position at the

West Texas 36. Two plays later, the Hogs got into the end zone when Garza hit senior Chase Nesbitt with a 16-yard TD pass.

Both teams continued to score throughout the second half, with the Javelinas outscoring the Buffaloes (5-0/1-0) 28-18. But it was too little too early for the 3-1/0-1 Hogs. "You just can't play 30 minutes and beat a football team like [West Texas]," said Hogs head coach Bo Atterberry. "We didn't play well in the first half. We came out and played well in the second half, but you can't win playing one good half."

The loss ended the Hogs' three-game winning streak. They'll travel to Stephenville, Texas this Saturday for a clash with 16-rated Tarleton State (5-0/2-0). The Javelinas' next home game will be Saturday, Oct. 11 when they face Texas A&M Commerce (2-3/0-1) in the annual homecoming game. Tickets for the game will be available at the ITT office on base.



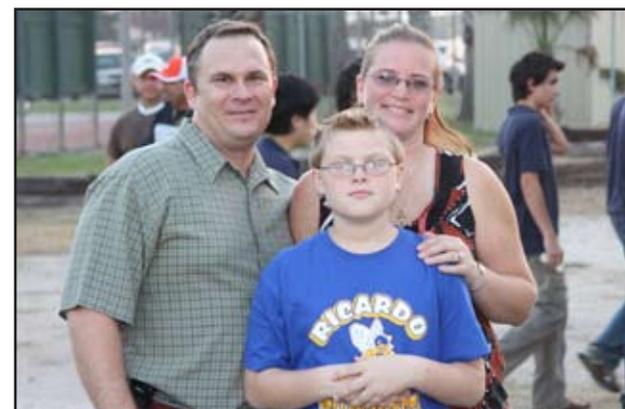
West Texas punter Cort Johnson (26) avoids the Javelina rush to get off a 35-yard punt during the second quarter.



Javelina assistant Scott Dodds watches the action from the sidelines during Saturday's game against West Texas. All Javelina coaches are wearing NAS Kingsville command and squadron patches on their team shirts this year to show their support for the naval air station.



The Texas A&M Kingsville Javelinas break through a paper sign and take the field for the game against 6th-ranked West Texas.



Mrs. Monica Duchesne, wife of AC1 Matthew Duchesne of Air Operations who is currently deployed on an IA assignment to Iraq, and their son Cody, 10, pose with MWR marketing director Wayne Short on the Javelina sidelines during the game. Cody, a student at Ricardo Middle School, was the honorary team captain for the Javelinas for the Military Appreciation Night game.

First Deer Hunt Drawing for Escondido Ranch

White Tail Deer hunting is done on a drawing basis. Archery Season is normally held in October with the ticket drawing in early September. There are three (3) rifle seasons, held separately in November, December and January. The ticket drawing dates are normally held the month prior to each season. Call or email the Ranch for specific dates (830) 373-4419 / escon@grandriver.net.

Those chosen in the drawings will be notified by the ranch staff within 5 days after the drawing. The number of tickets drawn will be determined by the deer popu-



CDR Scott Allen (left) pulls the winning names out of his flight helmet while AOCS Michael Corley writes down the names. (Photo by EN3 Brenda Acevedo)

lation. Each drawing will consist of Doe, Management Bucks, and Mature Bucks. The total number drawn will be comprised of 60% active duty military and the remaining 40% from Reservists, Retirees, Dependents, DoD and NAF employees (w/MWR Cards).

The deer drawing tickets are \$5 each and are available at NAS Kingsville's ITT office (361-516-6449) and at the Ranch until the close of business the day prior to each drawing.

And the winners are.....

Super Combo

Michael Vorpahl

Mature Buck

Darrell Cochran

Management/Cull

Ben Po Jr.

Ben Po III.

Harvey Heck

Jeff Connor

Ryan Workman

Doe

Frank Firmatura

Blaine Firmatura

Curtis Little

Ben Po Jr.

Ben Po III.

Daniel Calderon

Darrell Cochran

Don Leslie

Jeffrey Carlson

Ryan Workman

Allen Cahanding

Matt Vaughn

Louis Morton



Navy Knowledge Online Orientation at the Library

- Every Wednesday at 5 p.m. the Library staff will hold a short class on what the library

section of NKO has available. This great site is for active duty, retirees, and dependants. If you are in the DEERS system, then you have access to this resource. For more information, call the Library at 516-6271.

Texas State Vehicle Inspection - If your Texas State Vehicle Inspection expires this month, stop by the Auto Skills Center and get it renewed to avoid any costly fines. For more information, contact Auto Skills at 516-6248.

Escondido Ranch Hunting Information Released - All the latest and greatest information regarding hunting at Escondido Ranch this season is now available at ITT. For more information, call 516-6449, or drop in Tuesday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Lunch Time Volleyball League - There is still time to get your team into the upcoming lunch time volleyball league. Interested teams please contact The Total Fitness Connection front desk at 516-6171 for more information.

Splash And Dash Results - Final results from the Splash and Dash on 25 Sept. The Splash and Dash consisted of a 400-meter swim, followed by a 5-kilometer run. Men:



First Place: Will Pollard, 26:42; Second Place: Mike Fisher, 32:26; Third Place: Jesse Peppers, 32:46; Forth Place: Isaac Shareef, 34:48; Fifth Place: J. Kent, 38:00; Sixth Place: J. Schranz, 41:42. Women: First Place: Ashley Saunders, 44:55; Second Place: Kim Ray, 45:06; Third Place: Alma Wilson, 52:25.

Oct. 8-9 – Singles Racquetball Tournament -



Time to prove that you are the King or Queen of the court. Tournament gets underway at 4. p.m.. For more information, or to register, please contact *The Total Fitness Connection* front desk at 516-6171.

Oct. 11 – Singles Sailor Trip to Rockport Texas

- Join the Liberty Program for this relaxing day in Rockport. Enjoy a boat show, car show, gumbo cook-off, browse through the more than 60 shopping locations, or enjoy the downtown art galleries and the Texas Maritime Museum. Trip leaves ITT at 9 a.m. and returns at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Amanda Young at 516-6734.

Oct. 16 Wii Fit For Life - MWR Fitness Coordinator, Angela Cupp will be giving a brief overview of diet and exercise for targeted areas using the Wii Fit Profile. Don't miss this great opportunity to mix in a little entertainment with you routine workouts.

Demonstration starts at 6 p.m. in the ITT/Liberty Center. Healthy snacks will be provided. For more information, contact Amanda Young at 516-6734.

Oct. 25 Lake Corpus Christi Overnight Camping/Fishing Trip - Get away for the weekend and enjoy beautiful Lake Corpus Christi with MWR's Outdoor Recreation Department. Lake Corpus Christi State Park is a 356-acre park, located in San Patricio, Jim Wells and Live Oak Counties, southwest of Mathis.

The list of activities to enjoy are endless, and include camping; picnicking; boating (motors allowed); water skiing; fishing; swimming (unsupervised beach); bird watching; and hiking. Call Outdoor Recreation for more information at 516-6191.



Bowling League



In the Dog House Fall League Standings

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>GB</u>
1.	3 Minds in the Gutter	23.0	9.0	0.0
2.	Lane Breakers	21.0	11.0	2.0
3.	Los Tres Vatos	16.5	15.5	6.5
4.	Tumbalos	16.0	16.0	7.0
5.	Hounds	14.5	17.5	8.5
6.	The Rebels	11.0	21.0	12.0
7.	The Pin-Heads	6.0	26.0	17.0
8.	Ghost	0.0	0.0	23.0

Wednesday Nite Mixed League Standings

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>GB</u>
1.	Big K Rollers	11.0	5.0	0.0
2.	Laugh Out Loud	11.0	5.0	0.0
3.	Sixty Forty	10.0	6.0	1.0
4.	Petes Angels	9.0	7.0	2.0
5.	Guttermouths	7.0	9.0	4.0
6.	DUH's	6.0	10.0	5.0
7.	Tidy Bowlers	6.0	10.0	5.0
8.	Ghost?	0.0	0.0	11.0



HOG PEN



Sha Tramble

KINGSVILLE, TEXAS – The Texas A&M-Kingsville volleyball team picked up a big confidence boost on Tuesday night as they steam rolled University of Texas at Brownsville in three sets 25-17, 25-15, 25-14 at the Steinke Center.

The Javelinas (4-11) started the match quickly as they scored

the first seven points and led 11-1 before the Scorpions (1-13) could catch their breath. The second set was a little different as UT-Brownsville put together their best stretch of play taking an 11-8 lead midway through the set. That seemed to wake up the Hoggies as they scored 13 of the next 15 points to take the set. The final set was all Javelinas as they out scored UTB 17-7 to close out the match.

“We wanted to play lose and have fun,” said head coach Shannon Alvarado. “It’s been awhile since we had fun. I really thought the team played well tonight.”

The Javelinas were led by sophomore Sha Tramble (Houston/Clear Brook HS) who had 11 kills without an attack error while posting a team best .579 attack percentage. Senior Shaday Smith (Houston/Jones HS) and freshman Amanda Waclawczyk (Poth/Poth HS) combined for 15 kills as well. Junior setter Kirby Krueger (New Braunfels/Canyon HS) directed the offense with 22 assists and helped out with eight digs and three service aces. Junior Tara Grier (Poth/Poth HS) and sophomore Virginia Hernandez (Katy/Katy HS) each had double figure digs to lead the defense. The sister duo of Casey and Kristin Chancellor (Bellville/Bellville HS) combined for four blocks.

As a team, the Javs tallied 39 kills and a .310 attack percentage on offense. Defensively, the team held the Scorpions to a .032 attack for the match.

The Javelinas are back in action on Saturday at Lone Star Conference rival Tarleton State at 2 o'clock.



My View:

Don't sell the family clunker just yet

Like many of the 100-plus golfers that participated in this year's Navy Ball golf tournament at Oso Beach Municipal Golf Course in Corpus Christi Friday, Sept. 19, there was a slight chance (albeit a very small one) that I could drive home in a new car.

That was just one of the prizes on the line in the 18-hole scramble format tournament that will help fund this year's Navy Ball later this month. Needless to say, I'm still driving my pickup and I haven't made any plans to trade in the family Gremlin. But, that doesn't mean I didn't have a good time. Actually, Friday was a great day when I look at the big



Tournament Director, Michael Gonzales kicks off the festivities.

picture of things. First, I got the day off (a day of leave), and second, I got to play golf (which is always a good thing). Third, I received another lesson in humility (which I'm told by the Chaplain only makes me a better person), and fourth, our team finished in the middle of the pack - up several notches from our previous outing.

Tournament director ACC (AW) "Gonzo" Gonzales picked a perfect day (weather wise) for the event and the golf course staff rolled out the red carpet for a fun day of golf and competition among the aviators and aviator support staff of the "Saddle of Naval Aviation." The 26 teams tallied a total of 1,702 strokes over 18 holes, not counting the strokes that were not counted. The average score was a respectable 65.2 or just over 7-under par.

It's a rough estimate (unless you're playing on the same team as Jeff Lambert of Rolls Royce) but as many as 1,620 other shots were not used during the round because of the scramble format (which one of my partners, Chaplain Mark Tews described as an "absolute blessing." If you throw those numbers into the mix, the average score would jump to over 100, which is why the select-shot format works so well. It makes average golfers like CAPT Bill Davis, Lambert, Kordeen Kor, LT Brent Simmons,

and CAPT Phil Waddingham just as good as Gonzales and the other "ringers" from the squadrons. Then again, if you look at the glass as being half empty, it also makes the average golfer as bad as ACC William Hornbeak, Jay Corley, LT Joe Heuser, and LCDR Dawn Hardin. And that's what makes it so much fun.

The winning team, a threesome of student aviators from NAS Kingsville was an astonishing 15-under par 57. The group included the day's winner of the longest drive and one of the closet-to-the-pin prizes, so they didn't really have to scramble at all. Neither did the four other teams that tied for the second best score, a 13-under 59. But all 22 of the other teams found themselves pretty much in the same boat.

This is the sixth straight year the command has held a golf tournament as part of the fundraising for the Navy Ball, and it could very well have been the best to date. A lot of the credit for that, according to Gonzales, has to go to the many sponsors who donated prizes, but also, to the volunteers like RP3 Norman Otters, ETCM Isaias Gamez, Lucy Clarkson, Sue Waddingham, Besty Davis, ABE1 Andre Kizzie, SK2 Gustavo Cervantes, EN2 LaQuita Baptiste, CS2 Bernice Meno, who spent the day making sure the golfers had a good time.

"We had a great turnout this year," Gonzales said during the post-tournament awards ceremony. "Our sponsors and our volunteers really made this event successful and we thank you all for your participation. This event just keeps on getting better."

So I figure what Gonzo is really saying is, that our team's 4-under par 68 this year, could easily be an 8-under par 64 next year, which would be quite an improvement, but still no where near the top of the list. But then again, it all comes down to how you view the glass, doesn't it?

Cigars...cigarettes.....beverages anyone?



CS2 Bernice Meno (right) and CS3 Keturia Laidlaw make the rounds taking beverage orders for tournament participants.



On your mark....get set....find your cart and go!



Student pilots putting around this hole enjoyed themselves throughout the day.



(Left) LCDR Dawn Hardin is first in line as Lucy Clarkson helps serve lunch to participants after the tournament.

Any closer and I would need to take scooba lessons.

