



Mother's Day



May 11, 2008

Flight Log

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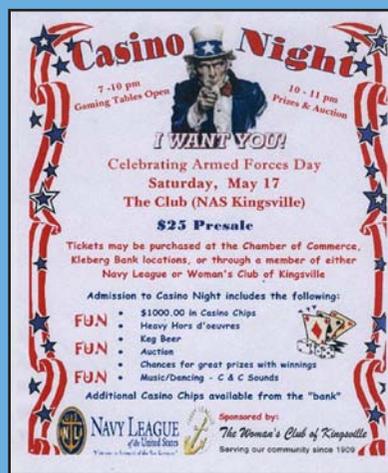
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CNO Speaks to Naval Aviators at Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Symposium

By MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers, CNO Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) ADM Gary Roughead spoke at the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Symposium on April 25 about the community's part in "A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower."

The CNO discussed the vital role of maritime patrol and reconnaissance to the maritime strategy, emphasizing the need to work with other navies.

"Yours is a community that gives us that global presence," said Roughead. "You are there, you are the strategy and most importantly, you and your shipmates are the ones that are carrying it out, day in and day out."

CNO spoke about his three priorities to maintain current readiness, build tomorrow's Navy and the importance of Sailors, Navy civilians and their families.



DJIBOUTI (April 18, 2008) Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) ADM Gary Roughead speaks with Sailors and Marines during an all-hands call at Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa in Djibouti. U.S. Navy photo.

He said it was imperative the Navy is ready for the challenges of today and tomorrow.

"I can tell you that whenever the Navy has been called upon, the Navy

has flown.

The readiness that we put into place a few years ago with the creation of the Fleet Response Plan has allowed us to be that way. But we're also able to do it because we're global and we're deployed and we are where things are happening. Maintaining current readiness allows us to do that," Roughead said.

He then took a series of questions and answers about Anti-Submarine Warfare, the 2010 budget and joint force capabilities. Roughead concluded the discussion by expressing his appreciation for the community's efforts.

"Thank you for what you and your folks are doing every day, day in and day out. You are in unbelievable demand because of the capability and the competence that you bring to the fight," CNO said.

PWD, NAS Kingsville lose a friend and shipmate

"Team Kingsville" lost a dedicated employee and long time friend, Saturday April 26, when Humberto "Beto" Mendez passed away at his home. Mendez was a long time employee of the Public Works Department at NAS Kingsville. Affectionately called "Beto" by those who knew him best, he is survived by his wife Diana, four children, one grandchild, and his parents who reside in Corpus Christi. He was 55.

Mendez began his career in civil service in April 1980 after serving four years in the U.S. Marine Corps. His first job with Public Works was as a pest control assistant, but soon he earned a certification as a building inspector. He later received a journeyman degree as an electrician and with that certification came a promotion to electrical supervisor. He would later earn a Bachelors Degree from Texas A & I University in Kingsville.

In November 2002, Mendez and his wife and son moved to Naval Station Rota, Spain for a three-year overseas tour where "Beto" was promoted to Production Division Director. When his three-year stint overseas was completed he returned to NAS Kingsville and assumed his new position here.

Mendez made many friends during his 28-year civilian service career in Kingsville. He was easy to talk to, fun to be around, and very passionate about life. He loved his family, friends, and coaching and mentoring his children. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, and rock n' roll.

"Beto will be sorely missed by all his PWD Kingsville family," said Public Works Deputy Director John Cortez. "He was one of our senior leaders, a great friend and coworker, and a major contributor to our PW business."

**Humberto "Beto" Mendez
January 11, 1953 - April 26, 2008**



In Memory



From The Bridge...



CAPT Phil "Waddz" Waddingham
Commanding Officer, NAS Kingsville

Greetings, "Team Kingsville"

If you haven't yet seen the PBS documentary, "Carrier," you might want to get a DVD copy and check this out. Tonight is the last two of ten episodes. Filmed aboard U.S.S. Nimitz, this documentary follows the lives of several Sailors as they each go about their daily routines during a 2005 deployment to the Persian Gulf. The filmography is some of the best footage aboard a carrier you will ever see—from below decks, on the flight deck, and in the cockpit. The style is edgy, and has a "reality TV" feel to it. This is in part due to the complete and unfettered access given to the PBS crew by U.S. Navy officials.

Some of the material may shock you, as it is raw and uncensored. But it is real. In the end, it represents on the whole, a real-life look at life aboard a carrier at sea. For the students aviators out there, I encourage you to have a discussion with your instructors to see what they think about the series. I would be curious to get your feedback as well. Don't be surprised if I ask you if you have seen it when I visit the flight line.

By now I am sure many of you have heard the news that Humberto "Beto" Mendez passed away last Saturday. He has been a stalwart director of the Public Works Department's Production Division, and has served our base for over 28 years. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and husband and father, he will be sorely missed by all of us, as well as the City of Kingsville and Corpus Christi. On behalf of the entire team, I extend our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Mendez' family, wife Diana, and daughters Denise, Delicia, Danelle, Devina, and son Gilbert. God Bless.

Waddz sends.

Accounting for Navy Family Members During Emergencies

Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to November 30 each year. Over the last few years the Navy and the Department of Defense have been taking an aggressive approach to ensure that military and civilian personnel and their families are accounted for during emergency situations.

As Hurricane Season approaches, all command personnel are required to update their emergency mustering and family accountability information. The Navy Family Accountability System (NFAAS) standardizes a method for the Navy to account, access, manage, and monitor the recovery process for personnel and their families affected and/or scattered by a wide-spread emergency situation. The NFAAS provides valuable information to all levels of the Navy chain of command, allowing commanders to make strategic decisions and facilitate a return to stability.

NFAAS allows Navy personnel to do the following:

- Update Contact/Location Information
- Complete Needs Assessments
- Review Reference Material Available

Personnel should log into NFAAS at <https://www.navyfamily.navy.mil> to verify and update their contact and planned evacuation information.



Tews' Views



Chaplain (LCDR) Mark Tews
NAS Kingsville, Religious Ministries

"You Have to Believe to Achieve"

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
Romans 12:2

On a warm Friday night in April 1961, President John F. Kennedy gathered a handful of his closest advisors in the Cabinet Room to ponder the Soviet space challenge.

Only two days before, Uri Gagarin had become the first man to go into orbit.

A man of little scientific knowledge, Kennedy was listening to technicians describe a 10-year, \$40 billion race with no guarantee that America would get to the moon first.

Like a boy, Kennedy put his foot on the edge of the cabinet table, fiddled with a loose rubber sole on his shoe, ran his hands through his hair, let his imagination run free and ended the meeting with his jaw set.

Fifteen minutes later he sent the word out, "We're going to the moon. Now that the vision is in place, the answers will be found." Time correspondent, Hugh Sidey, looking back on that evening said, "This was not a military imperative. There was no overwhelming clamor from the public or Congress for such an effort. Something special happened in the mind of Kennedy. The poet in him glimpsed the future, perhaps, or his Irish combativeness responded to the prospects of a race. What we do know is that John Kennedy decided finally, in those few minutes, to take the nation on a peaceful and creative journey the likes of which this world has never known."

Our personal challenges may not be as heroic as trying to go to the moon, but we have challenges in our personal and professional lives that may be difficult for us to overcome. Often times our past images project into our future and those past experiences becomes our reality. How we see ourselves is directly related to our past, thus, influencing our present and future thoughts. But, the way we think and believe about ourselves can be changed, "transformed by the renewing of your mind!" The power to overcome your past, to change the way you see yourself in reality and future events, and to no longer "conform to the pattern of this world," is available by faith everyday. Each day is a new opportunity for us to be transformed by the grace of God and change the way we think, thus, preventing our past thoughts influencing our present thinking. John F. Kennedy believed and America went to the moon. We may not personally go to the moon, but, we are going somewhere and it's only the limitations that we place between

ourselves and God that prevent us from achieving all that we are capable of. At the risk of sounding like an Army commercial, if you truly desire to be the best you can be, the first step is to let go and let God. By His mercy and strength He will transform and renew your mind, and you will believe and achieve, you will indeed soar higher, faster and farther than you ever imagined. The weakest areas of our lives are where God shows His strength. So don't try to hide or deny your weaknesses but acknowledge them before the Lord. For in those very weaknesses, He is strong, and in them He will give you His victory.

Trivia Challenge: Congratulations to Sally Zapata of PW for having the first correct response to the last challenge – Qumran, the name of the region where the Dead Sea scrolls were found in caves. The letter R therefore is the beginning of the next correct answer. Here is your latest challenge;

There once was a King named Og who was left with nothing but a 13x6-foot iron bed in the city of R_____ of the Ammonites.

Musing & Pondering:

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today" ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

"What a caterpillar calls the end, God turns into a butterfly" ~ Anonymous



In The Break...



CDR Timothy "Cowboy" Carr
Chief Staff Officer, Training Air Wing TWO

Recently we had a CNATRA-wide "Professionalism Stand Down." We stood down in order to evaluate not only our safety practices, but more importantly our performance as "professionals" – as Naval Aviators we are professionals. From day one, all of our training has emphasized attention-to-detail: knowing our NATOPs, SOPs, aircraft and weapon systems cold.

Following the stand down, all of CNATRA has been engaged in an operational slow-down to allow for each unit and individual to assess their current readiness and correct any deficiencies which may exist. As we near the end of this period I wanted to share some of my thoughts on professionalism and operational excellence.

First and foremost, as professional warriors we must be experts at our jobs. That means spending the time necessary to learn everything we can about our profession, whether that is training the next generation of aviators or learning to become the next generation. Just fulfilling the flight schedule will not make you a cut above the rest. As in any profession, you have to put in that extra effort to be and stay the best.

Students need to take advantage of every opportunity to excel, from observing simulators to getting back seat rides to knowing the NATOPS and FTI better than anyone – always striving to be best! Being the best also means taking care of yourself, both mentally as well as physically. You need to make time for yourself

and your family. This will be a continuous challenge balancing work and family.

For us as Instructors it is more than just getting in the back of the aircraft and completing grade sheets. We are also mentors and leaders. We must continue to be positive role models, not afraid to take a personal interest in the students under our "wing." More importantly, we must set the example both in the air and on the ground. We must anticipate rather than react, educate rather than evaluate. Our mission is not easy. The days never end. When we complete one student there is another waiting to be trained. The days and nights can be long, flights don't always go as we would like and sometimes we are put to our limits both as instructors as well as aviators. Students will make mistakes but so will we. Admitting these mistakes and learning from them is essential – this is a core ingredient of Operational Excellence.

When we think our day is going poorly, that the days are long and the hours many, we need to remember our brothers and sisters in arms who are leading the fight against terror in such garden spots as Iraq and Afghanistan. They would trade places with us in a heart beat. As professionals, the expectations upon all of us are high. Being a Navy or Marines Corps Aviator isn't easy. It was never supposed to be. Realize that as warriors we have to merit the trust reposed in us to defend this great country of ours. That trust is not given; it is earned – by being the best and winning in combat.

Wearing the uniform of the United States Navy or Marine Corps is a matter of great pride and honor. This country expects great things of us, not because of the uniform itself, but because of the past and present achievements of all those who have ever worn it. Take pride in your service, but realize that service is much more than a word; it is a way of life that requires your best efforts 24/7. I know each and everyone of you are up to the challenge. Stay proud and stay strong, for we are the best! God bless you and your service.

Cowboy

NAS Kingsville saddened by loss of would-be "Pilot for a Day," Alyssa Marie Bouvé

Alyssa Marie Bouvé, beloved family member, teammate and friend, died Saturday after a nearly year-long battle with muscle cancer. She was 10 years old. Alyssa, a fifth-grader at Flour Bluff Intermediate School, was an all-star in softball and an accomplished Super II soccer player. She was twice selected to be NAS Kingsville's Pilot For a Day but had to cancel on both occasions due to illness. She was a straight-A student in Flour Bluff's gifted and talented program. She placed third and fifth, respectively, in University Interscholastic League district reading and writing competitions.

Alyssa was born in Lancaster, Pa., on May 24, 1997. She lived in Padre Island with her family since 2005. Her beautiful smile and sweet, loving, giving personality endeared her to all those privileged to know her. Alyssa is survived by her parents, Tracey

and LCDR Joel Bouve, CNATRA Judge Advocate; twin siblings Courtney and Cole, 6; and both sets of grandparents.

A Rosary will be recited 7:00 p.m., Friday, May 2 at St. Andrews by the Sea Catholic Church in Corpus Christi. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated 1 p.m., Saturday, May 3, at St. Andrew by the Sea Catholic Church with Msgr. Tom McGettrick as celebrant. The Bouvés plan to set up a charitable fund in Alyssa's name for research aimed at finding a cure for rhabdomyosarcoma and other childhood cancers. Donations can be made to the Alyssa Bouvé Memorial Fund.



The Flying K

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

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Lean Six Sigma (LSS) 2008: Progress Report

By Mary Anne Tubman Region Southeast Public Affairs

Throughout the past year, Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) personnel have been introduced to the concepts and practices of Lean Six Sigma (LSS) - a program designed to improve the way we do our work, eliminate defects in our daily operations, and help us achieve significant savings in both dollars and human resources.

The first step to a successful LSS implementation is the training of personnel who will both lead and execute projects throughout the region. Karol Higginbotham, LSS program manager for CNRSE, and Richard Horne, Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC), are both LSS Black Belts who have completed five weeks of specialized training in LSS analytical techniques and statistics. Horne is assigned to CNRSE and will be responsible for the mentoring of Green Belts, who are expected to lead three to four projects per year within regional commands. Training for additional CNRSE Green Belt candidates is slated for April, June, and July. In January, 18 Project Champions, who are assigned to installations and CNRSE headquarters, also completed LSS training, and will provide leadership to LSS projects as process owners. Rounding out the level of skill necessary to serve on LSS project teams are 263 Yellow Belts, who will potentially be called upon to work on LSS projects.

"We reached a strategic pause in our LSS implementation," said Jim Rountree, CNRSE regional business manager. Once we had people trained, it was time to take a look at where we could put their knowledge and skills to use in the field."

That strategic pause ended Feb. 12 when CNRSE staff members were joined by representatives from throughout the region for a three-day High Impact Core

Value Stream (HICV) workshop held at NAS Jacksonville. This workshop was designed to identify future LSS project opportunities from four Core Value Streams - Force Protection, Morale, Recreation and Welfare (MWR), Fleet and Family Services, and Human Resources - through feedback collected from installation commanding officers and other program participants in January. During this process, 16 installations and the headquarters staff provided detailed information about areas where gaps between current performance and desired performance based on resources, customer requirements, and quality are greatest. Their input provided a total of 34 potential LSS projects to be tackled by Green Belts, giving them real-time application of the LSS tools they received in training. Draft project charters and outlines of each project's Suppliers, Inputs, Processes, Outputs, and Customers (SIPOCs) were also created during the workshop. These projects include:

- Human Resources Delivery Service Model
 - National Security Personnel System Compensation
 - Outdoor Recreation Programs
 - Golf Program Operations and Staffing
- Lean Six Sigma 2008: Progress Report 3-3-3-3**
- Streamlining Business Rules
 - Force Protection
 - Security Vehicles
 - Individual Augmentee (IA) Case Management

Monthly tollgate, or execution review of all LSS projects, is one of the components of the LSS Review Board (LSSRB) meetings, the first of which was held March 11. The LSSRB membership consists of the CNRSE Execu-

tive Director Bruce Cwalina, RADM Hugo Blackwood, one installation commanding officer representative, and the N1, N3, N5, N6, N7, N8, N9, and N52 department heads. In addition, the LSSRB also reviews and approves project proposals, assign belts to projects, and submits program recommendations to the Commander.

Other actions of the LSSRB include review of applications for Black Belt and Green Belt training. Annette Higgins of Air Operations and Brett Tracy of Fleet Readiness were the latest candidates selected to attend five weeks of Black Belt training. After they have completed the course, they will be able to lead complex Black Belt projects and to mentor CNRSE Green Belts.

"It's important for everyone to realize that LSS implementation is a journey, with no set ending point," said Rountree.

Guidance for all hands regarding the purpose, policy, responsibilities, and action for the CNRSE LSS program is now available in the LSS Instruction 5220, which was signed out by RADM Michael C. Vitale April 1.

In our next article, we'll examine one of the LSS projects currently in progress - Cell Phone Procurement/Replacement - and illustrate how LSS tools have improved efficiency, created savings, and are better supporting the Fleet, Fighter, and Family.

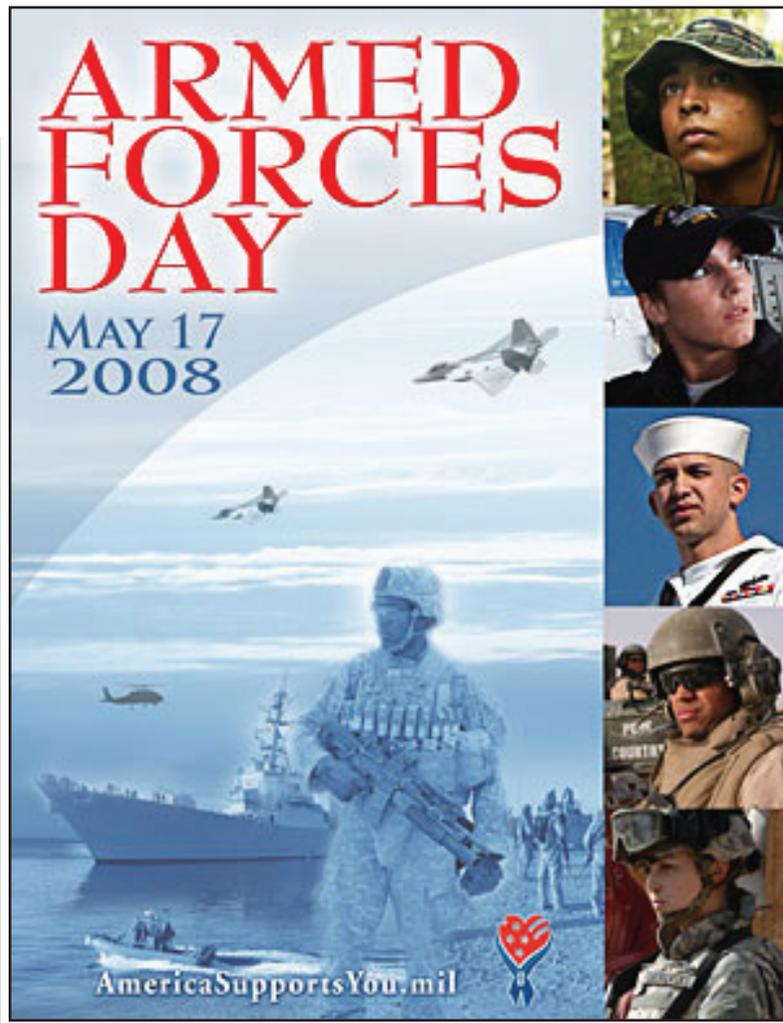
Core Values of the Armed Forces of the United States of America

Loyalty,
Duty,
Respect,
Selfless-service,
Honor,
Integrity,
Personal
Courage.

Honor,
Courage,
Commitment.

Honor,
Respect,
Devotion to Duty.

Integrity First,
Service Before Self,
Excellence in All
We Do.



“Team Kingsville” decorations, awards and recognition

Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal

ABE1(AW) Andre B. Kizzie

Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal

ABH2(AW) Hector C. Garza

AT2 Jacob D. Hood

AC2 Dwayne M. McClure

AC2 Kevin G. Murray

AC3 Chelsea E. Morgan

AC3 Nicholas G. Morgan

AC3 Craig M. Regan

Flag Letter of Commendation

AC1(FMF) Marcos A. Marrero

Flag Certificate of Volunteer Appreciation

ETCM(SW/AW) Isaias Gamez

AC1(AW/SW) Eric Tamez

AC1(FMF) Marcos Marrero

AC3 Chelsea Morgan

ACAN Cody Clubb

Letter of Appreciation

ET2 Thomas Hobbs

Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist

AC3(AW) Kevin C. Hawkins



Front row (from left) ABH2(AW) Hector C. Garza; AC3 Nicholas G. Morgan; AC3 Craig M. Regan; AC1 (AW/SW) Eric Tamez; AC1(FMF) Marcos Marrero; AC3 Chelsey Morgan; ACAN Cody Clubb and ETCM(SW/AW) Isaias Gamez. Second row (from left) CAPT Phil Waddingham, Commanding Officer, NASK; AC2 Dwayne M. McClure; AT2 Jacob D. Hood; ABE1(AW) Andre B. Kizzie; ET2 Thomas Hobbs; AC2 Kevin G. Murray and AC3(AW) Kevin C. Hawkins.

Navy spouse is NEX Associate of the Year

By Brenda Acevedo, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

NAS Kingsville – Navy Exchange sale associate Tonya Hale has been awarded the “Associate of the Year Award” in recognition of outstanding work at the NAS Kingsville NEX for 2007. The award was presented by NASK Executive Officer, CDR Scott Allen, on Wednesday, April 2. Hale was nominated for the award by store manager Ofilia Alvarez, and 11 other store employees.



CDR Scott Allen (right) recognizes Tonya Hale as the NEX Associate of the Year.

“Sales Associate of the Year is one of the Navy Exchange’s highest civilian awards,” said Alvarez, “and it is given in recognition of above-and-beyond service, to show that an employee does more than just their assigned job duties, and that deserves recognition at the highest level.”

Alvarez added that nominees for the annual award are selected based on excellence in their jobs, command impact, and going above-and-beyond in support of NAS Kingsville’s mission.

Hale is originally from Greenville, S.C., and has been here in Kingsville for three years. Overall, she has been an NEX employee for five years. She is married to ET1 Larry Hale and they have a 4-year old son, Landon. Hale’s main responsibilities include ensuring all uniform essentials are available at the store, and providing assistance to military personnel with their uniform needs.

She enjoys her job because she likes working with people. She says: “The award is wonderful.”

Safety first!



From left CAPT Phil Waddingham presented MWR BUCKS to Ruben Guerra, Priscilla Mitchell and Jason Walker for their safety awareness.

Civil Service Certificates



Right photo: CAPT Waddingham congratulate’s Ruben Guerra for 35-years of civil service and Thomas Foster (left) for 15-years civil service.

“Focus on Team Kingsville”

L-3 Vertex volunteers provide much-needed face-lift to static display aircraft

By Jon Gagné and Maryann Shramko

An area that was once home to the NAS Kingsville headquarters building, is now home to two TA-4J Skyhawks, a T-2 Buckeye and a T-45 Goshawk owned by the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Fla. The area, commonly referred to as Static Display Park is lined with trees but the aircraft themselves are wide-open to the harsh elements of South Texas sun. The upkeep of these aircraft is the responsibility of the air station. That's why, in an effort to improve the often forgotten park and its displays, LCDR Jeff McGrath of Training Air Wing TWO was one of a handful of people who made a push to provide the aircraft with a much-needed facelift prior to the April 2008 Air Show. McGrath contacted NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer CAPT Phil Waddingham and Training Air Wing TWO Commander CAPT Bill Davis to garner their support. After receiving permission and encouragement to move forward, McGrath approached L-3 Vertex Site Manager, Robert Weaver for assistance in completing the project.

The ball began rolling during an L-3 Vertex manager's meeting in December Weaver passed a piece of paper around the room asking for volunteers to help with the refurbishing project. Jenny Martin, one of L-3's maintenance supervisors, volunteered, thinking that there would be plenty of help come her way. “I had no intention of planning, leading, and/or coordinating this whole operation,” Martin said. “I pictured in my mind, I would be assisting others maybe two to three days a week for about an hour each day and it didn't turn out that way at all.” Four people roger'd up to the project: Martin, Luis Jimenez, Carlos Garcia, and Mark Caldwell.

Before the aircraft could be moved for refurbishing they had to be washed and relieved of the mold and mildew. The base public affairs office took the lead on the project, only to find that the Environmen-

tal Office would not support the use of a pressure washer. So, with just a scrub brush, a bucket of soap and cleaner, and 350-feet of hose, a working party was held to get the aircraft ready for painting. After 7 hours of work, they were ready for the move, and L-3 took the aircraft one-by-one over to the Corrosion Control building for an overhaul.

the aircraft with the orange and white color scheme. “[Luis] was truly my right hand man,” Martin said of Jimenez.

Caldwell and Garza showed Martin and Jimenez the proper steps for painting aircraft, but they also were credited with volunteering many of their own off-duty hours. Martin gave high praise to all of her volunteers for helping to make this project succeed.

“The fact that this job was completed in time for the air show was most rewarding” she said. “It was hard work, but I wouldn't change a thing about it. It happened the way it did because it was meant to happen this way.”

The first of the three aircraft to receive the much needed face lift rolled into the paint shop in early February and the last one rolled out of the shop a week prior to the air show. Under normal circumstances it takes a crew of 12 about 3-4 weeks to complete one aircraft start to finish. Martin and her other three volunteers did all three aircraft on their off time in just over two months.

“The aircraft look incredible,” said L-3 site manager Nancy Kramer. “I'm really proud of our folks for stepping up and taking on the challenge.”

No sooner was the final aircraft placed back in the park, the fourth and final static aircraft on base, which is permanently affixed to a base some 30-feet off the ground, received a much need bath in lieu of painting. Volunteers from Air Operations performed the task with the help of a man-lift. On the hoses were AC3 Willie Johnson, ABH3 Ernesto Arevalo, and ABE2 Jose Pinto. ABE1 (SW) Andre Kizzie supervised the project. The team's efforts, along with those of the L-3 team, helped provide nearly 50,000 guests who attended the air show April 4-6 a lasting first impression of the air station. More than that, they helped preserve the proud history of the air station.



L-3 Vertex employees (from left) Luis Jimenez; Jenny Martin; Carlos Garza and Mark Caldwell in front of one of three aircraft they refurbished.

As the crew of four began work on the first of the three aircraft it, became more apparent that Martin would, in fact, end up taking on the responsibility to lead the project because she couldn't get past asking herself, “if not me, then who?” The crew had a deadline for the project, too – have the aircraft on display by the day before the 2008 Air Show. That gave them about 60 days to complete the project, using their off-duty time.

Fortunately for Martin, Jimenez, an ordnance mechanic, and painters Caldwell, and Garza were just as enthusiastic about the project as she was. Neither Jimenez or Martin had experience painting aircraft, but the two turned out to be quite a team spending numerous hours cleaning, hand-sanding and painting



TA-4J Skyhawk “BEFORE”



T-2C Buckeye “During”



T-2 Buckeye “AFTER”

(Continued on page 8)

Master Chief's retirement leads to new career with FAA

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Master Chief Electronics Technician (SW/AW) Mike Murgia closed out the log on a 28-year active duty career March 28 during an official retirement ceremony in the Community Center Ballroom of The Club. It was an emotional ceremony for Murgia, but one he shared with family, friends, and shipmates. His son, Ensign Ryan Murgia, Fire Control Officer on board USS Halyburton (FFG-40), was the guest speaker for the ceremony.

"Two years ago," Ensign Murgia said, "I was fortunate enough to receive my first salute as a Naval officer from my father. That day is one of the proudest days of my life. Today, it's an honor for me to be standing here as [my father's] guest speaker

on the day he goes ashore; and I am extremely proud of him and what he has been for the Navy over the last 28 years."

What Murgia has been for the Navy over that period is consistent. From his first days at Recruit Training Command Orlando, Fla., to his final days in khakis in South Texas, he served his Navy with pride. "When I came into the Navy in 1980," Murgia said during his remarks, "I was only 17. I had been fortunate to see some of the world already, but I had no idea what to expect. What I discovered was ... this was where I needed to be."

It didn't take Murgia long to realize that there were benefits of being a Sailor. Murgia met his wife, Sharilyn, while he was in boot camp. She had also enlisted and was assigned to his division's sister company. Less than a year after they met they were married.

"My division officers were always saying 'If the Navy wanted you to have a wife,' Murgia joked during his retirement ceremony, "they would have issued you one in your seabag. I figured this was pretty close to that."

As a young Sailor, Murgia was a quick-learner and a reliable technician. As such, he advanced up the career ladder quickly. He became a petty officer in 1981 after graduating from Advanced Electronics Technician "A" School. He added another chevron during his next assignment aboard USS Orion (AS-18). In 1987, Murgia was selected for instructor duty at Ft. Gordon, Ga., teaching satellite communications maintenance. In his spare time, he hit the books, earning an Associate's Degree in general studies, and

a Bachelor's Degree in electronics maintenance. He was also designated as a Master Training Specialist, was nominated by his command as Instructor of the Year, and, promoted to petty officer first class.

In 1990, Murgia and his wife Sharilyn and their two sons headed north to Keflavik, Iceland for duty at NATO Satellite Ground Terminal F-15. During this tour, Murgia qualified as Communications Watch Officer, earned his Aviation Enlisted Warfare Specialist designation, and was promoted to Chief Petty Officer.

"Making Chief was a great moment for me. Being accepted into the Chief's fraternity and being able to experience the camaraderie and learn from my fellow Chiefs was something I will always be grateful for." Murgia would later be promoted to Senior Chief and Master Chief, a milestone reached by less than 2-percent of enlisted personnel.

During his 28-year career Murgia served overseas in Italy (twice), Western Australia, and Iceland. Shipboard tours included the USS Orion as a junior petty officer, and USS Rainier (AOE-7) as the ship's Electronics Material Officer. Stateside duty included assignments at Service Schools Command Great Lakes, Ill.; Strategic Satellite Communications School at Fort Gordon, Ga.; Service Schools Command Millington, Tenn., as an instructor; NAS Pensacola, Fla., as a maintenance chief; Combat Systems Training and Readiness Coordinator Leading chief for Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic in Norfolk, Va.; and at NAS Kingsville where he served as Air Operations Department Leading Chief.

Through it all, Murgia credits his faith, his family, and his pride in serving his country. Now, he moves on to his next challenge as he moves into the civilian sector with the Federal Aviation Administration. He accepted a position with Air Route Traffic Control Center Houston and has already checked-in and jumped into the mix.

"It's funny," Murgia said as he closed his remarks at the ceremony. "It's almost like I'm starting over. I can't reiterate enough that I've been both humbled and blessed to serve in the greatest Navy and with the greatest people on Earth."



ETCM (SW) Mike Murgia fights back tears during his remarks.



ENS Ryan Murgia (left) was the guest speaker at his father's retirement ceremony.



CAPT Phil Waddingham presents Murgia with his Fleet Reserve Certificate.



Murgia renders honors to the Stars and Stripes as ETCSC Brian Meyer (left) makes the presentation.



Murgia proudly goes ashore with his wife Sharilyn at his side signifying the end of Navy deployments.

Photos by Maryann Shramko



**NAS Kingsville
Branch Health Clinic Corner**

"Medicine Men"

So you've seen the doctor and the doctor has decided to give you some kind of medication to help you get over that nasty cold or virus that you have. So what exactly happens after the doctor places the order in the computer system? Well, that's where our Pharmacy Techs come in.

Ralfe Houser is the Branch Health Clinic Kingsville's resident Pharmacist. He has been working at the BHC Kingsville for over nine and a half years. Assisting him is HM3 Cyrus Cunningham who has been in the Navy for five years and has been a pharmacy technician for the past three years. They are dedicated to making sure that you, as a patient, get the right medications that you need and that you receive them in a timely manner.

Why wait to the very last minute to order your refills? By calling in your refill Houser and Cunningham are able to fill your prescription and have it waiting for you when you come in. With the refill call-in line this allows you to call in your order up to nine days before you run out, making sure that you never have to worry about not having enough medication.

Say you run out of your medications and you have no refills left, what do you do? Well, in this case you have to set up an appointment with your primary care manager. Once the appointment is set up bring proof of the appointment to the pharmacy and the staff will be able to give you an emergency refill of your medicine. The refill will last until your scheduled appointment where upon your primary care manager will write you a new prescription. Also, it is paramount for you to keep accurate records of the medication you are taking and what day supply that you are currently have.

The pharmacy hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and it is closed on Wednesdays at 12 p.m. for training and on the weekends. Houser must be present for new prescriptions to be processed, so please call in advance.

As per DOD regulations transfers will take 48-72 hours to process and can only come from military treatment facilities. The refill call line is 1-877-520-6582. If you have further questions call 361-516-6313.



From left: HM3 Cunningham and Ralfe Houser

By HM3(FMF) Jacob Welch



**Welcome
Aboard!**

1st. Lt. Taylor A. Oxee
Student Naval Aviator, VT-21
Laguna Nigel, Calif.

2nd. Lt. Aaron S. Melsolik
Student Naval Aviator, VT-22
College Station, Texas

Ensign Joshua K. Brown
Student Naval Aviator, VT-22
Austin, Texas

Ensign Aubrey R. Harris III
Student Naval Aviator, VT-21
Hendersonville, N. C.

(Focus on "Team Kingsville" continued from page 6)

A walk in the park: a truly "public" affair

While L-3 was taking on the project of getting the static aircraft revamped in time for the air show, the Public Affairs Office spearheaded the rehab of the park area surrounding the A-4 on the stick. Like the aircraft painting project, this one would require several weekends to complete and involve the efforts of a number of personnel who donated their off-duty time to get the job done.

The PAO staff started the project in early January. About a week later, CAPT Phil Waddingham brought his wife Sue, and sons Luke and Matt out for an afternoon of hedge trimming and general clean-up of the area. The following week, MWR Marketing Director Wayne Short, RP3 Norman Otters, DCCS (SW) Monette Walker, EN3 Brenda Acevedo and Maryann Shramko spend several hours removing crushed rock, digging up dead plants, and tearing out old landscape timber. By the end of January, "Aviator Park" as the PAO team calls the area, was taking on a new look.

The efforts continued throughout the month of February and into March. RP2 Christine Tamag and Command Master Chief Gene Tourtellotte joined the effort as the deadline for completion of the project got under 30 days. Short

provided his expertise in trimming trees and removing overgrown and dead hedges, while the rest of the crew began clearing out the walkways and removing overgrown weeds

A final push to get the park ready was held on Saturday, March 29 as MWR Leading Chief AOCS (AW) Jay Corley and a number of his staff turned out to help. The group included FC2 Manuel Ontiveros, EN2 Julian Jaynes, DC3 Javier Morgan and MRFN Jonathan Cruz. The Waddinghams were also in attendance (minus the sons) and for nearly four hours the group cleaned revamped the park area. By late afternoon, more than 3,000 lbs of rock had been taken moved.

The final efforts to get the park ready for the air show were completed on April 2, as Tourtellotte, Short, Public Affairs Officer Jon Gagné, Shramko, Otters and Tamag put down the landscape covering and added the mulch. As the park neared completion, volunteers from Public Works tackled the old monuments in the park area, stripping off the old tiles (those that remained), sanding down the concrete towers, adding new tiles and grout, and replacing the monument tablets. The volunteers, Brigido Salinas, Richard Bustos, and Andres Ca-

marillo finished their project with three days to spare. Overall, the group volunteered about 20 manhours on the project.

Over the last 10 days, MWR has helped remove the last of the crushed rock and the PAO team has put down the last 40 bags of mulch to Aviator Park. In a matter of weeks, new flowers will be blooming in the park, adding a little more color to the area.

Eventually, the park will add a few other projects that will tie in with the historical tribute to the air station. But for now, the park is rejuvenated, the monuments are once again proudly displayed, and the birds are happily chirping from the crape myrtles.



From top to bottom: Andres Camarillo; Brigido Salinas and Richard Silvas work together on re-tiling one of two monuments in the Aviator Display Park.



Wayne Short (left) and FC2 Manuel Ontiveros shovel rock into the tractor for transport to the horse stables.



CAPT Phil Waddingham waits for ETCM Isaias Gamez to fill up the wheelbarrow.



My View From the sidelines:

*Commentary by Jon Gagné
Public Affairs Officer*

The Public Affairs Office has been spending a lot of time lately preserving the history of the Naval Air Station and the people who have served here. You've probably seen some of our progress if you've been to The Club or stopped by Aviator Park and taken a look at our static aircraft that recently received a new paint job thanks to the volunteer efforts of four personnel from L-3 Vertex. (See story on page 6). The sidebar story focuses on the efforts we have undertaken at the park area, and again, volunteers made it happen. Even the base commanding officer and his family have chipped in to help revamp the area, and by the middle of May, the park will be finished. Almost.

Our next project takes our efforts to preserve the history of the base one step further by focusing on the people (military and civilian) who have passed through these gates in support of our mission of training the "World's Finest Naval Aviators." It's a project that will leave a little of your own history here, too, if you care to participate. It's also a project

that will help us maintain the static aircraft and the park years into the future.

The bottom line is we're going into the brick business. Beginning later this month, we're going to be putting into motion a plan to add color and history to the park area by selling engraved bricks to individuals. Each brick will have up to three lines of text engraved upon them, and mark the dates of service aboard the air station, specific event (such as Wingings, Sailors, Civilians and Instructors of the Year, etc.), or military service. The bricks will be neatly displayed throughout the park area. To help populate the park, we're going to be contacting Navy and Marine Corps aviators who earned their Wings here or served as Instructors to offer them an opportunity to be a part of our history.

This project isn't a new concept. I got the idea for this from a similar project conducted in Milton, Fla., in 2004. The local Veterans Association spearheaded a drive to build a Veteran's Plaza in downtown Milton that recognized the service of veterans from all branches of the military. The end result is truly impressive, and mesmerizing.

The park includes more than 6,000 engraved bricks, bronze sculptures and historical panels dedicated to each branch of the service. Something like this at NAS Kingsville would be awesome.

Shortly after the park in Milton was dedicated, I spent several hours walking around looking at the names on the bricks and dates of service. Nearly every single American conflict was covered, from the Gulf War to the Revolutionary War. Some bricks marked the names of those lost or missing in action, and some simply offered an inspirational message like "Peace." It was an emotional experience, to say the least.

What we do with our park at NAS Kingsville is up to us. The possibilities are endless, and no matter what we do, the park will serve as a lasting tribute to the thousands of men and women who have served and worked here over the years, and the people of Kingsville who have supported our role in the defense of this great country.

That alone is good enough reason for me to start moving forward with this project, but it won't happen overnight. After all, we're going one brick at a time.



Veterans' Plaza, Milton, Fla.

Video News From Around the Navy (Click on links below)

Navy News: This Week:

<http://www.news.navy.mil/dnu.asp?id=10915>

Focus on: Personnel News:

<http://www.news.navy.mil/dnu.asp?id=10900>

USS Nimitz CO records 1000th arrested landing:

<http://www.news.navy.mil/dnu.asp?id=10836>

Motorcycle Safety Classes:

<http://www.news.navy.mil/ahtv.asp?id=10913>

San Antonio Class ships:

<http://www.news.navy.mil/ahtv.asp?id=10912>

Information for Forward Deployed

Individual Augmentts:

<http://www.news.navy.mil/dnu.asp?id=10836>

Family Life: Coping with Deployments due to IA assignments:

<http://www.news.navy.mil/dnu.asp?id=10887>



“Team Kingsville” volunteers assist local Boys and Girls Club

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Seventeen volunteers from several NAS Kingsville commands spent several hours at the Kingsville Boys and Girls Club on Friday, April 18, as part of a community rehab of the facilities sponsored by Kleberg Bank. The group offered their services repairing drywall, painting walls, assembling playground equipment, repairing broken computer systems, and setting up a functional wireless computer network for the facility.

“We really appreciate the Naval Air Station assisting us with this project,” said Lisa Weeks, Kingsville Boys and Girls Club executive director. “Kleberg Bank provided all the funds for the work, including supplies, and we’ve had a good number of people turn out to help with the work. Because of the good turnout from NAS Kingsville, we got a lot of work done and the children will be very happy with the results.”

The volunteers were split into two shifts for the work day. The morning shift consisted of Victoria Brown and Cindy Cantu from Navy Federal Credit Union (painting); Chaplain Mark Tews and RP3 Norman Otters from the Chapel (drywall); Deandra Ruelas and Davin Silva from Symtech (painting); MA3 Kelly Meredith from Security (painting); HTC Oscar Vargas from Fleet and Family Services (Assembly),



(From left) ABE2 Bennie Lee Clark, ABH2 Elias Gonzales and AC2 Anthony Mason check to make sure they have enough parts to assemble playground equipment.

ACAR Christine Collins from Air Traffic Control (painting), LCDR Tim Kray from VT-21 (drywall), and Security civilian employee Kevin Myrick (drywall/painting). RP2 Christine Tamag and ABE2 Bennie Lee Clark worked the afternoon shift, handling the remaining tasks. Spending the entire day at the facility were ETCM Isaias Gamez from Ground Electronics, and ABH2 Elias Gonzales and AC2 Anthony Mason from NALF Orange Grove and ABE2 Benny Lee Clark from Field Support, who worked

on assembling playground equipment; and ET1 Anthony Gallegos and ET2 Glenn Moody from Ground Electronics, who worked on setting up a computer network and repairing computer systems.

“This was a good turnout from NAS Kingsville,” said Otters, who helped coordinate the effort. “These are the kind of events that everyone seems to enjoy because at the end of the day, they can actually see what they’ve done. I’m sure the children will appreciate their efforts.”

The Kingsville Boys and Girls Club handles just over 230 children during the school year, aged 6 to 18. The facility is open Monday through Friday from 2:30 to 6 p.m. During the summer months, hours of operation are 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Taking care of business!



ET1 Anthony Gallegos works on creating a wireless computer network at the Kingsville Boys & Girls Club facility.



Kingsville’s John Davis, resource development coordinator, United Way of the Coastal Bend, and ETCM Isaias Gamez check out the building progress on the playground equipment.

Rules



** “Play money” only. \$1,000 worth of chips comes with every ticket. \$10 for each additional \$1,000 stack of chips.

** At the end of the night, chips will be traded for raffle tickets. One ticket for every \$1,000 worth of chips.

Active duty Military Discount (Includes family members):

- E5 & below: \$15
- E6 & above: \$20
- All others: \$25
- Free child care for active duty personnel.

Prizes

Lots of prizes! Just drop tickets in the bags next to the prizes you want. Bags are shaken, tickets are drawn. Prizes are given out.

Casino Night



Dealers Needed!

This is a request for dealers from the active duty side of the house. Male and female volunteers are welcome. About 50 volunteer dealers are needed. Volunteer dealers are a vital key in making the Casino Night a success. With 50 dealers, each person would deal 1.5 hours of the 3-hour gaming period. The rest of the time would be their own. Dealer dress code is white shirt/blouse and black skirt/pants. But.....if anyone wants to be creative, have at it (within good taste, of course) ... it is Armed Forces Day.

To sign up call
Linda Gerd at (592-4952)

Advantages of Being a Volunteer Dealer:

- Free Admission. Normal active duty admission is \$20 per person. If you want to gamble, you’ll pay \$10 for \$1000 worth of “play chips.”
- The chips will be traded in at the end of the evening for raffle tickets.
- Excellent training by experienced dealers. Understanding the game (blackjack) will give you an advantage on your next trip to Vegas.
- A “No Stress” environment. It’s all play money. So, if you mess up, no one cares. Just give everyone an extra chip, and move on.
- A great time and learning opportunity.
- Free child care will be provided for all military personnel.
- And free beverages and heavy hors d’oeuvres are part of evening for all attendees.





Happy Birthday Game Night - If your birthday is in the month of May, we want to help you celebrate. Enjoy a night of food, fun, and games at the Liberty Center in The Captain's Club on May 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Computer Class - Want to find out how to clean that hard drive, or set up your e-mail? Join us at the ITT/Liberty Center on May 15 for a computer class. For more information, call the Liberty Center at 516-6449.

Corpus Christi Hooks vs. San Antonio Missions - Join us for a trip to Whataburger Field, and an exciting night of baseball action when the Hooks take on the Missions May 6. We will enjoy the game from our own private deck in Power Alley, some pre-game grub, and free beverages throughout the game. \$20 for all single sailors, \$27 for all others, and includes transportation. Game time is 7:05 p.m., we will depart The Captain's Club at 5 p.m. For more information, or to register, call 516-6437.

The ITT/Liberty Center - will be closed at 4:00 p.m. on May 6 for the Hooks vs. Missions baseball game.

Mothers Day Brunch - What better way to show Mom how much she is appreciated than to treat her to brunch on her special day at The Captain's Club? The cost is \$14.95 for adults and \$7.50 for children under 12. Children under 5 eat free with an adult meal. Brunch will be served from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on May 11, and include an extensive menu, with live entertainment. For reservations, call 516-6512, or stop by the ITT/Liberty Center at The Captain's Club and make your reservations in person.

Celebrate Armed Forces Day by tempting Lady Luck. Sponsored by the Navy League, and The Woman's Club of Kingsville, this exciting night of Casino action at The Captain's Club on May 17 will feature a number of gaming tables, prizes, and an auction. Cost is \$15 for E-5 and below, \$20 for E-6 - O-2, and \$25 for all others. The fee includes: \$1000 in Ca-

sino Chips, heavy hors d'oeuvres, keg beer, auction, eligibility for prizes, and music/dancing. The fun will run from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.. Get your tickets now at ITT in The Captain's Club. Call 516-6449 for more info.

Kids Night Out - Making plans to attend Casino Night? Perhaps the kids would enjoy a night out as well. The Child Development Center (CDC) and the Youth Center (SAC) have just the ticket for the kiddos while you enjoy a well deserved night out. Both facilities will be open from 6:30 p.m. - midnight on May 17, and registration is only \$5 per child, or \$10 per family. Contact the CDC at 516-6176, or SAC at 516-6718 for more information.

The CDC and Youth Programs - will be holding a Staff Appreciation Bowling Party on May 9 at the Bowling Center from 6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.. Immediate family members are invited.

Memorial Day 5K Fun Run - Kick off the Memorial Day weekend with a little exercise at the Memorial Day 5K Fun Run on May 22. The fun starts at 11:30 a.m. at the Base Gym. T-shirts will be given to the first 25 participants to sign-up and complete the event. Medals for the top 3 finishers in each age group will be awarded. The event is free to active duty, Reservist, retirees, and their dependents. Civilians can participate for \$5. For more information, call the Base Gym at 516-4386.

Bowling Center - The ladies summer league gets under way May 12 and will run through August 18. For more information, contact the Bowling Center at 516-6196. Active Duty military and station personnel bowl FREE Monday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m..

Auto Skills Center - Let us make sure your vehicle is in top condition with a free vehicle safety check. Stop by anytime between May 17 and May 24 to have your vehicle checked out. For more information, call 516-6248.

Need a safe and secure place to store that R.V, boat, trailer, or extra car? If so, the Auto Skills Center has just the thing for you. There are a total of 47 sites in 3 locations. All sites, except those at the Auto Skills Center, will now be accessible 24 hours a day. For more information, contact the ASC at 516-6248.

Outdoor Recreation - Looking for temporary housing? The Outdoor Recreation Center has a 29-foot RV ready for move in. The monthly fee is \$450, and includes all utilities.

MWR Facilities will be closed on May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

Texas A & M
Kingsville

HOG PEN



Javelina "Athletes of the Year"



Senior football player Rod Mosley (Austin Reagan) and senior softball player Julia Canales (H.M. King) took home the Gil Steinke Award, given annually to the top male and female student-athletes of the year.

Bowling Leagues

Wed. Nite Mixed Standings

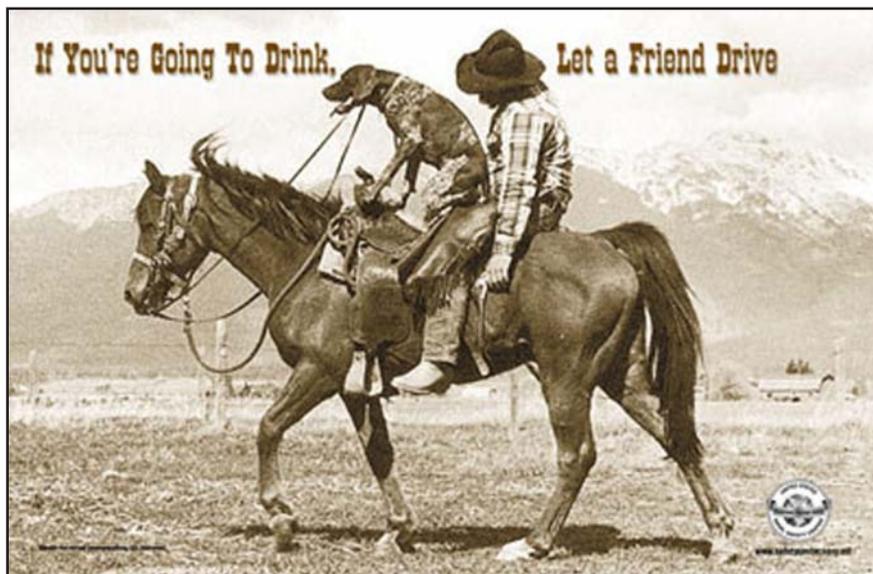
Pos.	Team	Won	Lost	GB
1.	Laugh Out Loud	69.5	50.5	--
2.	DUH's	67.5	52.5	2.0
3.	Kool Katz	66.0	54.0	3.5
4.	Sixty Forty	59.0	61.0	10.5
5.	Petes Angels	57.5	62.5	12
6.	Big K Rollers	56.0	64.0	13.5
7.	Sharp Shooters	54.0	66.0	15.5
8.	Skippy Strikes	50.0	69.5	19.5

Wed. Nite - In the Dog House League Standings

Pos.	Team	Won	Lost	GB
1.	The Lane Brakers	42.5	21.5	--
2.	Tumbalos	40.5	23.5	2.0
3.	Hounds	31.5	32.5	11.0
4.	The Rebels	27.0	37.0	15.5
5.	The Pin-Heads	26.5	33.5	16.0
6.	3 Minds in the Gutter	26.0	38.0	16.5

Mon. Nite - Ladies Nite Out League Standings

Pos.	Team	Won	Lost	GB
3.	Lucky Ladies	79.0	45.0	--
2.	Petes Angels	79.0	45.0	--
1.	Gamblers	74.0	50.5	5.0
4.	Lady Bugs	72.0	52.0	7.0
5.	Holy Rollers	61.0	63.0	18.0
6.	Ghost	7.0	109.0	72.0



On assignment: NAS Kingsville's Individual Augmentees (IAs):

History comes full circle

Story and photos by Army Spc. Wes Landrum

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait— June 6, 1944, dawned early for the men of the 116th Infantry Regiment as they led the first wave ashore on Omaha Beach in the largest seaborne landing ever – D-Day. According to the unit's history, the regiment was the only National Guard regiment to participate in the first wave during that historic day. The 116th, a subordinate unit of the 29th Infantry Division, was responsible for a section 3,000 yards long that contained two passages inland. Their job was to open the routes for other units to drive inland.

More than 60 years later, the past met the present at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 28, as Soldiers of the battalion received a departing gift from their Navy brethren – a World War II helmet with the 29th ID logo on it. Chief Petty Officer Michael A. Estok, Area Support Group – Kuwait Security Force and an Individual Augmentee from NAS Kingsville, said the 116th Inf. Regt., and the Navy worked together on that fateful day in 1944 and, 64 years later, joined forces once again to combat a common enemy.

“The U.S. Navy delivered the 29th Infantry Division, Virginia National Guard, to the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. The Soldiers of Virginia and the 3rd of the 116th are once again on the beaches, this time in Kuwait providing a vital effort in the Global War on Terrorism in Operation Iraqi Freedom,” Estok said.

Estok said the Soldiers were responsible for providing security at a seaport in Kuwait and securing assets leaving the port to destinations throughout the



A 29th Infantry Division Helmet from World War II stands prominently on a stand as a gift from the individual augmentees of the U.S. Navy to the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment.

U.S. Army Central area of operations.

Lt. Col. John M. Epperly, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Regt., commanding officer, said the two branches of service worked closely together to reach a common goal – port security.

“I told you guys, from week one, that we are the closest joint team in Kuwait,” Epperly said. “The last time we were together that close was when helmets like this were worn and we had our patch on the front of our helmet.”

The helmet was donated by Gary Underhill from Reno, Nev. Underhill also preserved and restored the piece before giving it to the Navy Petty Officer 1st Class David Hayes, an individual augmentee to the battalion.

“With a ‘can do’ spirit, the Navy personnel used all their vital resources to ensure that we left the Army with something memorable to show their families upon their return to Virginia,” Hayes said.

The Soldiers of Company D, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Regt., were the first to see the helmet. Capt. Jim Tierney, the company commander, said the presentation was humbling.

“It really is a great representation of the time when the 116th and the Navy worked closely together back in the 1940s during the D-Day invasion,” the Charlottesville, Va., native said. “We have not worked this closely in a long time so it will be proudly displayed and capture the memories of what we did here in Kuwait.”

Tierney said the presentation caught everyone by surprise and it would be a big hit at the unit's Veter-



Chief Petty Officer Michael Estok (left), Lt. Col. John Epperly (center) and Capt. Jim Tierney (right) look at the World War II Helmet that was presented to the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment during a ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 28.

ans' Reunion in November.

“We are able to have a regimental muster every year,” he said. “Unfortunately, the group is getting smaller; but we get a group of D-Day veterans who were there in the first wave. It's a humbling experience to talk to them and to have this back in the company's possession is great.” Epperly told the Soldiers present that history had a way of repeating itself. He said the unit is playing a major role in fighting the Global War on Terrorism just like they played a key role during the D-Day invasion that June day.

“You guys are a part of history. You look back at our regimental colors, you see 42 battle streamers. You guys will add a streamer to it,” Epperly told the Soldiers in attendance. “What you've done here is special and it's generational. This [helmet] is really evident of that.”

Returned from IA assignment:

YN2 Israel Redden returned on April 12 from a six-month individual augmentation (IA) assignment to Balad Air Base, Iraq in support of “Operation Iraqi Freedom” and the “Global War on Terror.”



Welcome Home

YN2(SW) Israel Redden

Safety Photo of the Week

What are these two guys doing? You tell us! Send a caption for this photo to the Public Affairs Office at kngv-pao@navy.mil. We'll pick the top three captions and display them in our next issue.

