



NAS Kingsville battens down the hatches for Hurricane Dolly

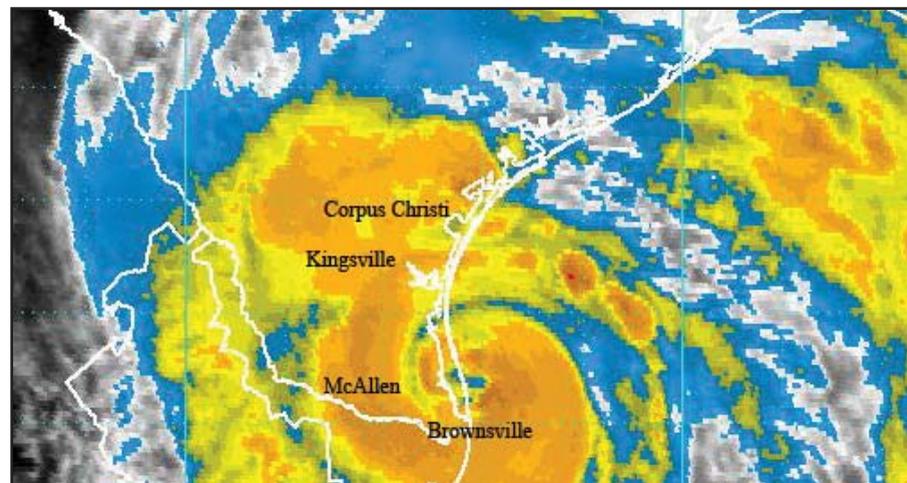
By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The year's second named hurricane made a direct line for South Texas July 20-23, eventually making landfall at about noon Wednesday, July 23 near Brownsville, Texas, about 125 miles southeast of Kingsville. Dolly was upgraded to a Category II hurricane just prior to making landfall bringing heavy rain, strong tropical storm force winds, and tornado warnings as far north as Corpus Christi and Portland. South Padre Island took the brunt of the storm as it came ashore.

NAS Kingsville began preparing for the storm Friday, July 18 as Emergency Management Director ACC (AW) Mike Garcia began coordinating the air station's post-storm preparations.

"We were watching the storm very closely as it developed in the Gulf of Mexico," Garcia said shortly after the storm passed through the Kingsville area. "We didn't know until mid-day on Tuesday that we would not be in the direct path of the storm. As it turned out, the storm was upgraded to a Cat II and moved a bit to the north of Brownsville just before making landfall, so we ended up getting a lot of rain and heavy wind from the outer bands of the storm."

Garcia said the base was able to escape any major damage due to the joint preparation efforts. "Every command, activity and department followed their requirements for pre-storm prep," Garcia said. "Air Operations placed sandbags around the entrance to buildings and put window shutters on the main building. Public Works put plywood over the windows at the Branch Health Clinic, and MWR personnel and Navy housing officials put out sand bags and stowed away equipment and potential missile hazards."



National Weather Service satellite image of Hurricane Dolly making landfall.

L-3 Vertex personnel moved 77 of Training Air Wing TWO's 105 T-45 Goshawks into hangars to prevent damage from heavy winds and rain, and secured-in-place an additional 13 aircraft under the protective canopies on the NASK tarmac. The other 15 aircraft departed the base early Tuesday on a scheduled weapons detachment in El Centro, Calif.

NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer CAPT Phil Waddingham set the air station in modified Condition of Readiness III early Tuesday, July 22, and kept the base in that condition throughout the storm. Wednesday was designated as "essential personnel and command-directed only," and all base facilities were closed.

"Even though we were not in the projected direct path of Hurricane Dolly I thought it was prudent to proceed with caution," Waddingham said. "With landfall near Brownsville, we knew we would still be on the outer band of the storm and would see strong tropical storm-force winds, heavy rain, and possible flooding. My main concern was for our people. I didn't want our

folks -- especially those who reside in Corpus Christi and other remote locations -- to be on the roadways until the storm threat has passed and the roads have been cleared for safe passage."

Base personnel returned to work on Thursday and the command's assessment team made a visual tour of the base to evaluate any damage. When they found nothing noteworthy to report, Waddingham issued the "all clear."

Local areas received about 3 inches of rain from the storm, and some flooding was reported in low-lying areas. Two tornadoes were reported in San Patricia county.

Fortunately, Dolly was only a reality check for NAS Kingsville this time around. But the storm also served as a wake-up call.

"With three months left to go in the 2008 hurricane season I hope all base personnel will take a hard look at their hurricane plans and procedures," Waddingham said. "Preparation is the key, and the very best way to prevent personal injuries and property damage."



L-3 Vertex personnel move T-45 Goshawks into the hangar to prevent damage from strong winds. Photos by Maryann Shramko.



AC3 Heather Turner pulls a storm shutter over a window of the Air Operations building as AC3 Michael Daugherty steadies the ladder. Photo by EN3 Brenda Acevedo



(L-R) CS2 Anthony Court, CS2 Holly Clow, and CS2 Montrean Smith of the CBQ Smith load sand bags on a truck in preparation for Hurricane Dolly. Photo by EN3 Brenda Acevedo.



From The Bridge...



CAPT Phil "Waddz" Waddingham
Commanding Officer, NAS Kingsville

Greetings, NAS Kingsville. I write this edition's article while sitting in my office and keeping an eye on the Weather Channel for regular updates on Hurricane Dolly. As I watched the storm's videos, I felt comfortable that "Team Kingsville" went above and beyond in preparing for the storm. I want to thank all the tenants for their staunch support in getting ready to face this hurricane. In particular, I'd like to thank L-3 for doing a fantastic job in stuffing over 50 T-45 aircraft safely into hangars--without a single "crunch." Once again, Team Kingsville demonstrated that when given a challenge, we step up to the plate and get the job done with Kingsville PRIDE (professionalism, responsibility, integrity, dedication, and effectiveness).

As the Weather Channel updated Dolly's progress, the base remained open. We set condition of readiness 3, modified (COR 3 - modified) and I directed only mission essential personnel and those directed by their commands to support mission accomplishment report to work Wednesday. All normal facilities were closed (MWR, NEX, Commissary, etc.). COR 3 is normally set when the possibility of destructive force winds within 48 hours exists. Although we were well inside that timeline, all predictions indicated the high



MWR personnel fill sandbags prior to the arrival of Hurricane Dolly. Photo by EN3 Brenda Acevedo.

est winds would be below the threshold of 57 knots which defines destructive force winds. Setting COR 2 (destructive force winds within 24 hours) had been discussed among the major tenants, however all concerned agreed that the requirements outlined in the COR 3 checklists were sufficient to prepare the base and personnel for the oncoming weather. Some items were deleted from the checklist (which explains the modified status of the COR setting). This was done largely because the deleted items were not applicable given the decision was made early on that an evacuation of personnel to our safe haven at Lackland AFB was not required.

As your base commanding officer, my priorities during events such as this are simple. (1) Save lives and government property. (2) After the storm passage, restore utilities and essential facilities. (3) Maintain security. (4) Recover aircraft and personnel. (5) Restore normal operations. (6) Be prepared to assist lo-

cal community and other federal agencies.

By the time you read this article, Hurricane Dolly will have made landfall and dissipating in strength, bringing in clear weather behind her. Her damage and impact to the South Texas region will be assessed, and recovery operations will be underway. I hope the minor disruptions to the service provided by our base were short-lived, and that you and your loved ones weathered the storm with little to no damage to your personal property. As this was our first hurricane of the season (1 June - 30 Nov), it served as a strong reminder for the importance of being prepared and reviewing all applicable destructive weather checklists. Make sure you have a plan, and don't get caught ill-prepared. The NAS Kingsville Web site (www.nask.navy.mil) has basic information that you can use to help prepare for future weather events. Check out the information that is posted to use as a reference when planning and preparing for significant weather in the future.

So, how did you do this time?

Skipper Waddz sends.



L-3 Vertex personnel direct a T-45 Goshawk into the hangar to wait out the storm. Photo by Maryann Shramko.



Tews' Views



Chaplain (LCDR) Mark Tews
NAS Kingsville, Religious Ministries

Hot Enough For You?

*"He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."
Malachi 3:3*

A verse from the Prophet Malachi puzzled some members of a Bible study group and they wondered what it meant about the character and nature of God. One of them offered to find out about the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next meeting.

That week, the study group member called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work.

He didn't mention anything about the reason for the interest beyond curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As he watched, the silversmith held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained, that, in refining silver one needs to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames are hottest to burn away all impurities. The visitor thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then he thought again about the verse: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." He asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames it would be destroyed.

The man was silent for a moment. Then he asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" The silversmith smiled at him and answered, "Oh that's easy - when I see my image in it."

Whenever you find yourself feeling the heat, re-

member it may be the Lord's refining fire and that He is close enough to feel the heat with you and that He will keep watch over you until He sees His image in you.

Fill-In-The-Blank:

Once was a rich man beyond compare,
when Satan made the Lord a dare -
"he only loves you because he is so blessed,
what would happen if he were distressed?
Let me set upon him and see what he does,
sitting there in the land of U ____."

Musing & Pondering: The 18th century playwright Goethe Lessing, who wrote "Nathan the Wise," said: "If an angel were to appear to me and in one hand held Truth and in the other The Pursuit of Truth, and if he offered me a choice, I wouldn't hesitate for a moment to choose The Pursuit of Truth. Know-it-alls learn nothing more. Pursuers of Truth are the ones who have the most fun in life."



In The Break...



CAPT Bill "BD" Davis
Commander Training Air Wing TWO

Hurricane season is upon us and Hurricane Dolly is our first hurricane of the year. As the season continues we can expect more hurricane development and

I would ask that everyone take the lessons learned from Dolly and review the hurricane hand outs provided by the squadrons, the Wing and the NAS Kingsville Web site (www.navy.mil) to ensure you and your families know what to do if have evacuate personnel as well as the aircraft. The routes and staging bases that families will go to are in the books. Lackland AFB is our primary refuge base for military and dependents; however the aircraft will go to either Laughlin AFB or JRB Dallas. As we did this time we would try to get aircraft out of here early to conduct student instrument events and take advantage of any on going det

operations to continue to meet our student production requirements.

Changing weather conditions are part of our business and we just completed a successful carrier qualification detachment in Jacksonville, Fla.; after working though some trying weather days. I appreciate all the hard work and flexibility by all involved in making that Det operate as smoothly as it did -- especially given the difficult weather. For all the students who completed, congratulations as our newest members to the "Tailhook" Navy and for your professionalism in and around the ship. As you will come to learn, a squadron and individual reputations are established by performance in and around the ship. Kudos to all!

As each of my previous articles has stressed we need to continue to battle complacency, know our aircraft and systems as well as our NATOPs procedures and continually focus on Operational Excellence both in the air and on the deck.

God bless and continue to be the best you can be.
BD

Editor's Note: Page 7 of this issue includes a photo feature by Maryann Shramko of the Public Affairs Office on one of TW-2's recent carrier detachments.

Texas National Guard gears up for relief missions

By Air Force Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith

ARLINGTON, Va., July 22, 2008 – As Hurricane Dolly beat a northwestward path over the Gulf of Mexico toward southern Texas and Mexico July 23, at least 600 Texas National Guard members prepared for storm duty today after being called Tuesday, July 22 by Gov. Rick Perry.

Texas officials said Perry authorized the call for up to 1,200 Texas military personnel, including the Army and Air National Guard and State Guard, to assist civilian emergency responders preparing for the first storm to threaten the United States this hurricane season. A contingent of State Guard volunteers based out of Weslaco in the Rio Grande Valley was available for duty.

Guard members prepared equipment as the storm developed. Units staged equipment in Austin, Houston and San Antonio, with orders to be fully mission-capable by noon on Wednesday, July 23, Army Col. Bill Meehan, Texas National Guard spokesman, said.

The National Weather Service upgraded Dolly to a Category I hurricane early Wednesday with sustained winds of at least 74 mph. Just before making landfall the storm was upgraded to a Category II storm.

Officials also predicted rain accumulations of four to eight inches, with isolated deluges of 15 inches, over much of southern Texas over the next few days. Coastal flooding of four to six feet above normal tide levels, with dangerous battering waves, was predicted north of the storm's landfall.

The Texas National Guard's Joint Operations Center maintained contact with the State Operations Center as both monitored the storm and anticipated the

Guard's response once the storm has passed.

Texas Guard officials said they are deploying their state's soldiers and airmen from outside the predicted impact zone to allow affected Guard members to prepare and protect their own families and businesses.

The Guard is prepared to conduct search and rescue operations, provide transportation, and deploy medical teams to support the state's first responders, Meehan said. Guard members also will provide communications, engineering and security support if needed, he added.

Meehan said the state also is deploying more than 3,000 soldiers from the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team this weekend for Operation Iraqi Freedom. And Guard members are still planning to conduct Operation Lone Star, a medical and humanitarian support operation along the Mexican border. They expect to treat nearly 15,000 Mexican residents.

The National Guard continually trains, coordinates and exercises with local and state emergency responders nationwide. More than 400,000 Guard soldiers and airmen are available nationwide, because of Emergency Management Assistance Compacts, should any governor ask for their support.

Last summer Texas Guard members were mobilized for Tropical Storm Erin, which was downgraded to a tropical depression, and nearly 4,700 Guard members mobilized in August for Hurricane Dean, a deadly Category 5 hurricane, which missed the United States and blew into Mexico.

(Air Force Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith serves at the National Guard Bureau.)

The Flying K

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

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New service uniform available July 31

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Washington (NNS) -- The new E1-E6 Service Uniform (SU) will be available for purchase in Great Lakes and California Navy Exchanges starting July 31, according to NAVADMIN 190/08.

The SU is for year-round wear and replaces the summer white and winter blue uniforms. It is authorized to be worn for office work, watchstanding, liberty or business ashore when prescribed as the uniform of the day.

The new uniform is the result of significant research and input from the fleet.

"Over 500 Sailors participated in a six-month wear-test, evaluating four diverse uniform concepts, designs and colors," said Chief of Naval Personnel VADM Mark Ferguson. Overwhelmingly, the approved SU design was selected above the other three.

Sailors will have up to 24 months to purchase the new uniform, depending on their duty station location. The mandatory wear date for all E1-E6 personnel is July 2010. Clothing replacement allowances for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 were increased to cover the purchasing of two sets of new uniforms by July 2010.

Basic SU components include a short-sleeved khaki shirt for males and a short sleeved khaki overblouse for females; black trousers with black belt and

silver buckle for males and black beltless slacks for females.

Collar insignia consists of miniature silver anodized metal rank insignia for E2-E6. Petty officers will wear large silver anodized metal rank insignia on their garrison cap. Males must wear a white undershirt.

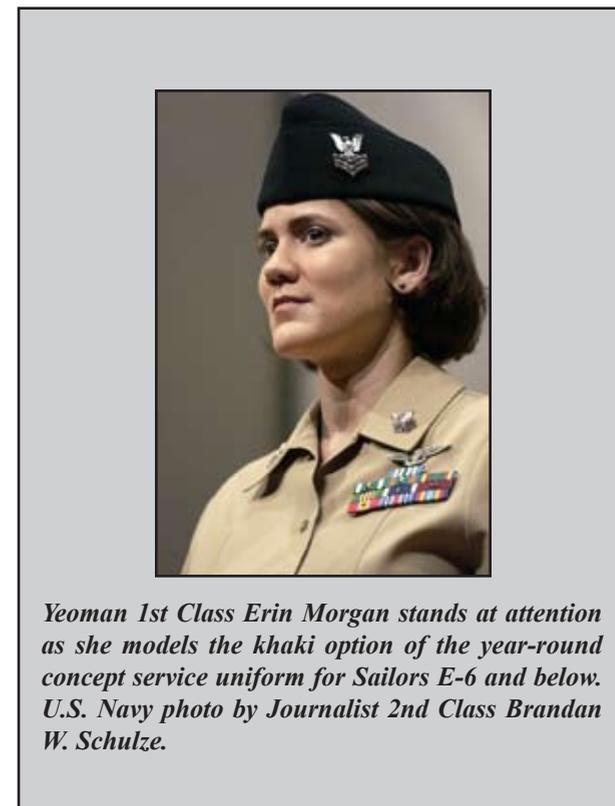
Optional components include a black, Eisenhower-style jacket with epaulets, black pullover v-neck sweater and black skirt, beret and handbag for females

The SU will be available for purchase via Navy Exchange uniform centers as follows:

July 08, Great Lakes and Calif.; Oct 08, Northwest and Hawaii; Jan 09, Gulf region and Millington, Tenn.; April 09, Naval District Washington; July 09, Tidewater area, Va.; Oct 09, Southeast; Jan 10, Northeast; April 10, Europe/Japan/Guam.

Existing E1-E6 summer white and winter blue uniforms will continue to be authorized for wear until the July 2010 mandatory wear date.

Reserve component Sailors will receive their uniforms via their respective Navy Operational Support Centers. For more information on uniforms and uniforms policy, visit the uniform matters Web site at www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/usnavyuniforms/.



Yeoman 1st Class Erin Morgan stands at attention as she models the khaki option of the year-round concept service uniform for Sailors E-6 and below. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 2nd Class Brandon W. Schulze.

'Lt. Dan' visits Camp Ramadi

By Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Gary Boucher, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3 Public Affairs

CAMP RAMADI, Iraq (NNS) -- Actor Gary Sinise visited Camp Ramadi July 12. Sinise, widely known for his role as 'Lt. Dan' in the movie "Forrest Gump" as well as his movie role in "Apollo 13," and his television role in "CSI: NY," met with the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines living at Camp Ramadi as part of a seven base tour in the region.

"I think it's important to show support of these troops that are sacrificing so much for our nation," Sinise said. "We are lucky to have such a great bunch of people out here doing their jobs and making the best of it."

Sinise is known as much for his acting abilities as his support of the military and veterans. His "Lt. Dan Band" performs for military members and their families around the world.

"At a lot of bases, we play just for the families of deployed troops," said Sinise. "It's important that we recognize their support and the sacrifices they make as well."

Sinise noted his military roots which include many family members who are Vietnam veterans.

"This is important to me because, for the most part, they returned to an ungrateful nation and I want to ensure we never experience that again," said Sinise. "I've always cared about our veterans and this is a



SAN DIEGO (June 25, 2007) - Actor Gary Sinise listens to a question from Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cara Maib during an interview on the mess decks of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Organized through the United Service Organization (USO), Sinise toured and met with the crew of Ronald Reagan. Reagan is in her homeport of San Diego following a three-month deployment to the Western Pacific. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joe Painter.

great opportunity to give some encouragement to some people we should be really proud of."

The actor's visit to Camp Ramadi offered a break in the routine for many service members.

"I got to meet 'Lt. Dan' and you can't go wrong with that," said Yeoman Seaman Apprentice Richard Lewis of Task Force Ramadi. "It meant a lot to have someone of that caliber show up out here and made it seem more important that we are here."

Sinise visited the headquarters of several tenant command including a stop at the headquarters of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3, from Point Huneme, Calif.

"It was awesome," said Chief Equipment Operator (SCW) Pamela Lee, NMCB 3. "I think it meant a lot to everyone to have him take the time to come out and show us his support."

Sinise also supports several organizations that serve service members, veterans and their families as well as the children of Iraq.

"Snowball Express is a charitable organization I've been working with to support children who have lost family members," he said. "It was founded in 2006 with the idea that we should pay tribute to the children of those heroes that have fallen since 9/11."

Sinise also sponsors Operation Iraqi Children, a grass-roots program founded in 2004 by Sinise and his wife, Laura Hillenbrand to assist Iraqi children.

During his tour of the region, Sinise also met with troops in Fallujah and Baghdad.

NAS Kingsville joins Military Appreciation Night at Fairgrounds Field



AC2 Ann Marie Wood sings the national anthem to open the pregame ceremonies.



CAPT Phil Waddingham focuses in on the inside corner.



CDR Bill Bulis takes aim on a completely different target.



BHC Kingsville OIC LCDR Dawn Hardin lobs one into the strike zone.



BHC Kingsville personnel take advantage of Fairgrounds Fields' luxury boxes for a great view of all of the action.



Dawg Pounded: VT-21 XO CDR Bill Bulis (left) and NAS Kingsville's CAPT Phil Waddingham demonstrate their skills with the hula hoop as part of their "fine" for being sent to the Dawg Pound during the game.



The Beach Dawgs trailed 3-0 until they rallied for 4 runs in the bottom of the 6th. The Dawgs took home a 7-4 win to snap a four-game losing streak.



Holy Cow! I'm NO Harry Carey!

"That pitch is jussst a bit outside."

Photos by Maryann Shramko, Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Kingsville Trash Off Day!



NAS Kingsville's ETCM (AW/SW) Isaias Gamez, left, and HM2 (FMF) Marlin Rendon of the Branch Health Clinic, carry a rusty barrel to the scrap pile during Kingsville's Trash Off Day Saturday, July 19. The two were joined by TRICARE representative Valerie Gomez in representing the air station as volunteers for the quarterly clean-up day.



TRASH PILE: Kingsville Mayor Sam Fugate looks over the large pile of trash collected during the four-hour "Trash Off Day" Saturday, July 19. Fugate was joined by city commissioners and local volunteers in providing city residents the opportunity to get rid of debris free of charge.

Photos by Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs Officer

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Guest Speaker recalls tours at NAS Kingsville as student and instructor

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

RADM David Philman, Commander, Strike Force Training Pacific, was the featured speaker at the July 11 winging ceremony held at the Captain's Club on base. The ceremony was smaller than most, with only four pilots receiving their Naval Aviator wings. All of four went through advanced flight training with VT-22.

RADM Philman is a 30-year veteran of Naval service, having earned his commission from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978, and his naval aviator wings in 1980 at NAS Kingsville. He has logged more than 4,500 flight hours in tactical jet aircraft and completed more than 1,000 carrier arrested landing on 11 different ships. Prior to assuming his present assignment in January as Commander, Strike Force Training Pacific, responsible for the integrated training of carrier and expeditionary strike groups in the Pacific for both routine and surge forward-deployed operations to 5th and 7th Fleets, he served as deputy commander, Joint Functional Component Command Global Strike and Integration, U.S. Strategic Command, Offut Air Force Base, Neb.

"It's a pleasure for me to be back here in Kingsville," Philman told more than 200 people in the Captain's Club ballroom, "and it's an honor for me to serve as guest speaker for today's winging ceremony. Technically, I'm on leave right now spending time in the San Antonio area, but I couldn't pass up the opportunity to come back to Kingsville, where I earned my wings a few years ago."

Philman transitioned to the F/A-18 Hornet in 1990.

Over his career he completed 10 major deployments at sea aboard USS Constellation, USS Kitty Hawk, USS Enterprise, USS Independence, USS Carl Vinson, and USS Harry S. Truman.

Philman recalled his first assignment after earning his wings at NAS Lemoore, Calif., as one of his best duty stations. "I rolled out of Kingsville with just about everything I owned in my car and headed for Lemoore to fly jets. It was an awesome experience. And for any of you who don't know about NAS Lemoore, well, it's a great place, [with] some of the best flying in the world for training purposes."

After completing his fleet replacement squadron tour, he went out the fleet to fly the A-7E Corsair II. He later returned to NAS Kingsville to serve as an instructor, and found that assignment to be both enjoyable and eye-opening. "I flew every day that I could," he said. "It was a great tour of duty. I've been fortunate to serve in command of a squadron, an air wing, and now an air group, but my most enjoyable assignment of all was right here in Kingsville as a flight instructor. We flew a lot ... and we had fun."

As an instructor, Philman said he had the privilege of seeing the transition from student naval aviator to Naval Aviator up close. "And I'll tell you this," he said, "we could tell that those who earned their wings - and not everybody did - but those who earned them had 'got it.'"

In his present job, Philman admits he doesn't get to fly as often as he would like. But he takes comfort in the fact that what he is doing benefits all of Naval

Aviation. "What we're doing in our world [right now] is working on integration simulators that focus on the real at-sea platform. We hope to be able to use that capability to bring our training to the next level. We'll never replace the real training," he added, "but we do need to get better equipment to train, and that's what we're looking at."

Receiving their wings were: 1st Lt. Brett Abbamonte, Damascus, Md.; LTJG Michael Farmer, St. Cloud, Minn.; LTJG Jeffrey McLean, Atlanta, Ga.; and 1st Lt. Kevin Smalley, Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. The four will now move on to fleet replacement squadrons where they'll learn to fly their fleet aircraft in preparation for the role they will play in the fleet.

A smaller winging ceremony was held Friday, July 18 in the VT-21 Ready Room with VT-21 Executive Officer CDR Bill Bulis serving as presiding officer. Receiving their wings at the ceremony were LTJG Jonathan Beaton, Pensacola, Fla.; and LT Bryan Hopper, San Diego, Calif., a former Naval Flight Officer (NFO).



LTJG Jonathan Beaton



LT Bryan Hopper

Front row from left: CDR Timothy Carr, Chief Staff Officer, CTW-2; CAPT Phil Waddingham, Commanding Officer, NASK; 1st Lt. Brett D. Abbamonte; 1st Lt. Kevin T. Smalley; CAPT Bill Davis, Commander, CTW-2; RADM David Philman, Commander, Strike Force Training Pacific. Back row from left: CDR Chris Kirby, Commanding Officer, VT-22; LTJG Michael W. Farmer; LTJG Jeffrey J. McLean; CDR Gerald Murphy, Executive Officer, VT-22. Far right from top: LT Bryan Hopper and LTJG Jonathan Beaton received their wings in a separate ceremony held on July 18 in the VT-21 Ready Room.

Training Air Wing TWO completes successful detachment as

Carrier Quals are final test for student aviators

By Jon Gagné and Maryann Shramko, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Training Air Wing TWO sent 35 students and flight instructors to the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), June 10-12, to complete carrier landing qualifications for 14 student naval aviators. The qualifications marked the end of nearly 12 months of training at NAS Kingsville for the students and paved the way for them to be presented their wings of gold and designation as Naval Aviators.

More than 30 T-45 Goshawk's departed NAS Kingsville June 8 for a cross country flight to Cecil Field in Jacksonville, Fla., prior to heading out to the ship, which was conducting routine training off the Florida coast. The stop at Cecil Field was a familiar one for flight instructors, as the former Naval Air Station serves as detachment headquarters during the four-day evolution. As is the case during every carrier detach-

ment, Training Air Wing TWO aviators were joined by students and instructors from NAS Meridian, Miss., and Training Air Wing ONE for the detachment.

“Despite the typical summertime coastal thunderstorms that brewed up in the Jacksonville area on the first two days [of the detachment], we were able to complete the detach-



The ship as seen by the pilot as they make their approach.

ment a day early,” said CDR William Bulis, executive officer, VT-21. “The early completion allowed the aircraft carrier crew and training wings the unexpected treat of being home for Father’s Day,” he added.



A successful trap for the student piloting the number 215 bird.



The sun begins to peak over the horizon as T-45s sit on the runway at Cecil Field, Fla., waiting to take to the sky.

Most of the NAS Kingsville T-45s arrived at Cecil Field June 10, with the final group arriving the next morning. Once on board, the instructors briefed the students on their flight assignments and training requirements over the next two days. For each of the student aviators their arrival in Florida was accompanied by both excitement and concern. Over the next two days, each student was required to complete 10 carrier landings and 4 touch-and-go's aboard the TR, while being graded in 17 different areas.

“There is definitely pressure” said VT-21 student 1st Lt. Earl Sweigart. “But, they talked to us [about the carrier quals] so many times and trained us from day one to fly our numbers in the pattern that I really felt pretty comfortable going out there and getting on deck.”

Sweigart added that although he was prepared for the challenge, he was at a loss for words when it came to summing up the experience. “I don’t know if I can compare this to anything I have ever experienced. It’s so unbelievable and so incredible that we get to do this.”

The success of every CQ detachment is dependent upon a number of different aspects and each aspect is but one piece of a bigger puzzle. Weather, detachment personnel, students and instructors, and unforeseen equipment losses are just a few of the pieces that play important roles in the overall mission. And, if just one piece of that puzzle does not fit properly the outcome could be devastating.

In order to ensure the smoothest and most successful detachment maintenance personnel begin preparing weeks in advance to ensure nothing is overlooked. “There are certain aircraft capabilities and restrictions as far as tailhook times, components, launch systems etc...that come into play when choosing which jets to take [out to the boat],” said Ruben Garcia, L-3 Vertex employee. “For example, a jet can trap up to 100 times before the tailhook is required to be removed

and inspected. There are a number of other requirements that we have for these aircraft as well.”

The amount of documentation required to keep up with each jet is remarkable. It is that documentation that must be taken into account by maintenance personnel when packing up what amounts to approximately 72,000 lbs. of equipment, parts and other items needed for each detachment. It takes at least four tractor trailers to transport the equipment across country to the detachment site where the crew will be waiting to meet the trucks.

The number of personnel differs for each detachment depending upon the number of jets required. On this particular detachment there were 27 maintenance personnel on the beach (at Cecil Field) and another 13 on board the

Roosevelt.

“The June CNATRA Carrier Qualification (CQ) detachment went very well,” said Bulis. “Training Air Wing TWO had a total of 14 students attempt to earn their initial carrier qualification in the T-45 Goshawk and all but one qualified. The student that did not qualify will have [one final chance to qualify] during the next CQ detachment in August,” he added.



1st Lt. Earl Sweigart flies number 300 in for one of his 10 traps.



Below: The afternoon rush of returning students and instructors gather in the duty office at Cecil Field, Fla., to await the LSO debriefs for the morning flights.

Photos by Maryann Shramko



**CHOOSE ONE
TO RIDE WITH.**



No matter what style you choose to wear,
just making the decision to wear a helmet can save your life.

Focus on Safety: Motorcycle, Vehicle Accidents Dominate Off-Duty Traffic Fatalities

By Donna Miles, Armed Forces Press Service

Washington -- Midway through the "Critical Days of Summer," 50 service members have died in off-duty accidents, three-quarters of them in motor vehicles and half on motorcycles, defense officials reported.

The Critical Days of Summer refers to the period between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day that typically sees a spike in vehicle and recreational accidents. "It's the time when more people get outside and enjoy off-duty activities and more people are traveling," said John Seibert, the Defense Department's assistant for safety, health and fire. "But unfortunately, it's also a time when we see more accidents."

Motor vehicles remain the No. 1 cause of off-duty military deaths, and despite broad safety awareness efforts military-wide, that trend shows no sign of diminishing this summer. Thirty-seven service members have died in motor vehicles since May 23.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates noted in a safety message to the field sent just before Memorial Day that 77 servicemen and women were killed in private motor accidents during last year's Critical Days of Summer time frame.

Officials say they're particularly concerned about the incidence of motorcycle deaths - 25 military-wide since Memorial Day weekend. Citing high fuel prices and cash accumulated during deployments that are driving up motorcycles' popularity within the force, officials say they fear these numbers will only go up.

Eighteen of the Army's 23 off-duty fatalities since Memorial Day have involved privately owned vehicles. Of those, 12 soldiers were killed riding motorcycles and one, an all-terrain vehicle, reported J.T. Coleman from the Army's Combat Readiness and Safety Center at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Similarly, 10 of the 12 Sailors who died in off-duty accidents since May 23 were involved in vehicle accidents, according to April Phillips from the Naval Safety Center in Norfolk, Va. Eight of the Navy fatalities involved motorcycles.

The Marine Corps reported eight off-duty losses since the critical days of summer campaign launched. Six of the eight Marines died in vehicle accidents, with three killed on motorcycles, said Marine LT COL Mike Miller, who heads up the Corps' ground safety branch in Washington.

The Air Force, experiencing one of its safest summers in a decade, reported seven off-duty deaths since the Memorial Day weekend. Of those, one involved a four-wheeled vehicle and two involved motorcycles, said Jewell Hicks from the Air Force Safety Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

That's a significant improvement from last year, when 19 airmen died during the 101 critical days. Fifteen of those deaths resulted from vehicle accidents, and seven of the airmen were riding motorcycles.

Air Force Chief of Safety MAJ GEN Wendell Griffin blamed speeding, loss of control and improper techniques while rounding curves as the leading causes behind the motorcycle deaths. He noted in a videotaped message to the Air Force launching this year's Critical Days of Summer campaign that failure to wear a helmet and mixing alcohol with riding contributed to some of these crashes.

But Miller cited the growing popularity of sport bikes as another factor driving up motorcycle accidents. These high-performance motorcycles travel at extremely high speeds and can be difficult to control.

"It truly is like trading in your Dodge minivan for

a Ferrari," Miller said. "You don't so much ride one of these as hang on for dear life."

It's little surprise that young service members, attracted by the adrenaline rush sports bikes promise and their relatively low cost, are lining up to buy them. And while disturbing, officials say, it's also not surprising that they're contributing to more military deaths.

For example, 19 of the 21 motorcycle fatalities so far this fiscal year occurred on sport bikes, Phillips reported. Nine of the Army's 12 off-duty motorcycle deaths since the Memorial Day weekend involved sports bikes, Coleman said.

Miller said that while he doesn't yet have statistics to back up his hunch, he's sure they're driving up Marine Corps fatalities, too. He noted that the Marine Corps lost 19 Marines to motorcycle deaths during fiscal 2007. With almost a full quarter of fiscal 2008 ahead, that number hit 18 on July 10. Intent on bucking this trend, the military is taking action. In addition to the basic motorcycle safety course all military riders must take, the services now promote specialized training for those who ride high-performance motorcycles.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Military Sport Bike Course is now mandatory for all Sailors who ride sport bikes, Phillips said. The course also is being offered to soldiers at a growing number of Army bases.

Meanwhile, the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force at Fort Lejeune, N.C., which is leading the Marine Corps' sport bike safety effort, is contracting with a professional motorcycle school and expanding the training to several Marine Corps sites, Miller said.

(Continued on Page 10)

Navy seeks applicants for LDO/CWO programs

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Maria Yager, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Navy seeks applications from highly qualified Sailors in pay grades E-6 through E-9 for the fiscal year 2010 Active Limited Duty Officer (LDO) and Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) programs. Applications must be postmarked no later than Oct. 1, 2008.

"Limited duty officers and chief warrant officers bring a variety of experience and perspective into the wardroom from their enlisted service," said Chief of Naval Personnel, VADM M.E. Ferguson.

The LDO community has 28 designators in the surface, submarine, aviation, general series and staff corps communities. The CWO community is also comprised of 28 designators in similar fields.

LDO and CWO career paths provide additional leadership opportunities for Sailors and enhances their ability to contribute to the Navy. LDOs and CWOs serve in a variety of leadership billets within their technical fields, ranging from division officer to commanding officer ashore.

Eligibility requirements for LDO include U.S. citizenship, serving in pay grade E-7 through E-9 or an E-6 who has passed the exam for E-7. Active-duty applicants for LDO must have at least eight, but not more than 16 years of active-duty service.

Eligibility requirements for CWO include U.S. citizenship, serving in pay grade E-7 through E-9. Active-duty applicants for CWO must have at least 12, but not more than 24 years of active-duty service.

These programs do not require applicants to have a college degree.

Complete application procedures, eligibility requirements and a listing available designators can be found in OPNAVINST 1420.1A.

Eligible Sailors should apply for the designator for which they are most qualified, regardless of their current rating. Upon commissioning, Sailors selected for LDO/CWO will attend the four-week Officer Development School in Newport, R.I.



Atlantic Ocean (Oct. 23, 2003) - Chief Warrant Officer Five (CWO5) Leon A. Cole of Antigua, West Indies, checks the arrangement of food stores during one of his daily walk through inspections aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Cole, the first person advanced to the rank of CWO5 since its introduction, is Ronald Reagan's Food Service Officer. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Charles A. Edwards Jr.

(Fatalities from Page 10)

The Air Force's Air Mobility Command developed a sport bike safety class that's mandatory for all its airmen. It provides the training materials on request to all other Air Force installations, explained Frank Kelly at the Air Force Safety Center.

Meanwhile, as the critical days of summer continue, military leaders are urging vigilance and a focus on safety.

Gates emphasized in his safety message to the field each service member's responsibility in promoting motor vehicle safety. "Know that the choices you make at sporting events, barbecues and other summer activities can impair your judgment and reaction times, all of which are necessary for safe driving," he said.

He reminded service members that most vehicle accidents involve alcohol, fatigue or excessive speed, and most are preventable. "Don't put your life or the lives of others in danger by making poor decisions," he said. "Your safety and the safety of those around you is in your hands."

Army BRIG GEN William Forrester, commander of the Army Combat Readiness and Safety Center, cited the 2008 July 4 holiday as the first in decades with no fatal off-duty accidents within the Army. "To put this into perspective, this is the first recorded fatality-free Fourth of July holiday period the Army has experienced since the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center began keeping records in 1974," he said.

Forrester noted, however, that three reserve-com-

ponent soldiers who were not in a duty status were killed in motorcycle accidents during the holiday weekend.

The Air Force and Navy also reported fatality-free July 4 weekends in terms of off-duty accidents.

The Marine Corps suffered two off-duty fatalities during the holiday weekend. A corporal died July 5 after his motorcycle hit a curb and threw him onto the street, officials said. A staff sergeant was killed July 6 when his motorcycle veered off the road, struck a curb, then ran into a tree.

RADM Arthur J. Johnson, Commander, Naval Safety Center, reminded the fleet this week it's not too late to begin a summer safety campaign. "Now that we're back from the Fourth of July holiday, it's time to take a hard look at the job we've done managing risk to far this summer," he said. That, he said, includes reinforcing behaviors and attitudes that can make the all-important difference between life and death.

Military-wide, officials emphasized the importance of leadership in promoting safety awareness and preventing off-duty accidents.

Forrester said engaged leadership lays the foundation for the cultural shift needed for troops to take personal responsibility for their own safety. This, he said, will help drive down accidental losses. Griffin said in his Critical Days of Summer video that every day offers an opportunity for service members to help identify unsafe practices that can save a comrade's or buddies' life.

Ultimately, safety boils down to a readiness issue, because the mili-

tary needs every single member to carry out its mission, Griffin said. "As we continue to wage the global war on terror, we can't afford to lose a single one of our most precious resources," he said, the men and women in uniform "who make the mission happen every day."



**NAS Kingsville
Branch Health Clinic Corner
Are You Ready?**



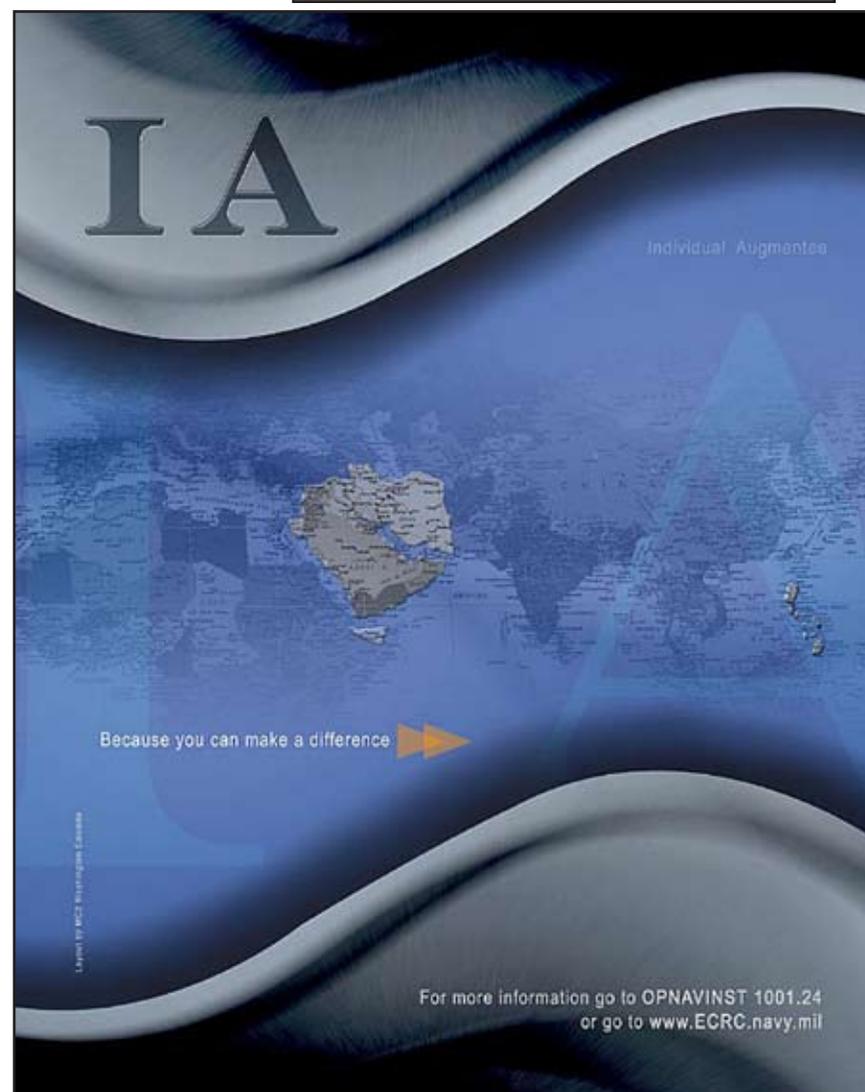
Hurricane season is fast approaching South Texas and you have to ask yourself, "Am I ready for this?" You've stocked your cabinets with canned goods, bottled water, and you've even purchased a small generator to help get you through if you lose power. But what have you done about your medical needs?

During this time of year anything is possible. A small tropical storm could turn into a devastating hurricane. On the other hand what turned out to be a massive hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico could dwindle down into a strong thunderstorm once it makes land fall. Whatever the case may be you need to be prepared for any situation.

For those people that are taking medications on a daily basis it would be a wise course of action to go ahead and check all your meds and make sure you have enough to last you for at least 30 days but no more than 60 days. Also, make sure you check for expiration dates on your medications to make sure that they are not expired. If you are pregnant, consult your OB/GYN to ask them how you should properly prepare for any type of emergency in regards to your pregnancy during a hurricane. If you have underlying medical issues, make sure to call in and make an appointment to be seen and once you have been seen please make sure to continue to follow up with your primary care provider.

Another piece of equipment that is great to have for any occasion is a small first aid kit. Things happen and people do get hurt. With a small first aid kit you can handle most minor injuries yourself. Most pharmacies have small first aid kits as well as most major merchandise stores. Remember there is no such thing as being over prepared, but you can certainly be under prepared.

By HM3(FMF) Jacob Welch





"GET IN THE GAME" Summer Reading Program (on-going summer program) - "Get in the Game" is the theme for this year's summer reading program. Starting on June 2, children 5-15 can register and receive a reading log. As they read age-appropriate books, they will receive prizes, ranging from bookmarks to sports bags. The Librarian may ask questions about books read. On July 31 the program will conclude with a pizza party at 4 p.m. for all the participants and certificates will be handed out. For more information, contact the Library at 516-6271.

New hours for Outdoor Recreation - Outdoor Recreation is now open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stop by and check out all the great equipment available to make your next outdoor adventure a great one, or call 516-6191 for more information.

Fishing Ponds now open! - The fishing ponds aboard NASK are now open with a fresh batch of catfish just waiting to be caught. Each of the two ponds has been stocked with 500 new fish. For more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at 516-6191.

Fishing fees aboard NASK are now \$10 - Fishing fees aboard NASK have been reduced from \$35 to \$10 for all fishermen wishing to try their luck in one of the two stocked ponds on base. In addition, those wishing to just fish, there is no longer a requirement to join the NASK Hunting Club. A current Texas state fishing license is required to purchase the permit, which all active duty can get for free from any store that sells the license. Permits are available at ITT, located in The Captain's Club. For more information, contact ITT at 516-6449.

New ITT & Liberty Center Hours - The ITT & Liberty Center now have extended hours to serve you better. Both facilities will now be open Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.. For more information, contact 516-6449.

New MWR Card Policy - Effective immediately, the only patrons of MWR facilities that will be required to hold an MWR card will be the following:

- Navy League
- DOD Civilian Family Members
- Contractors Family Members

All personnel that have access to NASK will no longer be required to have an MWR card. In addition, the MWR card will be free of charge for all patrons that are required to carry it. For those that have recently purchased an MWR card, you can contact Shirley Ley at 516-6734 to find out info on our reimbursement plan.

MWR cards can be applied for at either the Total Fitness Connection (MWR Gym), or the ITT office located on the ground floor of The Captain's Club.

Note: Additional fees may be required at some MWR facilities for those using an MWR card. Please check with each facility for details.

New MWR Gym Fees set to take effect August 1 - The following MWR Gym fees will take effect August 1 for all NASK Contractors, DOD Family Members, City Police,

and Navy League.

Single Month	\$25
Single 6-Month	\$125
Single Annual	\$225
Family Month	\$35
Family 6-Month	\$175
Family Annual	\$350

All current 6-month and annual memberships will be honored. All monthly members signing up at the new fee will receive their next two months free. For more information, contact the Total Fitness Connection (MWR Gym) at 516-6171.

Navy Knowledge Online Orientation at the Library - Every Wednesday at 1700, 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.

July 31 - Library Pizza Party - Join us for a pizza party and awards ceremony as we celebrate the accomplishments of all our reading club participants from this summer. Start time will be announced as the event gets closer. Registration will be open until July 30. For more information, contact the Library at 516-6271.

July 31 - Japanese Restaurant trip to Corpus - Join us for a great evening out in Corpus for some excellent Japanese food and even more excellent company. For more information call Amanda Young at 516-6734.

August 1 - Mongolian Grill at the K-Bar - Mongolian Grill at the K-BAR in The Captain's Club from 11-2. Get there early to beat the crowds.

August 1 - Boot Camp for Readers - Boot Camp for Readers will start on August 1 and run through October 31. Read 10 books from the Navy Professional Reading series and receive a t-shirt. Other books on military leadership subjects may be read if approved by the Librarian. For ages 18 and up. Call 516-6271 to register.

August 2-3 - John Updyke memorial Bowling Tournament - For more information, contact the Bowling Center at 516-6506.

August 7 - Thursday Night Happy Hour at the Bowling Center (Liberty Program) - Single Sailors get your weekend started early by coming to join us for FREE food, drinks, and bowling on us. The fun starts at 6 p.m. at the Bowling Center. For more information call Amanda Young at 516-6734.

August 8 - No Limit Texas Hold'em Tournament - Go ALL IN with us on August 1 for the first in a series of monthly No Limit Texas Hold'em tournaments. The action kicks off at 7 p.m in the ballroom of The Captain's Club. You can pre-register at ITT starting on August 1, or register on tournament day up until 15 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. Your \$10 registration fee covers tournament entry, non-alcoholic drinks, hamburgers, and hot dogs/chili dogs with all the fixings. There will be a guaranteed minimum prize pool of \$200. Tournament limited to the first 25 entries. Feel free to take advantage of the K-BAR's Friday night specials and we'll provide you with a ride home. Call Amanda Young at 516-6734 for more information.



**HOG
PEN**

Former Texas A & M - Kingsville stars Eddie Moten and Brent Holmes and their Philadelphia Soul teammates have advanced to Arena Bowl XXII in New Orleans on Sunday, July 27.

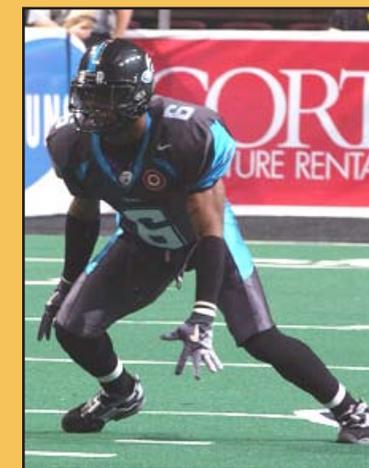
Moten intercepted two passes and had a team high 10.5 tackles

while Holmes caught five passes for 57 yards and three touchdowns as the Soul crushed the Cleveland Gladiators in the AFL semifinals 70-35.

Moten, who was named second team All-Arena, leads all AFL players in tackles (23.5) and interceptions (3) during the 2008 AFL playoffs. He now has nine interceptions for the entire 2008 season.

Holmes has caught nine passes for 96 yards and four touchdowns in two playoff games. Playing for his third team in 2008, Holmes now has 78 passes for 830 yards and 15 touchdowns.

The Soul, who's owner partnership includes John Bon Jovi and Ron Jaworski, are making their first ever Arena Bowl appearance and will face defending champion San Jose. The game will be nationally televised at 2:00 p.m. by ABC.



2008 Javelina football schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thur. 8/28	@ North Dakota Grand Forks, N.D.	7 p.m.
Sat. 9/6	@ East Central Ada, Okla.	6 p.m.
Sat. 9/13	Central Oklahoma	7 p.m.
Sat. 9/20	@ Northeastern State Tahlequah, Okla.	7 p.m.
Sat. 9/27	West Texas A & M	7 p.m.
Sat. 10/04	@ Tarleton State Stephenville	7 p.m.
Sat. 10/11	Texas A & M-Commerce (Homecoming)	7 p.m.
Sat. 10/18	Midwestern State	7 p.m.
Sat. 10/25	@ Eastern New Mexico	3 p.m.
Sat. 11/01	Abilene Christian	7 p.m.
Sat. 11/08	@ Angelo State San Angelo	7 p.m.



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