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Air Station activates EOC, but Gustav targets "The Big Easy"

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

For the second time in less than a month, NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer CAPT Phil Waddingham activated the air station's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Friday, Aug. 29 and set the base in Condition of Readiness IV (COR IV) in preparation for a Category 3 hurricane. Fortunately for South Texas, Hurricane Gustav's travel plans were directed at New Orleans and the Louisiana coast. The storm, which at one point had reach Category 4 status with winds in excess of 145 mph, came ashore as a Category 3 storm just west of New Orleans and spared "The Big Easy" a direct hit. Ground zero was about 70 miles southwest of New Orleans in Cocodrie, La., but the impact of the storm was felt as far east as the Florida panhandle.

Louisiana directed a mandatory evacuation for New Orleans and other cities in the projected path and nearly 1.9 million took heed, evacuating to cities in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas. In Fort Worth, 570 Louisiana residents reported to storm shelters.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Aug. 31, 2008) An Air Force C-130 cargo aircraft lands at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. Approximately 30 aircraft were flown to Jacksonville as part of a 'safe haven' of Air Force personnel and aircraft from areas vulnerable to Hurricane Gustav. (U.S. Navy photo).

FT. WORTH, Texas (Aug. 29, 2008) New Orleans based flying squadrons take temporary refuge at Naval Air Station (NAS) Joint Reserve Base (JRB) Fort Worth, Texas as Hurricane Gustav approaches the southern Louisiana coast. Aircraft moved to the base include F-15 Strike Eagles from the Louisiana Air National Guard 159th Fighter Wing based at NAS JRB New Orleans, F/A-18 Hornets from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 204 stationed at NAS Belle Chasse, La. and F/A-18 Super Hornets assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 122 stationed at NAS Lemoore, Calif. that were temporally deployed to New Orleans for annual training. Fort Worth is a Continuity of Operations (COOP) Site during hurricanes. (U.S. Navy photo).

More than 7,000 National Guard troops were mobilized in preparation for the storm with another 4,000 moving in to assist with post-storm efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi. Navy Joint Reserve Base Dallas was one of several military installations to serve as a safe haven for military aircraft based at installations in the path of the storm. NAS Jacksonville, Fla., and NAS Meridian, Miss., were also utilized. NAS Meridian was also designated as one of five FEMA staging areas for relief efforts.

NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO made tentative plans to evacuate aircraft in case the storm targeted South Texas, but put those plans to rest Sunday, Aug. 31 when the National Weather Service and Navy Region Southeast officials confirmed the storm was targeting Louisiana.

As Gustav moved inland over Louisiana, two other storms were being tracked by the National Weather Service in the Caribbean. Tropical Storm Hanna and Tropical Storm Ike, were both expected to

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From the Bridge

CAPT Phil "Waddz" Waddingham
Commanding Officer, NAS Kingsville

Greetings, NAS Kingsville! A lot has happened since our last edition of the Flying K. Before I recap for you some of the more interesting events, I want to congratulate Ms. Ophilia Alvarez and her associates at the NAS Kingsville Navy Exchange on winning the Bingham Award for 2008. This prestigious award is given each year to the best stores in the country, and this year, our store has exceeded all others in its class for sales, operations, and customer service. RDML Robert J. Bianchi, Commander NEX presented the award and commented on how great the store looks, and acknowledged the hard work and professionalism of the entire staff. I am very proud to have the entire NEX team as part of "Team Kingsville," and look forward to great things from them in the future.

While I'm on the subject of the NEX, one of the topics of discussion during my meeting with RDML Bianchi was the subject of civilian employee patronage at the Exchange. Many of you already know that only active duty military, dependents and retirees are authorized to shop at military exchanges in the continental United States (rules vary overseas). As it turns out, there is a process by which a base can make a request to open the privilege of shopping at the Exchange to DoD civilians and even contractors. The benefits of this are fairly obvious; along with increasing the customer base comes increased patronage and increased sales. More sales equals greater profitability for the store, and that means better value for the customers and, greater support to MWR. I am committed to improving the quality of life of our active duty as well as DoD civilians and contractors who work on board the naval air station. Look for more information on this in the future as we travel down this road.

We are nearly half way through this year's hurricane season, and we have managed to avoid to major storms. More are literally on the horizon, and as always, it is important to keep abreast of the changing situations and be prepared for any contingency. Last week we took measures to begin completing important checklist items, and set Condition of Readiness IV (COR IV) in response to the storms projected path and strength. I would like to thank all who played a part in making us ready once again, and in particular, the NAS Kingsville Emergency Management Officer, ACC (AW/SW) Michael Garcia. Well done!

I had the pleasure last week to travel to the McMullen target complex and MWR facility Escondido Ranch and met with Mr. Arturo Villarreal, Mr. Dennis Keaton, as well as ABEC (SW) Dean Zimmerman to see what is new out on the range. If you consider yourself an outdoors person and you haven't had the opportunity to go check out this NAS Kingsville-owned and operated 6,800 acre hunting ranch, you need to. Chief Zimmerman and his team have the facility in top condition and ready to support individual and group events. Stop by MWR to get more details.

Finally, NAS Kingsville recently hosted a NAVFAC visit to kickoff the development of NAS Kingsville's Facility Master Plan. When complete, NAS Kingsville will have a roadmap we can use to plan for the growth, development, restoration and modernization of our facilities and infrastructure. This will be critical as we begin to outline our base into zones of operation – similar to a well planned city or town – in which different areas are designated for use by public safety, administration and headquarters, MWR, housing, and flightline operations. Placing the various functions of the base into enclaves has the desired effect of giving the base a more logical arrangement, and making certain venues like the Club and fitness center more accessible to the community, and other areas like the flightline easier to fence-off to provide greater security. Last week's kickoff was a great start in our road ahead.

Keep doing the great work that I see you do everyday. With appreciation, Waddz

Tews' Views

Chaplain (LCDR) Mark Tews
NAS Kingsville, Religious Ministries

Back To Normal?

Remember what happened all over America in the days immediately following Sept. 11, 2001? Hundreds of thousands gathered for prayers in cathedrals, synagogues, chapels, mosques, and sports arenas. One New York City cathedral filled and emptied six times in one day. People stood in lines to give blood, in hospitals to treat the sick, and in sanctuaries to pray for the wounded and grieving. Those days were unique, they were different, and in the midst of the aftermath of that horrific, those days were even special.

We wept for people we did not know. We sent money to families we've never seen. Talk-show hosts read Scriptures, journalists printed prayers. Our focus shifted from fashion hemlines and box scores to orphans and widows and the future of our world.

We were different from before. Republicans and Democrats stood together and sang. Christians, Muslims, and Jews prayed together. Our country was very different than it was on Sept. 10, 2001. We were not as self-centered as we had been, and we were not as self-reliant, either. I think people reached out more to each other both to receive and offer help, and perhaps found themselves a little more often down on bended knee turning to the Lord. For many, this wasn't normal. One has to wonder though, now seven years later, have we gone back to normal?

Sometimes it seems as if we are unaware that the nation remains at war. The politicians don't seem to be able to agree on anything, and the cooperation necessary to get things done in the halls of Congress appears non-existent. Faithful praying seems to have been overtaken by frantic fretting. Greed and consumerism seem to be chipping away at gratitude for life, love, and liberty. Are we going backwards or moving forward?

Perhaps we were given a glimpse of a new way of life. We as a nation, at least for a little while, were reminded that the enemy is not each other, and that power is not in ourselves, and the future is not in our bank accounts. Could the unselfish, prayerful, nonpartisan, helpful, sacrificial acts of those days actually have been the way God has always intended for us all along? Is that the way we are called to live? Is it how we " love our neighbor as ourselves"?

Maybe the best response as the seventh anniversary of 9/11 approaches is to refuse to go back to normal.

Warrant Officers receive Wings of Gold at NAS Corpus Christi

From Chief of Naval Air Training Public Affairs

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (NNS) -- Three Navy chief warrant officers (CWO) received their wings of gold in a ceremony at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Aug. 29., as part of the "Flying CWO" program.

CWO Stephen Ditamore, CWO Brandon Jacobson, and CWO Keith Miltner are among the first group selected in 2006 to become naval aviators.

"I couldn't be happier with the opportunities the Navy has given me," said Jacobson. "It was always my dream to fly and now I am getting my chance."

All three flying warrant officers will report to Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 in Jacksonville, Fla. to continue their training in the P-3 Orion.

The program takes hard-charging motivated Sailors E-5 through E-7, who are interesting in flying a Navy aircraft and turns them into naval aviators. Warrant officers are trained to be pilots in P-3, EP-3 Aries, E-6 Mercury, and SH-60B/MH-60S aircraft. Warrant officers selected for the Naval Flight Officer program will fly in the P-3, EP-3 and E-6.

"Anyone who has any aspirations of flying should definitely apply to this program," said Ditamore. "I can't even begin to explain how happy I am that I applied and was selected. The Navy has given us the opportunity of a lifetime and in return we can provide a lot of technical experience that we have gained through our years as enlisted Sailors."

"The flying CWO program is a great program for Naval Aviation to provide the opportunity for some of our best Sailors out in the fleet," said LCDR Michael Black, Navy Personnel Command's Aviation Officer Distribution Department, Flying CWO (PERS-43) coordinator. "Additionally it takes advantage of their deckplate knowledge as they move up in their respective communities."

The first selection-group of 10 flying warrant officers was commissioned Dec. 1 and entered flight training at staggered intervals. The first flying warrant officer to earn pilot wings was CWO Daniel Haller from Training Squadron 31 (VT-31) July 18.

"I am thrilled to do this and I am very thankful to the Navy to get the opportunity to fly in my career," said Haller.

"I joined the Navy to fly and when they said I couldn't, I was prepared to do what the Navy needed me to do," said Daniels. "The Navy allowed me to continue my training and made the dream possible."

The guest speaker at the ceremony was retired CAPT Mike Lopez-Alegria, another great Navy success story. Through his hard work and perseverance he pursued his dream of being a test pilot and astronaut.

Lopez-Alagria retired active service as the world record holder for extra-vehicular space activities and the former commander of the International Space Station.

"It's days like this when it is clear that the Navy truly is one of the top 50 workplaces in America - a corporation where dreams come true and hard work is rewarded," said RADM Mark Guadagnini, Chief of Naval Air Training.

For more news from Chief of Naval Air Training, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnatra/.

L-3 employee Nancy Mejorado hitches a ride with NASCAR's Richard Petty racing team!

Daytona Beach, Fla. -- L-3 Vertex Employees Nancy Mejorado and her husband Roland paid a visit to Daytona International Speedway Aug. 16. Fortunately for Nancy, the visit turned out to be more than just a sightseeing tour as Roland had arranged for her to experience the thrill of NASCAR with a shotgun ride in a race car owned by NASCAR legend Richard Petty's racing team. After Nancy donned the familiar Petty team uniform and safety harness, she climbed aboard as one of the Petty team's drivers took the wheel. Riding along the 31-degree bank and through the turns and straight-aways at speeds reaching up to 170 mph, Nancy gained a new appreciation for the sport. "It was the most awesome experience," she said. "Going that fast makes your heart stop but the excitement of it all keeps you exhilarated." After the drive, Nancy flashed a big "Texas smile" as she gave the experience "Two Thumbs Up!" Photo by Roland Mejorado.

The Flying K

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

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Navy families reminded to prep now for Hurricane Season

From Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Hurricane Gustav spared the Gulf Coast region when it made landfall Sept. 1, but three more storms now threaten to hit the United States. To mitigate the impact these natural disasters could have, Navy personnel –- including active duty, Reservists, civilians and family members -- should make contingency plans now.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (Sept. 1, 2008) A technician prepares to launch an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Surveillance) Predator from Naval Air Station Corpus Christi in support of Hurricane Gustav operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Bob Torres, NAS Corpus Christi Public Affairs Officer)

"Hurricane Gustav is a good reminder for all Navy personnel and their families to be prepared, not just through the hurricane season, but at all times," said Owen McIntyre, director of CNIC's N37 Emergency Management Program.

"We must also be ready for other tropical storms (Hanna, Ike and Josephine) currently brewing in the Atlantic Ocean. Now is not the time to take chances."

With the pending weather forecasts, personnel Navy personnel and their families may need to relocate to safe havens. Those who may be impacted by an emergency can update their contact information at the Navy Family Accountability & Assessment system (NFAAS) Web site: https://navyfamily.navy.mil/.

Navy Installations Command's Operation Prepare offers the following tips for Sailors, civilians and their families.

Stay Informed

• Become familiar with the full spectrum of hazards in your area and how you will be notified about them.

• Give special consideration to hazards that affect your local area, such as severe winter weather, hurricanes or earthquakes.

• Be prepared to take appropriate actions: evacuate, move to a civilian shelter, move to a designated safe haven or temporarily shelter in place.

• Know your command's established procedures for reporting and mustering.

Develop and Practice a Family Emergency Plan

• The surest way to be prepared for an emergency is to develop and practice a family emergency plan.

• Discuss in advance what you will do during various types of emergencies, pick places to meet and have contact information for everyone.

• Formalize your preparations in a written family plan so everyone knows what to do in an emergency. Incorporate special concerns such as caring for very young and very old family members, protecting your property, retaining critical financial or insurance records and caring for your pets.

• Practice your emergency plan at least once a year. Choose a disaster that would be most likely to affect your family. Describe a hypothetical event and instruct family members to follow the family emergency plan. Practice gathering your emergency kit, communicating with one another and meeting at designated places.

Make a Preparedness Kit

• Community emergency responders focus on the most critical needs when disaster strikes. It's your responsibility to ensure your family's well-being during times of crisis. Emergency preparedness kits are an essential tool for meeting that challenge.

• Gather supplies for every family member for at least three days. Main items to include are water, food, first aid supplies and critical family documents.

• Emergency preparedness kits can be bought, but the most effective kits are those you assemble yourself to suit your family's particular needs.

• Depending on your family, you may need special items for babies, medications and supplies for pets.

• Make your kit portable in case you go to a shelter or evacuate. Make smaller emergency kits to keep at work and in your car.

• Evaluate emergency kits regularly and update them as medications and food expire.

Visit the Operation Prepare Web Site

Operation Prepare offers a wealth of resources such as:

• Information - Nearly 40 fact sheets on a variety of hazards and emergency preparedness steps, derived from several reputable sources such as the Department of Homeland Security and the Centers for Disease Control and tailored especially for the Navy community.

• Plans - Planning checklists and printable forms for emergency contact and communications cards, including space for your command's muster information.

• Kits - Printable checklists for basic emergency supply kits that you can tailor to your own family needs.

"Be informed, make a kit and have a plan," said McIntyre in summary. For more news from Commander, Navy Installations Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/cni.

Meet the players of "Team Kingsville"

MM3 Dadrian Coleman

Command: Fleet Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Jacksonville, Fla., Kingsville Detachment

Department: Mailroom Petty Officer

Hometown: Houston, Texas

MM3 Coleman has been on board NASK for a year and a half. He enjoys working in the mailroom because of the relaxed atmosphere.

ABH3 Ernesto Arevalo

Command: NASK

Department: Field Support

Hometown: Orange County, Calif.

ABH3 Arevalo has been at NASK for 2-years.
"Kingsville is very different from any place I've been."

MM2 Jaana Hahn

Command: NASK

Department: LOX Farm working with liquid oxygen, nitrogen and gas ESOUS distribution

Hometown: Saint George, Utah.

MM2 Hahn has been on board NASK for 1-year
"Everyone is genuinely friendly, I like the slow pace and the commute is great."

Photos by EN3 Brenda Acevedo

Back to school bus and traffic safety

By Danielle Bogle NAS Kingsville Safety Office

It seems like that infamous time of year has crept up on us again. The carefree days of summer are gone and the school bell has rung. Children pile into classrooms Monday through Friday to engage in academic activities that will help stimulate their minds and help build their character. To ensure that children receive the opportunity to excel, it's important to keep their safety in mind at all times. All it takes is incorporating simple precautionary actions into everyday activities.

At the forefront of "back to school" safety is school bus safety. The big yellow school bus is a timeless symbol of education and youth. It operates everyday on a routine basis and is considered to be one of the safest ways to get to school. The risks associated with school buses occur mainly when children are approaching and leaving the school bus. This is why it is important for children to pay attention to their surroundings and act with caution. Parents can help educate their children on proper bus safety by giving them just a few basic tips to follow. Some suggestions are:

- Arrive at the bus stop early to avoid being in a hurry.
- When the bus approaches, wait at least 3 giant steps away from the curb.
- Before approaching, wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, the doors open, and the safety lights are flashing.
- Don't rush on and off the bus; check both ways before crossing the street.
- Stay within the bus driver's view; don't bend down in front of the bus for any reason.
- Walk in front of the bus and not behind it.
- Stay seated and wear seatbelts (if available).
- Don't yell and distract the bus driver.
- Don't stick anything out the bus window.

Aside from the school bus, the other popular form of transportation is by personal vehicle, which is riskier. Teen drivers face the highest risk for injury because of their lack of driving experience. However, no matter what the driver's age is, good driving technique is a must, especially when children are in the vehicle. Drivers should definitely master the art of patience as it is necessary to maintain efficient driving skills. The morning and afternoon are the two busiest traffic periods during the day and road rage does not make things go faster. Driving safety is important and should be followed.

While in a vehicle, every person should be wearing a seatbelt, and all distractions (i.e. loud music, cell phones, food and drink) should be kept to a minimum. It is also very important to know the law. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, it is Texas law to come to a full stop when a school bus has flashing red lights on. It doesn't matter which direction the driver is coming from. Once the bus turns off the flashing lights or the bus driver signals, drivers can continue on. A violation of this law can lead to a $200 to $1,000 fine. For those who choose to drive, while in a school zone, fines are doubled for speeding. It is also important for drivers to pay attention to their surroundings and watch for darting children who are not paying attention.

By increasing your level of awareness and following safety precautions, risks and injuries can be reduced drastically. We all know the start of a new school year is a hectic time for all. People are trying to figure out new routines and adjust to new situations. The last thing we should have to worry about is the safety of our children, but we do. So by educating children on bus safety and becoming a more cautious driver, those worries can be eased and the learning can begin.

Outdated computers destined for recycling

Starting in Sept., Texas will get its first statewide computer recycling program.

Based on state legislation passed last year, the TCEQ is preparing to implement a program that provides for the collection, reuse, and/or recycling of used computer equipment.

The program is aimed at computer equipment that was purchased primarily for personal or home business use.

Manufactures will be required to take back their own brands of desktops, laptops, monitors, keyboards, and mouse devices at no cost to comsumers at the time of recycling.

Retailers, including those on the Internet, may only sell the computer brands for which the manufacturers have submitted recovery plans to the TCEQ and verified that they have compliant collection programs.

The new program addresses a nationwide trend in which millions of personal computers become obsolete each year. The proliferation of used electronics is generating concerns over where such products end up. Computer equipment can contain potentially hazardous or toxic substances, which need to be managed responsibly.

This summer, the TCEQ will compile a list of computer manufacturers that meet the program requirements. Some manufacturers already offer take-back programs for their customers.

By Sept. 1, the agancy will post information online to inform consumers how and where to return equipment for recycling. The TCEQ website will also link to computer manufacturers' pages and to information on computer reuse.

Agency rules for the recycling program (Chapter 328, Subchapter I) are available at **www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/rules/recycling**.

Computer users needing recycling options before Sept. 1 can check their manufacturer's website, or go to **www.recycletexasonline.org**.

PEARL HARBOR (Aug. 19, 2008) U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jeff Wheeler receives an American flag from a Navy honor guard detail during a scattering of ashes ceremony honoring his grandfather and Pearl Harbor survivor, Major Wheeler. Wheeler was a U.S. Navy chief petty officer assigned to the minesweeper USS Widgeon (AM 22) during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The ceremony included a religious ceremony, a three-volley rifle salute and a bugler sounding Taps. Also in attendance was Wheeler's local church choir who sang the Navy Hymn. (U.S. Navy photo by Blair Martin/Released)

Nine aviators pin on Navy-Marine Corps Wings of Gold

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Nine Navy, Marine Corps and Indian flight students were designated as "Naval Aviators" during Training Air Wing TWO's monthly winging ceremony at the Captain's Club Friday, Aug. 29. The ceremony marked the end of nearly 13 months of training at NAS Kingsville for the group and nearly two years of aviation training. TW-2 Commander CAPT Bill Davis presided over the ceremony along with squadron skippers CDR Bill Bulis (VT-21) and CDR Chris Kirby (VT-22). Also in attendance was Marine COL Thomas S. Clark III, Commander, Marine Aviation Training Support Group 22, NAS Corpus Christi. More than 125 friends, shipmates and family members attended the ceremony.

CAPT Bill Davis (right) congratulates 1st Lt. Earl A. Sweigart for being named to the Commodore's List.

Receiving their Wings from VT-21 were: 1st Lt. Byron Drader, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Lt. Sunil Menon, Indian Navy; LTJG Greg Raelson, Orange County, Calif.; 1st Lt. Earl Sweigart Jr., Merritt Island, Fla.; and LTJG Timothy Trossevin, Houston. From VT-22: LTJG Clifton Lennon, Westminster, Md.; LTJG Daren McCulley, Teaneck, N.J.; 1st Lt. Gavin Robillard, Orange, Calif.; and LTJG Adam Shepherd, Shawnee, Okla.

1st Lt. Sweigart was also recognized during the ceremony for outstanding performance by being named to the Commodore's List for academic excellence. CAPT Davis and COL Clark made the presentation.

Prior to the winging ceremony three Indian Navy flight students were presented their Indian Navy wings for completing primary training. Honored were: Sub LT Anant Agarwal, Sub LT Purujit Mehta, and LT Vishal Menghnani. CDR Bill Bulis pinned the wings on the aviators.

Front row (from left) CDR John L. Kelsey, Executive Officer, VT-21; CDR Chris Kirby, Commanding Officer, VT-22; Col. Thomas S. Clark III, Commanding Officer, MATSG-22. First step (from left) CAPT Phil Waddingham, Commanding Officer, NASK; LTJG Clifton G. Lennon; LTJG Greg D. Raelson; LTJG Adam P. Shepherd; LT Sunil N. Menon; CAPT Bill Davis, Commander, Training Air Wing TWO. Second step (from left) CDR Gerald Murphy, Executive Officer, VT-22; 1st Lt. Gavin T. Robillard; 1st Lt. Earl A. Sweigart; 1st Lt. Byron B. Drader; CDR William A. Bulis, Commanding Officer, VT-21. Top step (from left) LTJG Daren J. McCulley and LTJG Timothy S. Trossevin. (Photo by Richard Stewart)

NAS Kingsville NEX recognized for outstanding service

By EN3 Brenda Acevedo, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The NAS Kingsville Navy Exchange was presented the 2007 Bingham Award Aug. 28 by RDML Robert J. Bianchi, Commander, Navy Exchange System (NEXCOM), naming the store as the top NEX outlet worldwide in the $1 - $5 million sales category. NAS Corpus Christi was also honored in the $22-$39 million category. Bianchi presented the awards to Jerry Joachim, NEX South Texas Branch General Manager and Ofilia Alvarez, NAS Kingsville store manager.

"It is such a true honor, I never thought this small store would accomplish such a big goal," Alvarez said after the presentation. "This year's sales associate team has been great, and we're all very exited about receiving this award."

Veteran NEX sales associate Sylvia Calderon, who has worked at the NAS Kingsville facility for 27 years, was equally surprised. "I can't ever recall us winning the Bingham Award before," she said.

The Bingham is presented annually to Navy Exchange stores that achieve exceptional performance in nine different categories with financial and customer service take precedence. The NAS Kingsville store boasts a customer satisfaction rate of 82 percent, a 10.9 percent increase in sales from FY-06, and a total loss of less than $500 for the entire year.

RDML Robert J. Bianchi (second from left) and CAPT Phil Waddingham (back row center) gather with the staff of the Navy Exchange and (second from right, back row) Gary King, NEXCOM, Senior Vice President and (back row far right) Patrick Knowles, NEXCOM, Vice President/Mid-South District Manager.

All profits from store sales are used to support the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs. In 2006, $40 million in profits worldwide were provided to Navy MWR programs.

"The Bingham Award program was established to recognize excellence in customer service, operations and management at NEX activities," Bianchi said during the brief ceremony. "It also promotes friendly competition among our NEX activities that are striving to promote superior customer service to our Sailors and their families. I congratulations the NAS Kingsville Exchange all the winners and runners-up for this well-deserved recognition."

Pilot For a Day experiences the "Sound of Freedom"

By EN3 Brenda Acevedo, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Training Air Wing TWO and NAS Kingsville welcomed their 24th "Pilot For a Day" Aug. 28. Corpus Christi 15-year old Rene Andrew Garza arrived on board with his mother Sandra Ortiz, sister Shania, and little brother Keanu, and were all excited as they entered the Training Squadron Twenty Two (VT-22) ready room to meet with Golden Eagles commanding officer CDR Chris Kirby and get the special day underway. Garza is currently undergoing treatment for a hearing impairment at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi. Unable to hear since childhood, he is now able to receive electronic impulses that reach the auditory nerve and translate these impulses into sound by the way of an electronic transplant known as the Cochlear Implant. Garza is now receiving speech therapy and is learning to talk for the first time.

Andy Garza (left) and sponsor pilot LTJG William Orr make their way back to the VT-22 Ready Room.

The "Pilot For a Day" program is a joint community relations project between Training Air Wing Two and Driscoll Children's Hospital of Corpus Christi. The program allows children who are being treated at the hospital a day away from their personal struggles and enjoy a day of pampering by the Navy.

Andy is a very bright young boy who surprised many of his hosts by his knowledge of flying. His mother Sandra was overwhelmed and cried a few tears as Andy used sign language to let her know that he could actually hear the jet noise.

By the end of the morning schedule of events, Andy had toured various operational aspects of flight training and assisted military personnel in the Radar room and Air Traffic Control tower. The second half of the day included a visit to the Ground Training Complex where Garza got to experience flying a T-45 simulator, and a trip to the Fire Department where Andy enjoyed a tour and a snack that included his favorite dessert, chocolate cheese cake and ice cream. He was also treated to a joy ride on one the air station's emergency fire trucks, which included a ride to his next destination. Security Department's military working dogs demonstrated their attack techniques while Andy was presented with a Security t-shirt and many other goodies from NASK.

Prior to departing the base Andy was presented with a certificate of completion signed by CDR Kirby designating him as an honorary VT-22 "Golden Eagle" pilot.

L-3 Vertex employee Emilio Gonzales (left) hooks Andy up to test equipment to inflate his G-suite.

Andy takes control in the Radar Room.

LTJG William Orr presents Andy with some mementos courtesy of the Boeing Corp.

Focus on Team Kingsville: Fuel Farm

By EN3 Brenda Acevedo, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Nestled in between the Public Works compound and Air Operations is the NASK Fuel Farm (Bldg. 4777), managed by the Fleet Industrial Supply Center Jacksonville Kingsville Detachment. Led by LT Brent Simmons and a staff of two military, 14 contractors and two civilian employees, the mission of the Fuel Farm is to provide fuel to all T-45 Goshawk training aircraft, transit military aircraft, and base support equipment.

Each fuel take holds 750,000 gallons of JP8 fuel totalling over 200 million gallons.

Aviation Boatswains Mate 2nd Class Eugenio Palacios is very knowledgeable of how things are handled at Fuel Farm on a day-to-day basis. Palacios is responsible for fuel sampling and overseeing flightline contractors. "I have a great job and I enjoy the responsibility" he said. "It's a very important position and I am happy to keep everything running smoothly."

NAS Kingsville has the capability of holding just over two million gallons of JP8 fuel in three enormous above ground tanks. The tanks are located adjacent to Bldg. 4777 and managed by Hilt Taylor, LB&B Program Manager, and Paul Boyd, Fuels Officer. The two supervise a 24-hour, Monday thru Friday staff of contractors working in three shifts.

Because of the constant refueling of jet aircraft and base equipment, the Fuel Farm uses a computerized program (Fuels Manager 2000) to manage the fuel inventory.

JP8 fuel has a wide range of use at NASK, from fueling aircrafts to powering Auxiliary Power Units (APU) and back-up generators. The 1,000 gallons of gasoline stored at the Fuel Farm is used to power motorized equipment such as tow tractors for Field Support and the NAS Kingsville Test Cell facility operated by Rolls-Royce. Fuel Farm trucks have the capacity to haul up to 8,000 gallons of JP8 fuel. The Farm also stores one de-fueling truck and one half tank-truck that holds both Gasoline and JP8.

Machinist Mate 2nd Class Miguel Fonseca works closely with Palacios as a Quality Assurance Engineer (QAE). His primary duty is to conduct fuel samples contained in trucks, aircraft, and all storage tankers to ensure levels are up to standards.

"I like my job testing fuel samples." Fonseca said. "It's fairly easy, but vital to the mission of NASK of training pilots and running facility equipment."

MM2 Miguel Fonseca processes fuel samples.

NAS Kingsville Single Sailors to move to Bldg 3740 in December

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Sailors who reside in bachelor quarters on board NAS Kingsville will move to new quarters at Bldg. 3740 in mid-December, according to NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer CAPT Phil Waddingham. The move has been in the works for several months, awaiting completion of a Bldg. 3740 rehabilitation project that began last November. Waddingham directed the move as a quality of life issue for single Sailors, based on the condition of Bldg. 3755, where Sailors currently reside.

"I want to provide my Sailors with the very best housing possible," Waddingham said recently, "and the rehab of Bldg. 3740, a former barracks building, allows me to do just that. Our barracks buildings are old and the South Texas weather has played havoc with air conditioning systems and building infrastructures. With the 3740 project almost complete, it is prudent for us to move our Sailors into the newly revamped quarters so that we can fully-evaluate the status of Bldg. 3755."

According to Public Works Officer LCDR Tabitha Pierzchala, mold issues and air conditioning and HVAC problems prompted Bldg. 3740 to be shut down in early 2007. A contract was awarded at the end of that fiscal year to remediate the mold and conduct other repairs to the facility such as replacing pipe insulation and the ceiling grid. During the project, the contractor brought up the point that the root cause of mold was not being addressed in the project. What was needed was a way to address the temperature and humidity difference that existed between the hallways and the rooms. PW developed a basic scope of work to achieve this balance and obtained the funds to modify the contractor's contract. The contractor then determined how exactly to achieve this level of performance and the modification was awarded. The modification includes a new roof-top unit, two new air handler units, and AC duct extensions to achieve the additional HVAC capacity.

Originally, the building was going to serve as quarters for the U.S. Army Reserve Unit on base, but that changed when the mold issue was discovered. "We were able to find another suitable location for the Reserves that they were happy with on the second deck of Hangar One," Pierzchala said. At about the time the Reserves were scheduled to move into their new spaces, it was discovered that Bldg. 3755, the current barracks, was beginning to reveal some of the same problems as Bldg. 3740. That's when Waddingham stepped in and directed that Sailors be moved into the rehabilitated barracks.

"We were able to find funding to add another $275,000 to the original $585,000 modification project for Bldg. 3740 to perform a complete renovation of the building," Pierzchala said. Additionally, there will be a separate renovation project to take care of the building's interior and exterior aesthetics that is about 95-percent complete in the design phase. "We still have some work to do to get the building fully ready for the move," Pierzchala added "but we're confident that we can have 3740 ready for Sailors to move in over the holiday stand-down period in December."

LT Brian Schonefeld, Facility Engineering and Acquisition Division Officer, is overseeing the two projects for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC). "The equipment required for the HVAC modifications are now on order following the contract modification," Schonefeld said. "The contractor is scheduled to have enough equipment and parts arrive by Sept. 22 to allow him to re-start the HVAC work that week."

The renovation tasks, according to Public Works planner Joe Franco, deal mostly with cosmetic issues. "We are planning to power wash the entire outside of the building and prime and paint the interior spaces," Franco said. "We're going to be adding a new tiled entry complete with double glass doors, install 24-sq. in. carpet squares throughout, and modernize kitchen, lounge and rest room facilities. I think the Sailors will be pleased with their new spaces."

One big advantage to Bldg. 3740 over the current barracks is that Sailors will enter their rooms from the inside of the building, eliminating the possibility of rain water entering rooms, and cooled air escaping through the front door. This will make the rooms more economical to cool and maintain, and, provide residents a more secure living space.

According to CSC(SW) Prelvis Lofties, residents can expect their rooms to be fully-furnished. "We have purchased new furniture for 3740 and will equip the kitchen and lounge areas with everything our Sailors will need," Lofties said. "Moving their personal items will be all they have to do."

Moving to the new spaces will be something that each Sailor will have to plan, but Public Works will assist by providing vehicles to help them move their property, according to Pierzchala. "If our Sailors need to check out a flat-bed or pick-up truck from PW Transportation to move their items, we'll make that happen," she said. In the meantime, Sailors can begin to make plans for moving into their new spaces.

"We feel confident that we can complete everything by the middle of December," Pierzchala said. "That way, our Sailors can move at their own pace during our traditional holiday stand down period."

Outstanding Room Award

CS2(SW) Bernice Meno (right) presents AC3 Heather L. Turner with the first NASK monthly "Outstanding Room Award".

Have You Registered to vote and Requested Your Absentee Ballot?

Want to vote in the upcoming General Election? To vote absentee as a Uniformed Service member, family member, or an overseas citizen, NOW is the time to register and request an absentee ballot for the November 4, 2008, election. To register and request an absentee ballot, just fill out the Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form (Federal Post Card Application, FPCA, SF 76) and send it to your local election office.

To fill out the Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form, go to www.fvap.gov. You'll notice the website is comprehensively redesigned. Its design was based on user feedback and focus group studies and is very easy-to-use. The site has state-specific instructions for all 55 states and territories covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).

There, you'll find detailed and easy-to-follow instructions for filling out your Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form, along with information on where to send it.

We also encourage you to use our new automated tool to fill out the Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form. Find it by clicking on the link in the Quick Links section of our homepage. This tool will guide you through completion of the form using only the specific information your state requires. In participating states and jurisdictions, you may also be able to send the Form to your local election office and receive your blank ballot via a secure server. You can also pick up a Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form from your VAO or nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy.

The March of Dimes serving those who serve

U. S. NAVY CHIEF JOHN LEHNEN with triplets Lindsay, Jacob and Isaac and their big sister Katy.

The issues new military moms and dads deal with range from deployment to diaper changes. At the heart of it all are their dreams and hopes for their country, and their family. On or off base, who does mom count on to stay connected to the best advice about healthy pregnancy and newborn care? Her own mom, friends—and the March of Dimes.

Mission: Healthy Baby® is a resource created just for military families by the March of Dimes, VFW and Ladies Auxiliary VFW. The program provides access to free printed educational materials as well as a wealth of online information on anything pregnancy and baby relateat marchofdimesbaby.com or nacersano.org.

"As soon as I found out I was pregnant, I had a million questions to ask, but it was great to find my answers all in one place," explains Denise from Kansas.

Military life may present unique concerns for a mom-to-be during her pregnancy. At any time of day or night, she March of Dimes Foundation can e-mail askus@marchofdimes.com with specific, personal questions and get answers from March of Dimes health information specialists. And she can get daily text messages on her cell phone with helpful pregnancy tips.

Having a baby can be overwhelming, especially for military couples separated from their families by distance. They may not be able to share the birth of their baby and all those exciting firsts the way they would like to. Marchofdimes.com/everybaby can help bridge that gap. Moms and dads can create Web pages, or scrapblogs, for their babies, including personal photo and video diaries that can be accessed by loved ones from anywhere in the world.

Being a military mom — whether serving or married to a serviceman — is a special challenge. But the March of Dimes is there — like a trusted friend whose door is always open. For more information, visit marchofdimes.com.

As a member of Community Health Charities federation, the March of Dimes Foundation participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

Sixth Annual Navy Ball Golf Tournament:

Friday, Sept. 26 8 a.m. Check-In
9:30 a.m. shotgun

Start Oso Beach Municipal Golf Course
Format: Texas Scramble, 4 Person Teams
(and all skill levels welcome!)

Lunch: Bill Miller's Bar B Que *(includes raffle drawing and awards ceremony following the tournament.)*

Registration: *Call Oso Beach GC @ 826-8010 or ACC (AW) Mike Gonzales @ 236-9252 to sign up your Foursome. Play is limited to the first 120 golfers to register. Single players welcomed.*

Tournament Fees: *Includes golf, cart, lunch, beverages, gift bag & prizes. Before Sept. 19: $40 per player; After Sept. 19 : $50 per player.*

Prizes to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd *place teams, plus Hole-in-One and Closest-to-the-Pin prizes on all Par 3's; Longest Drive, Shortest Drive, Longest Putt. Plus Door prizes awarded at the Luncheon from raffle tickets! FREE beverages.*

Registration: *Make checks payable to: Navy Ball Committee*
Mail to: *ACC(AW/SW) Michael Gonzales*
311 Mitcher Ave, Suite 212
Kingsville, TX 78363

(or you can drop them by the Chaplain's Office) Point of Contact: Mike Gonzales (361) 516-6180, Cell (361) 236-9252 or RP3 Otters (361) 516-6194

K-Bar closure

As most of you have heard by now, The Captain's Club is currently going through some changes, and was scheduled to cease food operations on Sept. 12. Due to an increasing staff shortage, effective immediately; the K-BAR will no longer be serving lunch.

The Line Shack and Bowling Center will continue to serve breakfast and lunch, however; the Line Shack will be closed 8-12 Sept. for a turnover.

The K-BAR will continue to be open for Karaoke Night on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday nights from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. thru the remainder of Sept. Starting Oct. 1, the K-BAR will be open from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and 3 p.m to 11 p.m on Fridays.

Preparing for Armed Forces Voters Week (Aug. 29 - Sept. 7, 2008)

Armed Forces Voters Week Goal: Attaining 100% contact and availability of FPCAs for all personnel and voting age dependents.

The Nov. 4, 2008, General Election is quickly approaching, and that means it is time for Voting Assistance Officers (VAO) to make their last push to get out absentee voting information. The 2008 Armed Forces Voters Week (AFVW), this coming Aug. 31 - Sept. 7, is the perfect opportunity for VAOs to coordinate workshops and information sessions in order to provide absentee voting assistance.

AFVW marks the last safe week when military and overseas citizens can send in the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) (SF-76) to register as an absentee voter with their Local Election Offices and to receive their absentee ballot in time to vote in the November election.

Remember that specific information regarding registration and absentee ballot request form deadlines is located in the 2008-2009 Voting Assistance Guide as well as online at the FVAP website (www.fvap.gov) under State by State Instructions.

What to do during AFVW?

• Organize workshops to be held during AFVW and advertise sign-up sheets for these classes during the few weeks prior. Use those workshops as an opportunity to help your fellow service members complete FPCAs as well as to answer any of their questions regarding absentee voting.

• Remember to emphasize the importance of requesting an absentee ballot early! When addressing individual questions regarding differing states and their regulations be sure to consult the Voting Assistance Guide (VAG).

• Remember that many states allow for various types of electronic transmission of election materials. Be sure to inform service members of their electronic alternatives during the ballot requesting process.

Encourage individuals to contact their Local Election Offices immediately when they do not receive their ballots in a timely manner.

Jacksonville, Fla. – Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Scotty Wells, assigned to Naval Air Station Jacksonville listens to St. Johns County Assistant Supervisor of Elections, Aimee Brennan explaine the registration procedure, while he mans a voter's registration booth during a three-day event held on base. U.S. Navy photo by Miriam S. Gallet.

• Place FVAP posters in communal areas to remind service members of the upcoming election. If you would like to request posters from the FVAP simply contact our Ombudsman Service at the toll free number, 1-800-438-VOTE or contact FVAP via email at: vote@fvap.ncr.gov.

• For those service men and women not currently registered to vote, advertise a voter registration drive to encourage their participation in the voting process.

• Realizing that for most of you, being a VAO is an additional duty, do your best to keep your activities simple. Coordinating with other VAOs on base, as well as with other organizations can help spread the work load around. Examples of other "on base" organizations include; wives clubs, family services, and Boy/Girl Scouts. Club sports teams are also a great means to spread the news about the upcoming election.

• Be sure to consult the Voting Assistance Guide (VAG) along with the FVAP website (www.fvap.gov) throughout AFVW. These are two great resources to consult when instructing others about absentee voting. If you think you will need FPCAs, FWABs and or Guides feel free to contact FVAP at 1-800-438-VOTE or via email at vote@fvap.ncr.gov and our Ombudsman Service Agents will be happy to assist you.

Marriage Enrichment Retreat

Navy Spiritual Fitness Division Southeast will offer a FREE Marriage Enrichment Retreat right here at the Omni Bayfront Sept. 19-21. Couples discover ways to:

- Better handle inevitable conflicts.
- Understand how they interact with their spouse.
- Build intimacy and communication.
- Become closer by strengthening the emotional, physical and spiritual aspects of their marriage.
- Take time to have fun with one other.

Who should attend? Couples seeking greater satisfaction, closeness, and genuineness in their marriage.

There is room for a total of 15 couples. Lodging and meals are provided free of charge. Couples with children need to plan for childcare for the weekend. It is strongly advised that participants allow themselves to be free of all distractions so that they can focus solely on their relationship during this weekend.

If you are interested in attending, please register soon by contacting the Credo office (email link below), completing the registration form, and sending it to either of the email addresses for the Spiritual Fitness Division staff located at the bottom of the form. You'll want to register soon if you plan to attend while there is still room. These retreats usually fill up VERY fast.

All retreats this past year have been big hits with participants. It's a "can't miss."

If you're interested in attending this Retreat, simply send an email requesting an updated electronic registration form to cnrse_credo@navy.mil, or call (904) 270-6958, ext. 1608 or menu "7." A registration form will be forwarded to you.

NAS Kingsville Branch Health Clinic Corner

Physical Health Assessment (PHA)

Ever wonder what happened to getting a physical every five years? Or why your name keeps appearing on a "hit list" for something referred to as a "PHA"? You're probably thinking, "what is all this nonsense and why must I do it?" Well shipmate, here are the answers to all your questions!

The five year physical is NO MORE! Taking the place of the five year physical is the new and improved Physical Health Assessment, or as it is commonly referred to the "PHA".

All active duty and reserve components are required to complete a PHA once a year. When a service member checks in at the Branch Health Clinic (BHC) clinic personnel check their medical record as part of the check-in process to make sure their PHA is up to date. If it is not medical will schedule an appointment for you within a week. Normally, a person's PHA is completed within the patient's birth month which helps us to ensure you have one each year.

The PHA was created to ensure that Sailors stay healthy and fit. You're probably wondering, and I know you are, why this is. Well, the PHA is a tool that allows you to talk to your primary care manager on a yearly basis. By doing this you can discuss any medical issues you are currently experiencing such as a shoulder problem, or persistent joint pain.

It is imperative that you stay healthy and the U.S. Navy along with the BHC staff care about your health and medical needs!

Navy Knowledge Online Orientation at the Library **-** Every Wednesday at 5 p.m. the Library staff will hold a short class on what the library section of NKO has available. This great site is for active duty, retirees, and dependants. If you are in the DEERS system, then you have access to this resource. For more information, call the Library at 516-6271.

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

Sept. 9 – Comics on Duty World Tour **-** The funny men are back as promised! Navy Entertainment, AT&T, & MWR are once again bringing Comics on Duty to NAS Kingsville. Stand up comedians, Steve Bills, Bob Kubota, Jack Mayberry, and Tom Foss will be bringing their all headliner show to The Captain's Club on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Entry is free, so get there early to guarantee a seat. The kitchen will be open with a special menu, and drinks will be served. This show will include adult situational comedy, and is not recommended for anyone under the age of 18. For more information, call 516-6734.

Sept. 12 – Family Movie Night at Hunter's Cove **-** Residents of Hunter's Cove PPV are invited to come out and enjoy a free movie night on MWR. The movie Space Chimps will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Community Center, and will include snacks and drinks. For more information, contact the Hunter's Cove rental office.

Sept. 19 - No Limit Texas Hold'em Tournament - Go ALL IN at the monthly No Limit Texas Hold'em tournament. The action kicks off at 7 p.m in the ballroom of The Captain's Club. You can pre-register at ITT starting on Sept. 9, 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, and dinner. An optional entry of $20 will get you entry into the tournament, the dinner package, an extra 500 chips, and a $5 token for the K-BAR. There will be a guaranteed minimum prize pool of $200. Tournament limited to the first 40 entries. Feel free to take advantage of the K-BAR's Friday night specials. Call Amanda Young at 516-6734 for more information.

Sept. 20 – South Padre Schlitterbahn Trip **-** Close out the summer with a trip to this popular South Texas water park. You buy the ticket, the Liberty Program will provide the transportation, and some snacks for the ride. Once you reach the park, you are on your own, but we will be ready to drag your sun drenched and water logged body back when you are done. For more information, contact Amanda Young at 516-6734.

Sept. 26 – Family Movie Night at Hawks Landing **-** Residents of Hawks Landing PPV are invited to come out and enjoy a free movie night on MWR. The movie Space Chimps will be shown at approximately 8 p.m. in the parking lot in front of the leasing office, and will include snacks and drinks. For more information, contact the Hawks Landing rental office.

Sept. 25 – Splash and Dash **-** Time to show off all that hard work you put in at the gym this summer with a dual sport challenge. The Splash and Dash will consist of a 400-meter swim, followed by a 5-kilometer run. T-Shirts will go to the first 20 which sign-up and complete the event. Race time is 6:45 a.m.. For more information contact The Total Fitness Connection at 516-4386.

Sept. 27 – Routine Automobile Maintenance Class **-** Save yourself some big bucks by learning how to do basic maintenance on your vehicle. This one hour class at the Auto Skills Center will cover the basics of things that should be monitored on a regular basis to keep your ride running smooth. Class starts at 10 a.m. Bring your car, and the Auto Skills staff will give you some hands on instruction. For more information, contact Auto Skills at 516-6248.

Hogs drop opener to North Dakota, 40-14

The University of North Dakota wore down Texas A&M Kingsville Aug. 28 with a relentless offensive attack in a 40-14 win at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. The season opener for the Javelinas (0-1) began well as the defense held the Fighting Sioux (1-0) to just three points in their first three possessions. TAMUK took a 7-3 lead late in the opening quarter on a 1-yard quarterback keeper by Logan Morris and the point after kick. But from that point on, it was all UND.

The Fighting Suoix took a 17-7 lead at the end of the first half and never looked back, as more than 11,000 fans watched their team win its season opener.

The Javelinas will look for their first win of the season Saturday, Sept. 6 at East Central University. The game can be heard on the Wells Fargo Javelina Sports Network at 6 p.m. The team will open their home season Saturday, Sept. 13 at Javalina Stadium at 7 p.m. against Central Oklahoma. For tickets to the home opener, visit the ITT office.

Texas A&M University at Kingsville Girls Volleyball Upcoming Schedule (played at the Steinke Center)

Sept. 10 vs. St. Mary's University, 7 p.m.

Sept. 18 vs. Angelo State University, 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 vs. Abilene Christian University, 2 p.m.

Sept. 23 vs. Texas A&M International, 7 p.m.

Sept. 25 at Texas Women's University (Denton,Texas) 7 p.m.

Sept. 27: at Texas A&M-Commerce, 2 p.m.

HOG PEN

A Statement from Dr. Bob Strawser, Interim President Texas A&M University-Kingsville

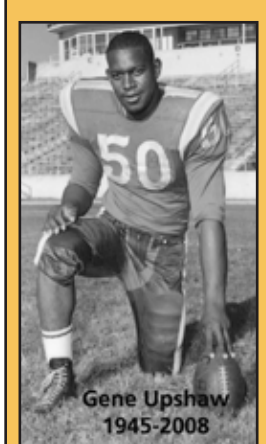
"Javelinas throughout the world are in mourning today. The world has lost one of the greats of collegiate and professional football but more importantly, we personally have lost our friend and alumnus, Gene Upshaw, Class of 1968, who died Wednesday (August 20).

"Mr. Upshaw exhibited the traits of a Javelina throughout his life – integrity, honesty, loyalty, tenacity and a commitment to excellence. His parents raised him with these values here at home in South Texas, in Robstown. These values also helped lead him to succeed as a walk-on with the Javelinas in 1963. And, they were honed and nurtured by the Javelinas' legendary Coach Gil Steinke during Gene's stellar playing days from 1963-1966.

"As he first achieved greatness as a Hall of Fame middle linebacker with the Oakland Raiders, and then as executive director of the NFL Players Association, Mr. Upshaw continued to show the world what being a Javelina means. He was a first-round draft pick of the Raiders, spending 16 seasons with the team and was a key player in the Raiders' two Super Bowl victories. He made seven Pro Bowl appearances and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in his initial year of eligibility in 1987.

"Gene was just as successful after his playing days ended. As executive director of the Players Association, Mr. Upshaw always performed his responsibilities with dignity, conviction and total dedication to the players he represented. He fought hard, but fairly, for his players, and is credited with leading the association in its creation of the free-agency system.

"Students today can look to Gene Upshaw as a role model of what it means to be a Javelina as well as a student-athlete, both on and off the field. After his collegiate playing days, Gene returned to then-Texas A&I and earned his bachelor of science degree in 1968. He took that degree and earned his place as one of the leading figures in professional sports management in our nation.



"Our hearts go out to his family – wife Terri, sons Eugene, Jr., Justin and Daniel, and his brother Marvin. As painful as our loss is, theirs is the greatest.

"While we are shocked into sadness over his sudden passing, we also are so grateful to be able to say, 'Gene Upshaw is a Javelina' and is now in a better place. He lived his life in a manner that all of us find inspiring and should emulate."

(Gustav continued from Page 1)

reach hurricane strength and take similar tracks along the east coast of Florida. The increased activity in the Caribbean provided Waddingham and opportunity to remind base personnel that hurricane season is just now moving into its most active period.

"We still have three months remaining in hurricane season," Waddingham said, "and this time of year is historically the most active. Be sure to brief your personnel about the steps they need to take to be prepared, and the procedures for mustering if a storm comes our way. Early preparation is the key to being prepared."

NESTED GOSHAWKS: L-3 Vertex personnel moved 60 T-45 Goshawks from Training Air Wing TWO into hangars and secured 27 others under protective canopies in preparation for Hurricane Gustav Aug. 29. Plans to fly-off the remaining aircraft to NRB Fort Worth were cancelled when NAS Kingsville was not included in the storm's projected path by the National Weather Service. (Photos by Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs).

Navy Officer accepts new mission to help his son

Captain Ron Boxall and his wife, Wendy, have faced some major challenges during his service in the Navy, including six-month deployments away from home. But nothing was as tough as finding out back in 2000 that their son, Bailey, had type 1 diabetes.

"We're at the hospital, and our 2-year-old boy is looking at us, crying, and asking why they keep sticking needles in his arm," Boxall said. "We quickly realized that diabetes was going to be a total life change, for him and for us."

Living in Memphis at the time, the family had to adjust quickly. Bailey was too young to communicate how his erratic high and low blood sugars made him feel. "We were always following him around with a sandwich or a needle," Boxall says. He received 10-12 finger pricks and 5-7 insulin injections at all hours of the day and night.

Bailey, who is now 10 years old, still performs about 10 finger pricks each day, but is currently using an insulin pump, which helps to reduce his injection burden.

Complicating matters greatly in the last eight years was the military reality of living in four different states— Tennessee, Florida, Virginia, and now Hawaii. Each location meant finding new doctors and educating new teachers and school officials about Bailey's condition. In addition,

CAPT. RON BOXALL with his wife, Wendy, and their sons Bailey (left), who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when he was 2, and his younger brother, Connor.

during Boxall's Persian Gulf deployment while in command of the USS CARNEY (DDG-64), Wendy was left alone to administer Bailey's 24-hour regimen and care for their younger son, Connor (who is now 7).

The family is now settled in Hawaii. Boxall is the Commanding Officer of the USS Lake Erie,which is home ported at Pearl Harbor. But while living in Virginia, he also took on a new kind of command: Helping run a fund-raising walk for the disease that struck his son. Working with the Capitol Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), Boxall was one of the primary organizers for the Northern Virginia Walk to Cure Diabetes in 2006, 2007, and 2008. "It was very moving to see the Navy Ceremonial Guard kick off the 2006 Walk, and have Governor Tim Kaine speak at the 2007 Walk," Boxall said. "You feel like you are involved with people who are giving their time serving their country or state, and serving a second time as a volunteer for our kids."

The Boxalls are very commited to the JDRF and other diabetes-related causes. "It's important we keep doing everything we can, because until there's a cure, we live in constant fear of the unthinkable. We are moved and honored by the commitment of JDRF and volunteers who work so hard for our loved ones to eradicate type 1 diabetes."

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) as a member of Community Health Charities federation.

Retired Marine now serves the thousands of people helped by Mercy ships

Rob Miller served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 20 years, first as a Tank Mechanic and later in Supply and Logistics. He retired in 1992.

In 2002, Rob and his wife Denise joined Mercy Ships. He says, "The fact that the crew were all volunteers who paid to serve spoke to us of a level of commitment and sacrifice that was most appealing." They served on the Caribbean Mercy for two and a half years and spent time in several coutries including Honduras.

During one trip to Honduras, Mercy Ships was delivering Personal Energy Transports (PETs) when Rob met a young man named Guatalupe who had lost his legs when he fell off a train. Guatalupe didn't have a wheelchair to even get to the PETs, so Rob picked him up and carried him providing transport to the new PETs.

Now Rob and Denise are serving on the Africa Mercy, Mercy Ships' newest floating hospital.

Rob's Marine Corps skills have been invaluable as he directs material and equipment from all over the world to the Africa Mercy. His Mercy Ships ground responsibilities also include coordinating transportation.

One Sunday morning, he drove a crew member into the city to attend church. A visiting pastor, Pastor Nelly Wright, was delighted when she saw Rob's Mercy Ships badge. She described the meeting as a "divine moment." Pastor Nelly had an adopted son, Phillip. The boy was born with a cleft lip and palate. His parents abandoned him because they considered him to be cursed. In 2005 Phillip had the cleft lip and palate repaired in a free surgery on the Mercy Ship, the Anastasis. He needed some follow-up work done, but Pastor Nelly had lost the followup appointment card and wasn't sure how to contact Mercy Ships.

Well, thanks to Rob's help, Phillip was scheduled for his follow-up surgery. It was a logistical miracle – everyone was in the right place at the right time.

Mercy Ships participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) as a member of Christian Service Charities federation.

RETIRED MARINE ROB MILLER, a Mercy Ships volunteer, carries Guatalupe to one of the new Personal Energy Transports donated by Mercy Ships to the citizens of Honduras.