



Volume 67, Number 2

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

“The World’s Best Pilots are Trained Here!”

January 23, 2009

Obama vows not to waver in America’s defense

By Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 – President Barack Obama pledged a “prudent use” of military power as the nation works toward “ushering in a new era of peace” in his inaugural address to the nation today.

“Our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint,” he said from the west side of the Capitol here after taking the oath of office as the 44th president. An estimated 2 million people crowded the National Mall and surrounding area to hear his address.

The use of these principles will allow America to develop greater understanding of other nations and greater cooperation against common



President Barack Obama waves to the crowd at the conclusion of his inaugural address, Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2009. The 44th president of the United States assumed his duties as commander in chief and vowed not to waver in defending America. DoD photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley

threats from them, he said.

“We will begin to responsibly leave Iraq to its people, and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan,” Obama said. “With old friends and former foes, we’ll work tirelessly to lessen the nuclear threat, and roll back the specter of a warming planet.”

Obama said Americans will not apologize for their way of life, nor waver in its defense. “And for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our

spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you,” he said.

America is a country of doers and risk-takers; it is an immigrant country where each generation worked hard to provide for the next, he said.

“For us, they packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life,” Obama said. “For us, they toiled in sweatshops and settled the West, endured the lash of the whip and plowed the hard earth.

“For us, they fought and died in places like Concord and Gettysburg, Normandy and Khe Sahn,” he continued. “Time and again, these men and women struggled and sacrificed and

(Continued on page 12)

Commander, Carrier Strike Group 10 is guest speaker as Kingsville Chamber of Commerce, Navy League salute NAS Kingsville volunteers of the year

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Nearly 200 people showed up at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK) Friday, Jan. 16 for the annual Combined Services Luncheon, sponsored by the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce and the Navy League. The event, held in Ball Room A of TAMUK’s Student Union Building, featured Rear Adm. Mark Fox, Commander, Carrier Strike Group 10 as guest speaker.

Navy League representative Forrest Patton served as master of ceremonies for the event. The annual luncheon recognizes NAS Kingsville military

and civilian personnel for outstanding volunteer service to the local community. Personnel are nominated by their departments or commands and nominations are forwarded to the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce and Navy League for selection.

NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham presented awards to Junior Officer Volunteer of the Year Lt. Joe Heuser, Enlisted Volunteer of the Year RP2 Norman Otters, and Military Spouse Volunteer of the Year Rebecca Huss, whose husband is attached to VT-22. Waddingham also

introduced the guest speaker.

“It’s an honor to have Rear Adm. Fox with us today,” Waddingham told the audience. “He is a Texas native, a former NAS Kingsville flight student, and an accomplished strike fighter pilot. He has commanded in every capacity from squadron CO, to Fleet Replacement Squadron CO for the Navy’s first Super Hornet squadron, strike fighter air wing commodore, carrier air wing commander, and now

(Continued on page 7)



Rear Adm. Mark Fox speaks to the crowd at the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce, Navy League salute to NAS Kingsville volunteers luncheon.

The Flying K is now available online in pdf format on our command Web site at: <https://cnic.navy.mil/kingsville>



Capt. Phil Waddingham
Commanding Officer,
NAS Kingsville



Greetings, NAS Kingsville. Many of you had the opportunity to take some well deserved time off this past weekend as we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Day. Dr. King has made, and continues to make, an indelible mark on Nation's cultural fabric. His famous "I have a dream" speech is studied by all Americans in school, and the wisdom in his words will influence our society as long as we live. Whether you participated in organized events, observed them, or simply spent time with your family or friends, I hope you enjoyed your weekend.

I realize some were asked to come to the base to support flight training on Monday, the federal holiday in honor of Dr. King. The decision to do this was made by me with a certain degree

of reluctance. I value the hard work performed by Team Kingsville, and I am impressed and inspired by what you accomplish on a daily basis. It is my desire, therefore, to allow all of you to count on, plan for, and enjoy federal holidays--especially those which result in a three-day weekend. I will work hard to fulfill this commitment, but understand that circumstances may dictate that we occasionally operate on weekends, or holidays, in order to support the requirements of TW-2 or other assigned tenants. Should the decision be made again in the future, it will not be taken lightly, and efforts to provide relief to those affected will be a priority.

I'd like to congratulate our recent Kingsville Chamber of Commerce and Navy League Combined Services Junior Officer, Enlisted, and Spouse Volunteers of the Year awardees, Lt. Joe Heuser, RP2 Norman Otters, and Mrs. Becky Huss for their selection. These individuals embody the spirit of Kingsville PRIDE, and have set a fine example for others to follow. Well done, and well deserved!

Finally, in case you haven't heard,

SUBWAY is coming! This means two things: foot long subs are just around the corner (I'll keep you posted on the dates as we work through the details of the site preparation), and it means NAS Kingsville is not moving! Seriously, on the issue of the base, I am preparing a

State of the Station brief which I will be presenting in the near future. I will address current and future plans for NAS Kingsville from the shore infrastructure perspective, and I think you will be as excited as I am about the future of our base. Waddz sends



HELP WANTED

Location: MWR, NAS Kingsville, Texas
Must apply NLT Jan. 26, 2009

Position: Human Resources Assistant

Salary: \$22,310-\$60,000 per yr/ Full Time

Job duties:

- Perform administrative/technical support work in a variety of personnel functions.
- Processes new employee orientation.
- Obtain data to complete forms such as health benefits registration, life insurance, designation of beneficiary, tax certificates, clearances and investigation data.
- Compute and flag due dates for various types of personnel actions, i.e., within grade increase, conversions, performance appraisals, etc.
- Verify employment.
- Prepares temporary duty and change of station travel orders; arrange travel sched-

ules, itineraries and makes reservations.
Note: Successful completion of a national background check is required for this position.

Position: Lead Bartender and Bartender (two positions available)

SALARY: \$7.95-\$12 per hr (depending upon experience)

Location: K-Bar at The Captain's Club, NAS Kingsville

Job(s) duties:

Mix, prepare and serve a variety of alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks.

Benefits: Competitive hourly wage, plus tips.

Forward resumes and OF-612 to MWR Department, Attn: LaVonda Steen, NAF Personnel Clerk, Naval Air Station, 601 Nimitz Ave, Kingsville, TX 78363. Feel free to fax resumes to LaVonda Steen 361-516-6971 or email at lavonda.steen@navy.mil.

In the Break



Cmdr. Tim Carr
Chief Staff Officer,
Training Air Wing TWO



Unsung Heroes

The other day I tried to get out an ACM hop through some mid-to-high cloud decks. Unfortunately the decks were too high to complete the hop and make the X, but we were able to do some decent cloud surfing prior to coming back home as singles for landing. The weather had closed in a bit since our take-off so we had to return for an instrument recovery.

Approach and Final did their usual fine job getting us back in. After bouncing around the box pattern for a few good GCAs and then sitting in the office looking out the window at the

clouds, it got me to thinking about all the times I've been hanging my tender pink flesh out there in the weather with nothing but a good controller between me and a safe arrival back on terra firma.

The advent of ACLS and ILS has allowed us to control many of our approaches back to the ship or the field, but no one spends much time doing this business without realizing that those particular electrons tend to go south whenever you really need them the most. It seems like it is always a dark and cloudy night when you get the "99, Bulls-eye and Needles are down" call in Marshall. That's when you start paying attention to your TACAN and listen to the voice on Final Approach like it was coming from the burning bush. When the weather is no-kidding-down-to- minimums and you've got more air than fuel in the tanks there's nothing better than breaking out, lined up on centerline with a ball on the lens. Those of you who've been there know

it, and those of you still earning your wings will find out soon enough, trust me. Even when the sky is "clear and a million" you depend on your controller more than you know. As you're whoostling along at mach 2, inverted with your hair on fire and suddenly you get a traffic call, you start to realize how hard it is to see a small jet with 600 knots of closure. Or, you get distracted during a long engagement and don't realize you're about to spill out of the MOA into hostile airspace until you get that "3 miles from the border, acknowledge with IDENT" heads up from an on-the-ball controller. I'm a lot happier acknowledging that call than the one I would be getting from the FAA otherwise.

Anyway, for all the times you've saved my hide and gotten me back home safe – thank you. For all the long hours you spend face down in a scope, diligently providing needed support to some aviator with a lot of ego and only a little gratitude – thank you. For all

the time you senior controllers spend training new controllers – thank you. And especially for all of you who have to come in on surge days to support a Wing that needs every X it can get, please know that your hard work and sacrifice is deeply appreciated.

I know we all hoped to see our families more once we got on shore duty. But at least we usually get to sleep under the same roof with them every night. We are working hard at the Wing to try and get back on our production line so that everyone can have a more normal schedule. Several initiatives regarding IP manning and Syllabus flow are in work that should help relieve the current burden, but these initiatives will take time to make an impact. The work we have left to do this year is staggering and we can not succeed without everyone pulling together. With everyone pulling together, we can not fail.

Once again, for all you do – thank you. God bless you all.

Cowboy

Training Air Wing TWO

Jan. 21-31: Kleberg-Kenedy County Junior Livestock Show, J.K. Northway Coliseum, Kingsville.

February:

Celebration of Quilting. View the work of some of Kingsville's best quilters throughout the month of February at the John E. Conner Museum. Works are by the Kingsville Saturday Morning Quilters, and can be viewed Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 1: TAMUK Women's Softball doubleheader versus Texas A&M International. 1 p.m. Tickets: \$2 adults, \$1 for public school children.

Sunday, Feb. 1: Hansel & Gretel. Annual children's performance at Texas A&M University-Kingsville's Jones Auditorium. Admission: \$1.



Welcome Aboard



*The following personnel
have reported for duty!*



HM2 Carlos Morgado, USN
Branch Health Clinic
San Antonio, Texas



Lt. Ashish Kore, Indian Navy
Student Naval Aviator, VT-22
India



Renee Hill
Morale, Welfare & Recreation
Visalia, Calif.



Brent Edwards
Morale, Welfare and Recreation
Portland, Org.



ABFC John D. Ordonio, USN
Morale, Welfare & Recreation
Aberdeen, Wash.



Capt. Matthew R. Beers, USMC
Instructor Pilot, VT-22
Crystal Lake, Ill.



Capt. Christopher Schreiner, USMC
Instructor Pilot, VT-21
Sisters, Org.



1st Lt. Eric L. Biskner, USMC
Instructor Pilot, VT-21
Inverness, Ill.



A02 Joel Ramirez, USN
NASK, Armory
San Antonio, Texas



ABE1 Maurice Thigpen, USN
NASK, Field Support
Baton Rouge, La.



ABH2 Kendall J. Butler, USN
NASK, Field Support
Greenville, SC.



2nd Lt. Patrick D. Bergman, USMC
Student Naval Aviator, VT-21
Seattle, Wash.

The Flying K

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Capt. Philip L. Waddingham**

**NAS Kingsville
Executive Officer
Cmdr. Scott Allen**

**Training Air Wing TWO
Commander:
Capt. Bill Davis**

**Training Air Wing TWO
Chief Staff Officer
Cmdr. Tim Carr**

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On the subject line type:
ATTN: CAPTAIN'S LINE**

Navy commissions final Nimitz-class carrier, USS George H.W. Bush

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Barrie Barber, U.S. Fleet Forces Command Public Affairs

NORFOLK (NNS) -- As a 21-cannon salute boomed and U.S. Navy fighter jets thundered overhead, President George W. Bush declared a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier named for his father, former President George H. W. Bush, will sail the globe as a potent symbol of men and women in uniform, past and present.

The Navy commissioned the 10th and final nuclear-powered Nimitz-class carrier Jan. 10, USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), in front of thousands attending the pierside ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk.

"This ship is a fitting tribute to a generation of men with whom my dad was privileged to serve," said the president, noting his father's service as a World War II naval aviator. "She's also a tribute to a generation of American Soldiers, Sailors, and Coast Guardsmen and women and Airmen and Marines who have stepped forward to defend the United States of America.

"Again our troops are facing down a brutal enemy," the commander-in-chief added. "Again they are making America and the world safer, and again they will come home in victory."

Dorothy "Doro" Bush Koch, the former president's daughter and ship's sponsor, ordered the command to "man our ship and bring her to life."

Sailors bedecked in dress blue uniforms rushed aboard the massive warship and lined the flight deck amidst a cacophony of sirens, bells and spinning radars. Four F/A-18 Super Hornets and a TBM Avenger torpedo bomber, the same type of aircraft former President Bush once piloted in battle, roared above.

"This is a ship that will make history and today marks the first day of an illustrious journey," said Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter. "Nothing else compares to the arrival of a nuclear-powered carrier in our fleet. The impact of a carrier is global for no other ship represents to the world the power of the United States the way this does."

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead said the dedication marked the start of setting the standards of a warship that will serve the nation for the next five decades, and for crew members not yet born.

"Today is a day of incredible work achieved and incredible work to be done,"

said Roughead.

"We know this is a technological marvel, but it's going to be the Sailors that make it great," said Adm. Johnathan W. Greenert, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said naming the final Nimitz-class carrier after the former president and naval aviator was a fitting tribute.

"As a commander-in-chief, President Bush had a courage and toughness that impressed all who served with him," Gates added.

The former commander-in-chief said the commissioning harkened memories of a similar event he attended 65 years ago at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. The Navy commissioned USS San Jacinto (CVL 30) on Dec. 15, 1943, the ship he served aboard during the war.

He marveled at his namesake ship, nearly twice as long as the San Jacinto, with a 4.5-acre flight deck and towering 20 stories above the water. Most important, he said, was the crew of the nation's newest warship.

"I wish I was sitting right out there with you ready to start the adventures of my naval aviation career all over," said Bush, 84. "I don't know if I could have handled the jets we fly today, but as you prepare to man this ship I do know you

take with you the hopes and dreams of every American that cherishes peace and you take with you the undying respect and admiration of the entire Bush family."

He said crew members may routinely encounter duty that's difficult or dangerous as they prepare to stand the watch.

"As someone who has stood that watch and remembers the quiet solitude of that experience, I know you will find comfort and inspiration, particularly in the night sky," he said. "For it is basking in the splendor of the stars that you will truly understand the majesty of creation and bear witness to the certain hand of God."

Several other dignitaries attended the event including Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

John J. Raquepau, 85, a World War II torpedo bomber pilot from St. Petersburg, Fla., served with former President Bush in combat. Raquepau lauded his one-time squadron mate for having a nuclear-powered carrier honor his name.

"I think it's appropriate," said Raquepau, who said Bush gave him the nickname "Raq." "He earned it very well. One year in combat, that's a hell of a long time."

Bush served as the youngest pilot in the Navy during the war. Japanese anti-aircraft fire brought down his TBM Avenger with two other crewmen Sept. 2, 1944, near Chichi Jima. After the plane was hit, Bush was able to drop bombs on the target before bailing out over the



Lt. Cmdr. George Brickhouse, assigned to the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) accepts a long glass symbolizing the setting of the first watch from former President George H.W. Bush during the ship's commissioning ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk, Va. Bush delivered the keynote address at the commissioning. The Navy's newest, and final, Nimitz-class aircraft carrier is named after the World War II naval aviator and 41st president of the United States. (U.S. Navy photo).



NORFOLK (Jan. 10, 2009) F/A-18 aircraft assigned to Air Wing 1 at Naval Air Station Oceana, Va. perform a flyover during the commissioning ceremony for the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). The Navy's newest, and final, Nimitz-class aircraft carrier is named after World War II naval aviator and the 41st president of the United States George H.W. Bush. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Susan Caraballo).

Pacific Ocean. The submarine USS Finback (SS 230) rescued him at sea. The two crew members did not survive. Bush earned a Distinguished Flying Cross for courage during the attack and three air medals for duty in the Pacific Theater.

Once his namesake warship completes sea and builder trials early this year, it will depart on its first operational deployment in late 2010 with 5,500 Sailors and an air wing of about 80 combat aircraft.

The 1,092-foot-long carrier is nearly as long as the Empire State Building is tall. The more than 97,000-ton vessel with two nuclear reactors has a top speed in excess of 30 knots.

Northrup Grumman built the ship at its Newport News, Va., shipyard using more than a billion parts from 2,000 contractors in 46 states.

"If anyone has any questions about the ingenuity and dedication of American workers, they should see this ship," said Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine.

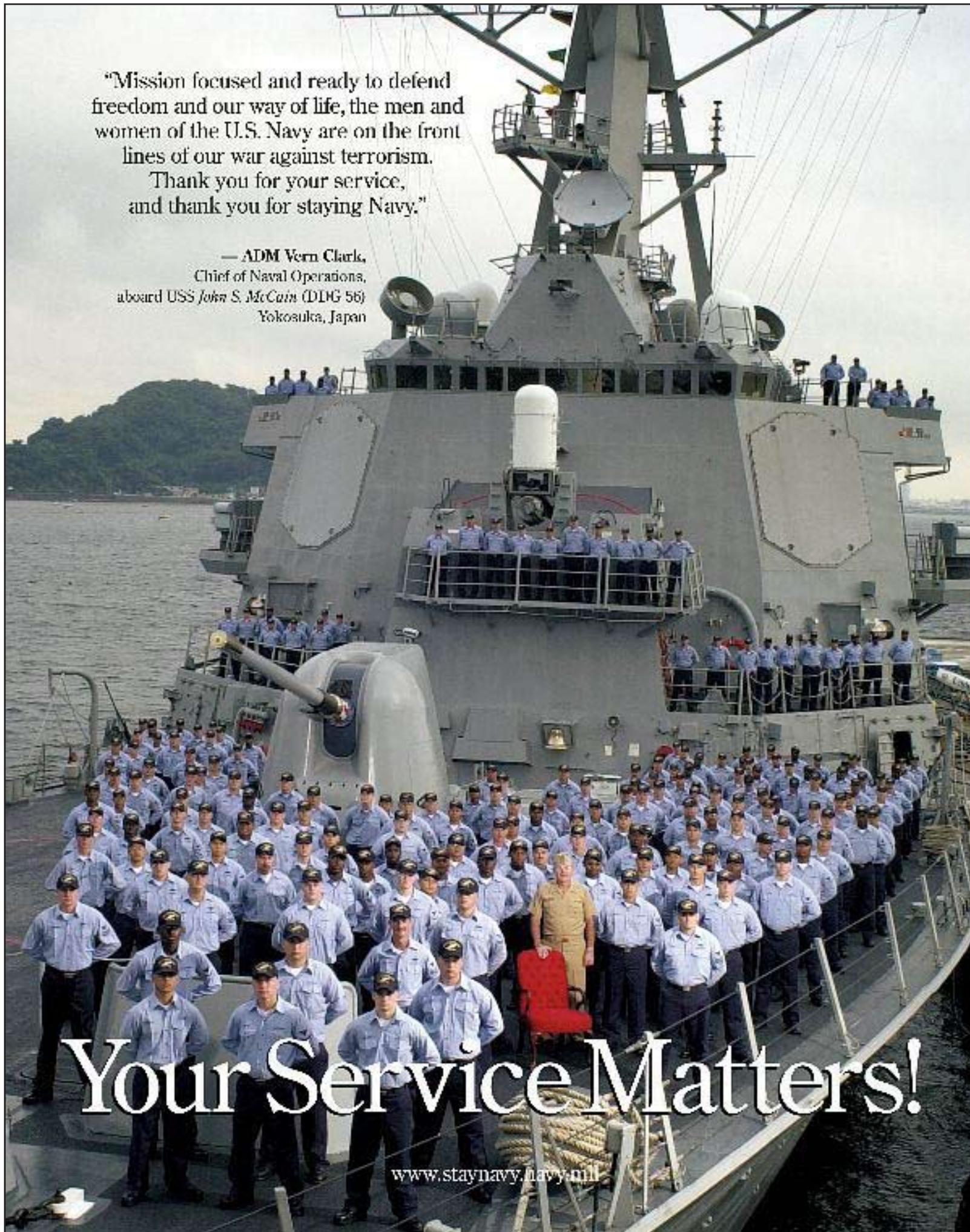
The shipyard will build the nuclear-powered USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) as a new class of supercarrier scheduled for delivery in 2015.

Capt. Kevin E. O'Flaherty, Bush commanding officer, said his crew is ready.

"We are here to serve, we are trained, and we are ready to take this ship to sea."

"Mission focused and ready to defend
freedom and our way of life, the men and
women of the U.S. Navy are on the front
lines of our war against terrorism.
Thank you for your service,
and thank you for staying Navy."

— ADM Vern Clark,
Chief of Naval Operations,
aboard USS *John S. McCain* (DDG 56)
Yokosuka, Japan



Your Service Matters!

www.staynavy.navy.mil

Sailor departs a 1st Class Petty Officer, returns a Chief

By Maryann Shramko, Flying K editor

NAS Kingsville (NASK) welcomed home Chief Master at Arms (SW) Dwayne Carpenter from a six-month individual augmentee (IA) assignment to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GITMO) Dec. 6.

At the time Carpenter departed on his IA assignment he was a Master-at-Arms Petty Officer 1st Class and the leading petty officer for the NAS Kingsville Security Department. Shortly after his departure, he was informed he had been selected for advancement to Chief Petty Officer for fiscal year 2009 (FY-09).

"The most challenging thing about being on this particular IA assignment," Carpenter said, "was carrying out the mission while participating in the Chief Petty Officer Induction Season. It was without a doubt a valuable learning experience for me."

Carpenter served with the Joint Task Force (JTF) at Guantanamo conducting detainee operations in sup-

port of the Global War on Terrorism from June through December. "Being back with my wife and son is the best part of returning," he confessed. "I can't thank them enough for their love and support throughout my deployment and my career. It's also good to be back at work [at NAS Kingsville] and I'm looking forward to continuing work here with the outstanding individuals who make up our NAS Kingsville team."

Carpenter added that his deployment was not only challenging - but eye-opening. "The deployment to Gitmo was one of the most rewarding assignments of my career," he said. "The men and women serving at JTF Gitmo are some of the most professional individuals in our military. They constantly carry out their duties under demanding conditions, while successfully accomplishing the mission to keep our country safe. I am proud and honored to have served with them."



MAC(SW) Dwayne Carpenter stands at the North East Gate of the base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Kingsville parade celebrates Dr. King's birthday

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Various schools, groups, and organizations from throughout Kleberg County turned out to participate in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade in downtown Kingsville Monday, Jan. 19. The parade capped a four-day celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., promoting the theme, "Living the Dream: Our Future is Greater -- Much Greater than our Past."

The festivities got underway Friday, Jan. 16 with a "Living the Dream" Youth Explosion concert at the Bay Area Fellowship. The celebration continued Saturday with an event at Dick Kleberg Park labeled a "Taste of Soul," and on Sunday with an "I Have a Dream" banquet at the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Student Union Building.

Grand Marshall for the parade was Mrs. Gertie Scott, community leader and long-time Kingsville resident. Among the other participants were the NAS Kingsville Color Guard (AC2 Nick Morgan, AC3 Charles Craft, ACAN Foy Fleming, and EN3 Brenda Acevedo), the NAS Kingsville Border patrol, and a strong contingent of personnel from the Junior Enlisted Association (JEA).



Vehicles from the U.S. Border Patrol's NAS Kingsville detachment escort the H.M. King High School ROTC.



(Above) Grand Marshall Gertie Scott of Kingsville waves to spectators along the parade route.

(Left) Members of NAS Kingsville's Junior Enlisted Association wave to the crowd.



The NAS Kingsville Color Guard leads the way down Kleberg Ave. during the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade in downtown Kingsville.



Students from Perez Elementary show their school spirit and commitment to "Living the Dream."

Today, we live the dream!

(Navy League from page 12)

as Strike Group Commander.”

Fox, who earned his wings in 1978 after completing advanced jet training with VT-21, focused his remarks on service to country and community.

“I have always felt strongly about service,” Fox said about wearing the uniform and serving in the military, “because you can be truly great when you do something for somebody else. If you really want to have a full life then you have to be prepared to give it up. The longer I have served the more I believe that this is true.”

Fox also praised the service members in attendance, for their volunteer service to their country and willingness to serve their communities. “I salute all the young people in this [audience] today,” he said, “and all the people you have honored here today. More than 50-percent of our Navy personnel have volunteered to serve their country since 9/11, and they continue to join with a commitment to service.”

Junior Officer Volunteer of the Year:

Lt. Joe Heuser, Air Traffic Control division officer.

Lt. Heuser was recognized for his work with the city of Kingsville for all joint issues pertaining to flight training and encroachment. Lt. Heuser served as command liaison for the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) group, and the Air

Installation Compatibility Use Zones (AICUZ) committee. He also served as air boss for the 2008 Wings Over South Texas air show, coordinating the efforts of more than 200 military and civilian groups, and leading to nearly 50,000 guests on board the base during the three-day show. Lt. Heuser also coordinated Air Operations’ participation in the command’s Pilot For a Day Program, and Community Outreach Program visits and tours.

Enlisted Volunteer of the Year:

Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Norman Otters.

Petty Officer Otters was honored for his efforts in coordinating volunteer and community outreach participation for all commands and activities on board the air station, in many cases serving as the overall coordinator and command point of contact. Among his

volunteer accomplishments was the establishment of a Junior Achievement mentorship program with local schools which he pursued and coordinated. In addition, Otters coordinated volunteer efforts with the annual Toys for Tots program, Operation Shipmate, Special Olympics, the Keep Kingsville Beautiful committee, and a host of other annual events. He also coordinated volunteer participation in the Navy Ball, the Chapel’s Soles for Souls drive, the Kingsville Boys and Girls Club, and the Volunteer Income Tax Advisor (VITA) program. He also serves as a member of the NAS Kingsville Honor Guard and the Junior Enlisted Association.

Military Spouse Volunteer of the Year:

Ms. Becky Huss.

Becky Huss was recognized for her volunteer efforts in a long list of community events, including donating more than 100 hours at local schools and her annual coordination of the La Posada de Kingsville holiday Parade of Lights. Sue Waddingham made the presentation, recalling advice she received about being a good military spouse in the early 1970’s when her husband was

going through flight training here. “23 years ago when we were first married I was told that the key to making it as a military spouse is to ‘grow where you are planted,’” Waddingham said. “I’d just like to say that Becky Huss is a bouquet.”

Huss is married to Lt. Gary Huss, a Reserve flight instructor for Training Squadron 22 (VT-22) and a pilot with Continental airlines. The couple just recently celebrated the birth of their first child.

For the past two years she has worked with the Kingsville Convention and Visitors Bureau, coordinating the annual La Posada de Kingsville celebration and holiday “Parade of Lights.” She is also active with the Animal Rescue Kleberg (ARK) program and serves on the Kleberg County Child Welfare board.



RP2 Norman Otters is interviewed by Kingsville Chamber of Commerce Marketing Director, Stephanie Yuma for TV-69 Kingsville.



Lt. Joe Heuser (left) is congratulated by Capt. Phil Waddingham.



Sue Waddingham (left) congratulates Becky Huss as she presents her with a plaque.

Navy League salutes NAS Kingsville Sailors of the Quarter

The Kingsville Navy League paid tribute to the current NAS Kingsville Sailors of the Quarter during their monthly meeting at the Sirloin Stockade in downtown Kingsville Jan. 15. Navy League president Jeff Lambert presented awards on behalf on the Navy League to Sr. Sailor of the Quarter AC1 (AW/SW) Israel Luera, Jr. Sailor of the Quarter CS2(SW) Bernice Meno, and Bluejacket of the Quarter CS2 Keturia Laidlaw.



***Sr. Sailor of the Quarter
AC1(AW/SW) Israel Luera***



***Jr. Sailor of the Quarter
CS2(SW) Bernice Meno***



***Blue Jacket of the Quarter
CS2 Keturia Laidlaw***

Photos by Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Navy expands PTS to "Second-term" Sailors

By Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Chief of Naval Personnel announced plans Jan. 20, to expand the Navy's Perform to Serve (PTS) program from first-term Sailors, to all E-6 and below with 10 years or less of service.

"The Perform to Serve program is a vital element of our Navy's total force strategy providing an opportunity to keep our best and brightest Sailors in order to meet future fleet and manpower requirements," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, Chief of Naval Personnel. "The program that empowers our Sailors to perform to serve is now being expanded to include both Zone A and Zone B Sailors."

PTS is a centralized reservation system that helps the Navy manage reenlist-

ments of Sailors with less than six years of service, or Zone A. While most Sailors are permitted to reenlist in their current rate, Sailors in overmanned ratings may be offered reenlistment in an undermanned rating and Sailors with a poor performance history may not be granted permission to reenlist. According to NAVADMIN 017/09 PTS will expand Feb. 1 to include Zone B, which is Sailors with six to 10 years of service.

Additionally, beginning Feb. 1 all Sailors with an approved PTS application must sign a page 13 within 30 days of message receipt to accept or decline their PTS reservation.

According to statistics from the Center for Career Development, in 2008 al-

most 90 percent of Sailors who applied for PTS remained in their current rating.

Controlling the number of Sailors in specific ratings provides better advancement opportunities for Sailors, while helping the Navy manage manpower requirements.

"When we started PTS in 2003, there were a lot of Sailors whose promotion opportunities were severely degraded because their rating was overmanned. PTS has helped the Navy to balance its ratings and where there is more balance, there are better promotion opportunities," said Senior Chief Personnel Specialist Ron Miller, PTS Branch, Enlisted Community Management Branch, Navy Personnel Command.

Sailors should consult their career counselors about 15 months before their end of active obligated service (EAOS) to fill out the paperwork to have the command submit a PTS application, regardless of their intentions to re-enlist.

Sailors should read NAVADMIN 017/09 available at the NPC Website for complete details.

For more information regarding the submission process, application format or other PTS issues, please visit the NPC website or contact NPC's Customer Service Center by calling 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (1-866-827-5672).

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

Navy revises short-term extension policy

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Navy announced a new policy Jan. 9 for short-term extensions which will impact Sailors in overmanned ratings, physical fitness assessment (PFA) failures and some Perform to Serve (PTS) applicants.

According to NAVADMIN 007/09, commanding officers may not authorize short-term extensions for Sailors in overmanned ratings without NPC's approval except to obtain obligated service required to complete initial entry training, execute permanent change of station (PCS) orders or an Individual Augmentee assignment, to obtain maternity care benefits for a member's wife or pregnant servicewoman, or to meet a fleet reserve date.

Under the new policy short-term extensions for the purpose of passing the physical fitness assessment are not authorized for Sailors who cannot pass the Navy's PFA and have failed three times within a four-year period.

Short-term extensions are no longer authorized for undesignated Sailors, also known as Gendets, who have not been selected for a rating or converted in the first six months of the 12-month PTS window.

Commands are required to review all short term extension requests to ensure they are executed for valid program and career management reasons.

Sailors are not authorized to execute short-term extensions to remain on active duty to complete a college course prior to separation.

Short term extensions are not authorized for Sailors awaiting examination results or for Sailors awaiting additional quotas for automatic advancement under any automatic advancement program, such as command advancement program.

"The main reasons a Sailor would need a short-term extension is to complete a deployment, match their EAOS (end of active obligated service) to their PRD (projected rotation date) extend to complete training, or for maternity benefits," said Master Chief Navy Counselor (SW/AW) Tom Albert, assigned to Navy Personnel Command (NPC).

Short-term extensions are conditional extensions that extend a members enlistment contract anywhere from one to 23 months.

Affected overmanned ratings will be updated quarterly or as needed and overmanned rating lists will be posted with status of extension requests, procedures, guidance, and frequently asked questions at the NPC enlisted career progression webpage.

For more guidance read NAVADMIN 007/09.

Selective Reenlistment Bonus policy changes announced

By Sharon Anderson, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Sailors will have the opportunity to reenlist with a Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) up to 90 days before the expiration of their active obligated service (EAOS) under new policy set forth in NAVADMIN 006/09 released Jan. 9.

Sailors may have less than 90 days to reenlist for the bonus to keep the SRB reenlistment in the same fiscal year.

"Under old policy, a Sailor could reenlist anytime in the same fiscal year as their EAOS," explained Jeri Busch, head, military pay and compensation policy branch for the chief of naval personnel. Sailors need to carefully read NAVADMIN 006/09 to understand the many rule changes and exceptions and how this policy will affect any possible SRB awarded for reenlisting.

"By reducing the time frame for SRB reenlistment the Navy can better project and manage end strength while continuing to provide incentive to Sailors with critical skills and valuable experience to stay Navy," said Busch.

The policy change is part of an overall effort to stabilize the force at about 329,000 active duty Sailors by the end of this fiscal year.

SRB is a targeted market-based incentive which allows enlisted community managers to strategically adjust award levels as retention needs dictate.

Any Sailor whose request to reenlist has been received by PERS-8 before the release of NAVADMIN 006/09 will have their reenlistment processed under the old policy. Reenlistment requests received by PERS-8 after the NAVADMIN's release will fall under the new policy.

Selected NECs will be allowed to reenlist anytime in the fiscal year and are listed in the NAVADMIN. Future changes to the list will be released via NAVADMIN.

Some other requirements under the new policy include:

* All SRB reenlistment requests must be submitted 35-120 days prior to the requested reenlistment date.

* SRB requests submitted less than 35 days in advance of the requested date of reenlistment may be rejected.

* Sailors who are eligible for combat zone tax exclusion (CZTE) and have an EAOS that falls in the most current fiscal year are authorized to reenlist anytime within the fiscal year. These Sailors along with command career counselors must annotate in the remarks section of the pre-certification request whether they are currently CZTE eligible.

All Sailors are encouraged to read the complete NAVADMIN and the frequently asked questions available at www.npc.navy.mil to understand how the policy changes will affect them.

SERVMART employee is South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind Employee of the Year

By Maryann Shramko, Flying K editor

Established in 1968 by the Board of Directors of National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and in cooperation with the National Association for Employment of People Who are Blind (NAEPB), the Peter J. Salmon Employee of the Year Award recognizes one of the nation's outstanding blind employees working in a direct labor position based on not only job performance but also, community involvement. The National competition level is comprised of one Employee of the Year from each of the 83 NIB associated agencies throughout the United States.

64-year old Kingsville resident Santos Rojas, a 10-year employee of South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind (STLB) and a supply store associate at NAS Kingsville (NASK) was recognized as the 2009 Lighthouse Employee of the Year Award recipient at a ceremony held Jan. 13, at corporate headquarters in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The Lighthouse opened its doors in 1964 at a small warehouse in Corpus Christi with just three employees. Producing mops, brooms and other items, the three employees began selling the items door-to-door until 1965 when they expanded their workforce to 10 and began offering their services to businesses throughout the community. Today, 61 of the 180-plus employees are visually impaired and the products they manufacture are primarily for the United States government.

The award caught Sanchez off-guard. While sitting in a room full of fellow employees on what Santos thought was



Santos Rojas proudly displays his 2009 Lighthouse Employee of the Year Award.

a mandatory employee meeting, he suddenly heard his name being called out to come to the front of the room. "I didn't know if I should stand up or not," Santos said. "Then, my co-workers said 'Santos, that's you, stand up.' I was so nervous and shaking so bad, that my supervisor had to help me put the award back in the box after it was presented."

Totally blind in his right eye from a double barrel gunshot wound almost 30-years ago he still carries many of the pellets throughout his head, chest and eye from that fateful day. "I was not expected to live," said Santos. "But I guess it was not my time." Also considered legally blind in his left eye from cataracts, Sanchez recently had a lens transplant which has improved his vision enough for him to drive alone. "Now" he said "I don't need my wife to drive with me

to tell me the color of the lights."

Santos was chosen from among 61 other Lighthouse employees and becomes the first NASK employee to be nominated for the national award. He is hoping to make a strong representation for his fellow employees at the upcoming national competition to be held later this year in Kansas. Sanchez will be competing with 84 other visually-impaired direct-labor employees from within as many NIB associated agencies throughout the United States. "Right now," he said, "I am not nervous ... but, I might be later."

The National awards criteria are strict and nominees will be judged on not only their job performance but community involvement as well. No stranger to the community, Santos volunteers much of his free time at a local church in Kingsville where he directs the church in song, prayer and

Bible study three days a week.

"I know the road hasn't been an easy one for Santos," said SERVMART Manager Janie Melendez. "And when I step back and look at the big picture from where he started to where he is now, it's remarkable. I am truly blessed to have such an opportunity to work with such a wonderful person who has inspired me and has shown me that even with a disability you can still make a huge difference."

Santos was previously recognized as the Lighthouse's Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2006. His intentions are to work for another year or so before retiring at which time, he said, he "just plans to relax."

Although the Lighthouse has yet to have a recipient receive the national Peter J. Salmon Award there is no time like the present to bring home the first award for the Coastal Bend area.

"I am just real happy," said Santos.

DRUNK DRIVING
OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.

An advertisement with a red background. On the left is a stylized black and white drawing of a person's face with one eye highlighted in blue. The text "Human Factor:" is in blue, and "STRESS" is in large, bold, red letters. Below that, it says "There are effective ways of dealing with it." At the bottom right, it says "See your flight surgeon for details." and "Visit our homepage at: www.norfolk.navy.mil/safecen" with a small circular logo.



Tews' Views

Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.)
Mark Tews
NAS Kingsville,
Religious Ministries

Life is Valuable

"So God created man in His own image... male and female He created them... God saw all that He had made, and it was very good." Genesis 1: 27 & 31

Holding up a \$20 bill in the room of 200, a man asked, "Who would like to have this \$20 bill?" Hands shot up all over the room. He said, "I am going to give this to one of you, but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple the bill into a tiny wad. He asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up all over the room. "Well", he replied, "what if I did this?" He dropped the note and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked up the now crumpled, dirty and torn bill saying, "Now, who still wants it?" Still all the hands went up.

"My friends", he said, "you all have learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to this bill, you still wanted it. Why? Because it did not decrease in value, it is still worth \$20."

We have all known those times in life when we felt dropped, crumpled, torn, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we have made and/or the circumstances that have come our way, often leaving us with a sense of worthlessness. The good news, however, is that no matter what has happened or what will happen, you never lose your value. Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who love you. The worth of our lives comes not in what we do, or whom we know, but, by who we are, people of God fearfully and wonderfully made, created in His image.

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good! Remember, count your blessings -- chances are you will often find they easily outnumber your problems.

--- "Researchers say that cheerful people live longer than grouchy people, maybe because the surly bird catches the germ." ~Charles Milazzo

--- "Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what good you do for others." ~Danny Thomas

--- "The source of all our troubles is in not knowing Scripture."

~John Chrysostom, Early Church Leader

Fun learning day for the CDC Children of NASK

By EN3 Brenda Acevedo, Public Affairs Staff

The Child Development Center (CDC) hosted a children's learning day at the CDC parking lot area on Friday, Jan. 16. The Mobile Dairy Classroom of southwest Texas was there along with the The Critters (Petting Zoo) from Corpus Christi. This is an innovative program that brings the dairy experience directly to children.

The Mobile Dairy Classroom is a traveling milking parlor, featuring a live cow named Jenny and a 45-minute demonstration. Randy Miller was the instructor and he showed how farmers milk cows, and how milk goes from the farm to the consumer. Miller also answered questions from the audience.

Through the program, the CDC students and teachers share an experience that includes math, science, health (nutrition), and agriculture, all presented in an outdoor classroom format. The Mobile Dairy Classroom is a division of the Southwest Dairy Museum, Inc., a non-profit, educational program funded by dairymen across the southwest. "Teaching kids about the dairy industry is one of our priorities," said Miller.

The Petting Zoo provides tons of interactive fun and education. It's a fun and exciting way for children to learn about animals by actually being able to interact with them. The Petting Zoo features an assortment of Barnyard Critters such as chickens, hens, ducks, one billy goat, and one piglet.

According to Carmen Chapa, CDC Director, the children had a great time



Jenny the dairy cow looks out of the Mobile Dairy Classroom as Randy Miller teaches the children about the dairy industry.

and are looking forward to learning more about animals.

"The Mobile Classroom is a great educational experience," said Chapa. "It helps us teach children where food comes from. We plan to continue educating our pre-school kids about farm animals, when visiting the Kleberg County Fair next Thursday."

The Mobile Dairy Classrooms program is free for schools, fairs, festival, libraries, camps, daycare centers, and just about anywhere. For information visit: http://www.southwestdairyfarmers.com/mobile_classroom.sstg.

The petting zoo is one part of a professional children's entertainment team called "Cuddles the Clown" and "Critters" but can be contracted independently. For more information visit: http://www.cuddlesandcritters.com/Petting_Zoo.html



2006 Dodge SXT Caravan - \$10,000

3.3 L V-6 Automatic, adjustable driver peddles, DVD player and T.V. (Washer/dryer set very good condition included)

For more information contact Mike or Sue Estok
(361) 522-5692 or (361) 522-5597

Electric wall oven, \$100 OBO; Electric glass cook-top stove, \$50; side-by-side refrigerator \$100. Good condition.

Call Jon at 592-6776.

Dining Room - Table w/8 chairs, china cabinet, buffet/server	\$2000 OBO
Entertainment Center (3 piece wall unit)	\$600 OBO
Hall Tree (like new)	\$150 OBO
Full mattresses with frame	\$150 OBO
Dresser & Headboard	\$150 OBO

Contact Norma at (361) 522-5668





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.



Weight Room Orientation

- So you've jumped into your new years resolution of getting back in shape with both feet, but feeling a little overwhelmed with all the equipment options at the Total Fitness Connection? Take advantage of this free weight room orientation by the MWR Fitness Staff. Orientations are scheduled for Feb. 5, Mar. 5, Apr. 2, and May 7. Times will be announced. Please register by 5 p.m., the day before the orientation you wish to attend. For more information, please call 516-4386.



Mig Welding Class - MWR Auto Skills will be having a MIG Welding class on Sat., Jan. 24, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person and limited to the first five people. Students must sign up in advance IN PERSON at Auto Skills, bldg. 3783 prior to the event (no telephone calls please). Long sleeved shirts, long pants, full shoes or boots

(no sandals) are required. All materials and safety gear will be provided. This class fills up fast so if you want to attend, hurry and register. There is a possibility that if enough people show interest we will have a 2 hour afternoon class also.

Dock Line Splicing Class - With the South Texas wind, you can never be too careful when tying off your boat at the dock. Join Outdoor Recreation on Jan. 24 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. for this informative class on braiding a set of dock lines for your boat. Boat owners are welcome to bring their boat, and those without a boat are welcome to attend as well. The class is limited to the first 10 paying registrants. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at 516-6191.

Back 2 Fitness Expo - Come join us for the first annual "Back to Fitness Expo" at the Total Fitness Connection. The expo will feature intro fitness classes, body composition assessments, question and answer sessions, and access to fitness staff to answer any questions you may have. The fun is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 24. For more information, call 516-4386.



3-on-3 Basketball Tournament - Are you and your crew the Kings of the Court? If you think you have what it takes, now is the time to prove it. Tournament is scheduled for Jan. 31. For more information, contact the Total Fitness Connection at 516-6171. Open to all active duty, reservist, retirees, and DOD Civilians.

Body Transformation Challenge - Need to lose some weight, or trying to get in shape for your next PRT? How bout just looking to get in shape by summer? Here's your chance to meet all those goals, win some prizes, and earn some bragging rights. Team's of two will hit the scales for an initial weigh-in on Feb. 6 from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. All teams must have a team name. Before and after pictures will be taken if desired. A mid-point weigh-in is sched-

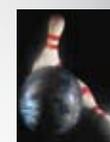
uled for March 6 and the final weigh-in will be held on April 3. For more information, contact Angela Cupp at 516-4386.

Flag Football Tournament 7-on-7

- With the college and professional season coming to a close, you will have to do it yourself if you want some gridiron action. Round up some teammates, and jump in this first flag football league of the year. Season begins Feb. 7. For more information, contact the Total Fitness Connection at 516-6171. Open to all active duty, reservist, retirees, and DOD Civilians.



Bowling Leagues



In the Dog House Spring League

Pos. Team	Won	Lost	GB
1. 3 Minds in the Gutter	10.0	2.0	0.0
2. Thumalos	10.0	2.0	0.0
3. Pin-Heads	8.0	4.0	2.0
4. Lane Brakers	5.0	7.0	5.0
5. Gorilla Glue Gang	3.0	9.0	7.0
6. Hounds	0.0	8.0	10.0

Wednesday Nite Mixed League

Pos. Team	Won	Lost	GB
1. Tidy Bowlers	40.0	24.0	0.0
2. DUH's	36.0	28.0	4.0
3. Laugh Out Loud	36.0	28.0	4.0
4. Sixty Forty	36.0	28.0	4.0
5. Guttermouths	35.0	29.0	5.0
6. Petes Angels	34.0	30.0	6.0
7. Big K Rollers	32.0	32.0	8.0
8. Ghost	0.0	0.0	40.0



HOG PEN

KINGSVILLE, TEXAS – Texas A&M-Kingsville junior guard Dyana Bullinger had a first half to forget on Saturday night against Midwestern State University, but responded with 14 second half points, including four consecutive free throws in the final moments to lead the Javelinas to a 63-57 win in Lone Star Conference South Division women's basketball action.

Once again the Javelinas fell behind in the early minutes of the game as the Mustangs jumped out to a 24-12 lead. Andrea Buben and Rosy Ofoegbu led the charge as each player score eight points in the first eight minutes of the game.

The Javelinas shut the Mustangs down over the final 12:44 of the first half as they allowed just seven points. The Javs used a 9-0 and an 11-0 run to take the lead. The Hoggies went into halftime with a 35-31 lead.

In the second half, the Javelinas pushed their lead to 10 points after Ursula Hill made a lay-up with 14:38 to play. A Tammi Mitchell jumper with 12:31 remaining gave the Hoggies a 50-41 lead. The scored remained that way for 4:17 when Katiya Jackson knocked down two free throws for the Mustangs.

In the final minutes the two teams battled hard, but the Javs did not allow the Mustangs to take a lead. The Hogs worked the clock down and then Bullinger drove to the basket where she drew a foul with 14 seconds to play.

She knocked down both free throws to give the team a four-point lead. Bullinger would tack on the final two points of the game after pulling down a defensive rebound and getting fouled.



(Inauguration from page 1)

worked till their hands were raw so that we might live a better life. They saw America as bigger than the sum of our individual ambitions, greater than all the differences of birth or wealth or faction."

Americans today must continue this journey, he said. It is time for hard decisions and a time of change. "Our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions, that time has surely passed," he said. "Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America."

Obama rejected the idea that the nation has to choose between its safety and its ideals. "Our Founding Fathers -- faced with perils that we can scarcely imagine -- drafted a charter to assure the rule of law and the rights of man, a charter expanded by the blood of generations. Those ideals still light the world, and we will not give them up for expedience's sake."

In the United States, all languages are spoken, all religions are practiced, and all good people are welcomed, he said. "And because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself and that America must play its role in ushering

in a new era of peace," he said.

Obama reached out to the nations of the world in his speech. He told them that America "is a friend of each nation, and every man, woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and that we are ready to lead once more."

He also spoke to the Muslim world, saying America seeks a new way forward, based on mutual interest and respect.

"As we consider the road that unfolds before us, we remember with humble gratitude those brave Americans who, at this very hour, patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains," the president said. "They have something to tell us, just as the fallen heroes who lie in Arlington [National Cemetery] whisper through the ages. We honor them not only because they are guardians of our liberty, but because they embody the spirit of service; a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves."

He called on all Americans to shoulder that burden of service. He said it is the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies.

"Greatness is never a given. It must be earned," he said. "Our journey has never been one of shortcuts or settling for less. It has not been the path for the faint-hearted -- for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame."

The faith and determination of

Americans can serve the nation well in a time rife with challenges.

"Our nation is at war against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred," the president said. "Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age."

Americans have lost their homes, their jobs, their businesses, and health care is too costly, he said. Schools are failing too many, and the American energy policy plays into the hands of the nation's enemies.

"These are the indicators of crisis, subject to data and statistics," he said.

These are disturbing, but more disturbing is a sapping of confidence and the fear that with this decline the next generation must lower its sights, he said.

"Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real," the president

said. "They are serious, and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America: They will be met."

While the challenges of this age are new, the values which have seen the



CAPITOL CROWD - Hundreds of thousands gather on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol prior to the start of the 56th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2009. More than 5,000 men and women in uniform provided military ceremonial support to the presidential inauguration, expected to be one of the best-attended in history. DoD photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Kathrine McDowell.

country through in the past will best serve the nation, Obama said. "Honesty and hard work, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism -- these things are old, but these things are true," he said.

America must return to these truths, he said. "What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility -- a recognition on the part of every American that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task," Obama said.

"This is the price and the promise of citizenship," he said. "This is the source of our confidence, the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny."

If Americans seize this responsibility, then the challenges will be surmounted, he said.

"Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations," Obama said.



Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th president of the United States by Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts Jr. in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2009. Obama's wife Michelle stands by his side. DoD photo by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo



Joe Biden takes the vice president's oath of office during the 56th Presidential Inauguration Ceremony, Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2009. DoD photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley.