Vol. 68, No. 11 Naval Air Station Kingsville, TX *"The World's Best Pilots are Trained Here!"* https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Kingsville June 4, 2010

# 3rd annual Health & Safety Fair covers all the corners

More than 600 people attended the third annual NAS Kingsville Health & Safety Fair held Friday, May 28. Safety and Health teams from throughout NAS Kingsville joined together to host the event that emphasized health and safety heading into the Memorial Day Weekend and more than 600 people attended the event throughout the day.

Displays covered everything from heart, health and dental care, to motorcycle riding, hunting safety, and fire prevention.

"We're providing safety information in an attempt to be proactive as we kick off the 101 critical days of summer," said Scott Ellis, L-3's safety manager.

"We usually plan our Health & Safety Fairs around the Memorial Day weekend because that holiday kicks off the Navy's Summer Safety program," said Angel Zuniga, acting NAS Kingsville Safety Officer. "Overall, this year's event was better than last year's so we've been able to expand on the program every year."

Participation included command and tenant activities from NAS Kingsville and health and safety outlets from Kingsville, Corpus Christi and areas in-between.

"The support for this year's Health & Safety Fair from the command and everyone aboard NAS Kingsville was outstanding," said Jessica Walker of the NASK Safety Ofice. "The health and safety messages were conveyed in a relaxed and fun manner. The planning effort from the base, wing and contractor participants was outstanding. Events like these help build a stronger community and base relationship while increasing exhibitor participation."

NAS Kingsville military and civilian employees were able to get a wealth of information from more than 30 exhibitors through displays set-up in the Captain's Club ballroom and outside the Club. Sailors and civilians alike went from booth to booth gleaning information from outdoor recreation safety to the benefits of using hearing protection.

"I thought there were a lot of interesting civilian displays," said NAS Kingsville Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff. "I think the NAS Kingsville health and safety teams did a great job covering the whole arena of personal, home and off-duty safety."

Personnel entering the fair were given a sheet of paper listing all the booths available for them to visit. As they went around

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***HM3 Meagan Jones grasps a stress ball as Dr. Lynn Olsen. Branch Health Clinic Kingsville had several booths at the Health & Safety Fair including dental care, on the left, and the lasting effects of alcohol, on the right. More than 600 personnel attended the fair that kicked off the 101 critical days of summer. U.S. Navy Photo by Jon Gagné.***

# Kingsville Sailors' advancement rate bests Navywide percentage

*By AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum*
*NASK Public Affairs*

The results of the March advancement exams are in, showing that Kingsville personnel finished ahead of the curve. Sixty-eight Kingsville Sailors took the exam, with 20.6 percent of those pinning on an extra chevron. The Navywide advancement percentage was lower, with only 15.8 percent of the 93,601 Sailors that took the exam advancing to the next paygrade.

"I would like to congratulate the 14 Sailors on board NAS Kingsville who were selected for advancement," said CMDCM (SW/AW/FMF) Charlie Ratliff. "As the Navy continues to right-size, advancement is difficult in many rates but the opportunity to advance still exists."

Those Sailors hoping to join the ranks of third class petty officer had the highest rate of advancement, with 23.6 percent Navywide making E-4, and 83.3 percent aboard NAS Kingsville advancing.

The advancement rate became continuously lower for the higher paygrades, with only 14.7 percent of those taking the E-5 exam Navywide advancing to second class petty officer. NAS Kingsville's advancement percentage was much higher, with 23.8 percent of candidates pinning on a second chevron.

The only Navywide advancement percentage that Kingsville did not top was for those joining the ranks of first class petty officer. Only 9.8 percent of Kingsville Sailors that took the E-6 exam were pinned with a 3rd chevron, with 3 out of 41 candidates advancing. The Navywide advancement percentage

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**Capt. Phil Waddingham**
**Commanding Officer**
**NAS Kingsville**

## From the Bridge

Greetings, Team Kingsville:

This week I want to reflect on the work of a great leader, naval officer and Executive Officer, Commander Scott "Stacker" Allen.

As today (June 4) marks the retirement of our XO, I found it fitting to use the space in my column to regale on some of his major accomplishments, and to put some of his great work over the past 23 years in to perspective.

As indicated in his biography, Cmdr. Allen began his naval career upon graduating from Texas Tech University in May 1987. He attended Aviation Officer Candidate School and was commissioned an ensign in September 1987. He reported to NAS Corpus Christi and later earned his wings in January 1989 before heading to Little Rock for C-130 training.

After learning to master the mighty Hercules, he joined the Puckered Penguins of VXE-6 in Pt. Mugu, Calif., and made three Antarctic deployments flying the LC-130 aircraft. Selected for transition to the Carrier Airborne Early Warning (VAW) community, he left for Norfolk, Va., and began training with VAW-120.

Upon completion, he joined the Bear Aces of VAW-124 and flew missions while on deployment in support of the NATO Peace Keeping Mission in Bosnia, and ultimately Operation Deliberate Force.

Following his maiden E-2C tour, he returned to VAW-120 as an instructor pilot and then joined VAW-121 for his Fleet Department Head tour where he served as maintenance officer during Operation Southern Watch. Later, he returned to VAW-120 once again as the operations officer and was instrumental in the Fleet's transition to the Hawkeye 2000 aircraft. Before assuming the responsibilities as the NAS Kingsville executive officer in August 2006, he served as strike operations on board USS Harry S. Truman from August 2004 until coming to Texas.

It was here, while serving with the carrier strike group staff, that I got to meet Cmdr. Allen.

I was impressed immediately. Here was a guy who had a firm grip on the total training and operational tiller of the entire carrier strike group. He knew how to make things happen, and most importantly, he knew how to fix things when they weren't going as planned.

He had a gift – a certain level of resourcefulness and foresightedness – that is truly uncommon in the business of naval aviation. And most importantly, he had one heck of a sense of humor. His rapier wit is legendary.

But it is his ability to mix stories and personal experiences into the situation at hand that makes everyone who has the privilege of working with him truly appreciate his leadership style. I know that I certainly did.

When I learned I was coming to NAS Kingsville as commanding officer, and that I would be working with Cmdr. Allen again, I was ecstatic. I knew without a doubt that there would be nothing we couldn't accomplish together, and that we would have fun doing it together. What I didn't fully appreciate at the time was how important and how difficult the job of NAS executive officer can be. I have been witness to how demanding the position is over the last nearly three years. If the job were part of a circus act, then Stacker would have been the performer juggling the bowling pins and bowling balls, along with flaming torches, while at the same time taming the lions and acting as ring master and master of ceremonies.

More than any single job or billet on base, tenants included, the job of base executive officer requires a level of situational awareness and time management expertise that is unmatched. Trust me. And the job certainly does not have the same level of prestige as some other O-5 commander billets. In fact, the job of NAS executive officer is often described as unheralded, and thankless. But its importance to mission accomplishment for the base and for all assigned tenants can not be overstated. That is why we must have the right person in the job who can pull it off.

Cmdr. Scott "Stacker" Allen was just such an officer. To Stacker, I say, "Thank you, sir. You have done an amazing job as base XO the last four years and your efforts and accomplishments will be long lasting.

You, sir, have made a difference here at Kingsville, and in our Navy. We are honored to have served with you, and your Nation is grateful for your service. Your request to go ashore is granted."

To Stacker, his wife Nancy, and their sons Michael and Jake, I wish all of you fair winds and following seas as you embark on the next journey in your life together.

With respect and admiration,
Waddz

## Deckplate Leadership

**CMDCM (SW/AW/FMF)**
**Charlie Ratliff**
**Command Master Chief**

I would like to congratulate the 14 Sailors on board NAS Kingsville who were selected for advancement on the March Navywide advancement examination. As the Navy continues to right-size, advancement is difficult in many rates but the opportunity to advance still exists.

The keys to advancement have not changed for years and will not change in the future.

First, work hard and earn yourself a good performance evaluation. Your performance mark average (PMA) weighs heavily in the final multiple score (FMS) that determines whether or not you advance.

Second, ensure you are studying the correct material. Go to the Navy's Enlisted Advancement Exam Strategy Guide website at https://www2.netc.navy.mil/advancement/aesh/index.htm to obtain a bibliography for your rate. That bibliography lists every resource that the advancement examination writer uses to write your test.

Third, dedicate yourself to good study habits so you are well prepared to take the advancement exam.

While all of the Sailors who were recently selected for advancement dedicated themselves to good study habits, two in particular are shining examples of what good study habits will do for you. One of our Sailors scored in the top two percent of test-takers and the other scored in the top 4 percent. And by the way, both had high PMAs from their performance evaluations as well. These two shipmates went well above and beyond to ensure that they advanced!

I encourage all of you to prepare now and be ready for the September 2010 Navywide advancement examination!

Best of luck!
Regards,
CMC


## The Flying K

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**Commanding Officer's Direct Line Input: Submit questions or comments for the Commanding Officer to: kngv-pao@navy.mil on the info line add: Direct Line**

# NAS Kingsville earns meritorious unit award

Naval Air Station Kingsville was one of 79 installations to earn Meritorious Unit Commendation medals.

The Citation recognizes meritorious service in support of Navy Fleet, Fighter, and Family worldwide from February 2006 to Jan. 31, 2009, as Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) operationalized into an Echelon II adaptive enterprise, with the critical mission to reverse the decline of shore operational readiness across 17 critical mission areas. In execution, CNIC became the technical authority and single process owner, accountable for Shore Readiness across all Warfare Enterprises and Providers.

The citation reads in part, "...The transformation allowed CNIC to drive facility recapitalization rates down 17 percent and optimize operational support to the Navy global shore enterprise. CNIC significantly improved the advocacy, sustainability, and standardization of Navy Shore Platforms, to include Environmental, Safety, Force Protection and Public Works. The strategic vision, design and execution of Navy Shore command, control and communications capabilities, through networked Region and Installation Operations Center, created robust crisis action planning, defense support to civil authorities, Navy and Marine Corps personnel accountability, and shore capabilities ready for tasking in any natural or man-made disasters.

"...Exceptionally commendable was CNIC's contribution to improving quality of life for the Navy Total Force, executing more than $314 million in bachelor housing construction and $5 billion in Navy family housing initiatives, including public and private venture initiatives that returned 15 to 1 the investments made to improve Sailors' quality of life.

"... CNIC's truly distinctive achievements and cutting-edge initiatives have transformed Navy Shore Platforms into Capital Assets that directly enable the Global War on Terrorism, and will have an enduring impact on the readiness of the Fleet, Fighter, and Family.

Rear Adm. Tim Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, writes:"It gives me great pleasure to recognize and congratulate you for receiving the Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC). The MUC was presented to 13 regions and 79 installations under CNIC for their outstanding achievements and steadfast work ethic contributing to improving shore station management and the quality of life for our Sailors and Marines and their families.

"Again, Bravo Zulu to all for a job extremely well done."

*Weapons Re-enlistment. AOCS(AW/NAC) Corley, Weapons Dept. Head, reenlisted for 3 more years of service on May 28, with orders to Tinker AFB in Oklahoma. NAS Kingsville Executive Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Dave Anderson, served as reenlisting officer. Corley has 23 years service. Also in attendance were his wife, Meri, and daughters Baily and Amy. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)*

# Advancement *from page 1*

for E-6 was not much higher though, with only 10.7 percent -- 3,274 out of 30,564 -- of Sailors becoming an E-6.

All but one of the 68 Kingsville Sailors who took the exam passed but were not advanced (PNA). The PNA percentages Navywide were: 75.3% for E-4; 83.3% for E-5; and 88.3 percent for E-6. Overall Kingsville Sailors did an excellent job this advancement cycle, with 98.5 percent of those taking the exam passing.

"The keys to advancement have not changed for years and will not change in the future," Ratliff says. "First, work hard and earn yourself a good performance evaluation. Second, ensure you are studying the correct material. Third, dedicate yourself to good study habits so you are well prepared to take the advancement exam."

Congratulations to the following Kingsville Sailors on their advancement to the next paygrade: CS1 Holly Clow, IC1 Bernardino Martinez, ABE1 Albert Holman, MM1 Miguel Fonseca, AC2 Terry Walker, EN2 James Phelps, AC2 Scott Jordan, ABH2 Duriel Young, HM2 Luis Figueroa, AC3 James Kemmerer, AC3 Israel Cansino, AC3 Megan McCall, RP3 Quentin Williams, and HM3 Corey Hopper.

*Security Re-enlistment: Lt. j.g. Ricardo Cerna , left, congratulates MAC William Worthen, of Fairfield Bay, Ariz., on his re-enlistment June 1. Worthen, who has already served almost 16 years in the Navy, recently re-enlisted for an additional four years. (Photo by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum).*

## Volunteer needed to serve as NAS Kingsville ombudsman

NAS Kingsville is looking for a new Ombudsman. If you are a Navy spouse assigned to the NAS Kingsville command who is looking for a place to volunteer, maybe this position is for you. The Ombudsman serves as an information link between Navy families and command leadership.

Serving as an Ombudsman is a great way to get involved in the military community and also help support other military families.

If you would like more information about the Ombudsman position contact Melissa Knight (361) 533-0240 or Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff at 516-6495.

## Kingsville Chamber of Commerce holds Casino Night at the Elks Lodge

Kingsville Chamber of Commerce will hold a Casino Night, Saturday, July 17, from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m., at the Kingsville Elks Lodge. The event has a luau theme. Cost is $20 per person and includes: Free Finger Foods; 2 Tickets for Spirits; Playing chips; and Cash Bar.

Call 592-6438, for info.

**Cmdr. Rey Molina**
**Chief Staff Officer**
**Training Air Wing TWO**

Howdy all,

By way of introduction, I'm Cmdr. Rey Molina, the new Chief Staff Officer (CSO) for Training Air Wing TWO. I've been aboard for a little over a month and feel as though I've known the folks at the Wing, in the squadrons and the Kingsville community for years. Perhaps it's the red carpet welcome from the Commodore and his lovely wife, Melissa, the remarkable training I received from members of the TW-2 Staff, and the hospitality shown to me by many in the town of Kingsville to include Mayor Sam Fugate – can't wait to see what the next 2 years and 11 months will bring.

A little bit about myself. I'm an Army Brat, born in Santurce, Puerto Rico. A graduate of Georgia Southern University, I entered Naval service in November 1988 and received my commission through Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS). I attended primary flight training at NAS Whiting Field in Milton, Fla., and completed intermediate and advanced training at NAS Beeville, Texas. By training, I'm a knuckle-dragging Strike Fighter Pilot (F/A-18). I'm a West Coast Sailor. I've spent most of my operational time (10 ½ yrs.) in Lemoore, Calif., so I'm a Lemooron…I say it with pride.

I'm coming off a two-year sea tour as the Assistant Air Officer (Mini Boss) on board the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Although an extremely rewarding tour, I was ready for some much needed shore duty. Believe it or not, NAS Kingsville was at the top of my list. Of course a small base next to a not-so-large town may not be so appealing to the average person. As they say, one man's nightmare is another CSO's dream. NAS Kingsville offered me a way to get back into the cockpit, teach America's finest and be closer to my family who live in San Antonio.

As I reflect on my first 30 days on the job, I know a made the right choice. In the military, the mission and people are what count. There is no question the mission for TW-2 is critical to the success of the Naval enterprise and there is no other group of people that understands, supports or is more loyal to this cause than that of the city of Kingsville. I am extremely excited and proud to be a part of the TW-2 family and look forward to working with many of you training tomorrow's best aviators as well as meeting the great folks in and around the local community. I am fortunate to have joined a team that has a proven track record of excellence, a strong relationship with its civilian neighbors, and the highest levels of pride and morale – Great to be aboard!

Respectfully,
CSO

***Wings of Gold: Four student aviators received their Wings of Gold in a ceremony held May 27, aboard Naval Air Station Kingsville. The new aviators are all members of the Indian navy. Pictured from left are: (front row) Commodore Monte Khanna, naval attache for the Embassy of India, in Washington, D.C.; Lt. Ablishek Gawande; Lt. Ashish Koref; Capt. Mark Brooks, Commander, Training Air Wing TWO; (back row) Cmdr. Gerald Murphy, Commander, Training Squadron TWENTY-TWO; Lt. Kartik Malhotra; Maj. Casmer Ratkowiak, student control officer; Lt. Swaraj Padhi; and Cmdr. Narayanan Thiagarajan, the Indian navy liaison officer for the students. (Photo by Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs)***

# New AFGE master labor agreement covering employees at 16 installations now official

*By Mary Anne Broderick Tubman*
*Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs*

A nationally recognized master labor agreement, believed to the largest of its kind in the U.S. Navy, is now in force for more than 2,800 bargaining unit employees represented by the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) at 16 installations within Navy Region Southeast (NRSE). The agreement also applies to AFGE employees at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast (NAVFAC SE) and the Fleet Industrial Supply Center Jacksonville (FISCJ).

The final version of the agreement, which was ratified in September 2009, was approved and signed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) April 27, 2010.

The concept of a master agreement for the three commands, all of which are headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla., began in 2008 when labor relations staff, AFGE leadership, and senior management first discussed the advantages of replacing numerous labor agreements with one consistent document that would create a community of interest for all employees represented by AFGE.

Following months of research and preparation, labor and management parties forged the new contract in August 2009, after only six days of negotiation at the Federal Aviation Administration Center for Management and Executive Leadership in Palm Coast, Fla.

"This is an outstanding agreement that will serve AFGE members in the Southeast for a long time to come," said Gregg Williams, labor relations program director for NRSE. Williams, along with Human Resources Specialist Mike Hoff, provided administrative support and technical guidance to the negotiating teams. "Negotiating an agreement of this size instead of many smaller ones has saved thousands of hours in resources. This is a good business practice that other common entities throughout the Navy can use. It makes sense, and it works."

Williams believes the AFGE unified agreement will chart new waters for future contract negotiations throughout the Navy, and hopes bargaining units of other claimants within NRSE, such as the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) and the Personnel Support Detachment (PSD), will adopt the agreement in the future.

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***JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Southeast (NRSE), joins Jim Rountree, NRSE regional business manager, left; and NSB Kings Bay AFGE Local President and Chief Negotiator Mark McCabe in the signing of a letter introducing the new Master Labor Agreement for employees of NRSE, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC SE), and the Fleet Industrial Supply Center Jacksonville (FISCJ) represented by the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). Also pictured, from left, are Bruce Cwalina, SES, NRSE executive director; Terry Baker, NRSE regional counsel; and Steve Bird, AFGE local representative for NSB Kings Bay. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Monica R. Nelson)***

## MWR Event Calendar

**Fitness Center & Sports**
Doubles Racquetball Tournament, June 8, 4:30 p.m. Sign up at the Fitness Center.

**Lunchtime Volleyball League**
Begins June 14. Teams of 6 with games played on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11 a.m. at the Gym. Sign up at the Fitness Center front desk or call 516-6171.

**Pool hours:**
Monday through Friday: Lap Swim 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Recreational Swim 1-8 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 1-8 p.m.

**50 Mile Swim Club:**
Sign up at the pool or call 516-6113.

Lifeguarding Class June 16-20
Sign up at Fitness Center front desk or call 516-6171.

500 Yard Swim, June 22:
Sign up at pool front desk or call 516-6113.

Water Aerobics:
Monday and Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.

Inner Tube Water Polo:
Thursdays, 6 p.m. Call 516-6113 for more information.

**Library Events**
Summer Reading Program: Voyage to Book Island June 1 through July 30. Visit the Station Library or call 516-6271.

K-Rock Coffee Shop
Buy 10 Cups get one free!!

**ITT, Single Sailors**
Market Day Trip, June 12. Visit Goliad, Texas and enjoy shopping! Call 516-6449 for more information.

**Movie Tavern**
First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. K-Bar will be showing free, pre-released movies.

**June Movie Schedule**
(Wednesdays, 7 p.m.)
At Single Sailor/ITT
June 9: (Horror) "Wolfman" starring Benicio Del Toro
June 16: (Sci-Fi) "Book of Eli" starring Denzel Washington
June 23: (Thriller) "Shutter Island" starring Leonardo DeCaprio

***Final Flight: Above, left, Capt. Phil Waddingham (front) and Cmdr. Scott Allen open the cockpit of a T-45 Goshawk after returning from a flight to NALF Orange Grove last week. The flight was Cmdr. Allen's final flight at NAS Kingsville, marking the end of a four-year tour as the command's executive officer. Above right, a NAS Kingsville firefighter mans the hose to provide a traditional wet-down of Cmdr. Allen on the flight line following the flight. Below left, Allen celebrates with a bottle of champagne. Below right, Allen poses for a family photo in front of the aircraft with his wife Nancy, and sons Jake, 19, and Michael, 21. (Photos by AC3 Kiana Kalbaum, NASK Public Affairs).***

June 30: (Romance) "Valentines Day" starring Jessica Biel and Jessica Alba
Saturday Family Movies
Free every Saturday at 2 p.m. at ITT

June 5: "Spy Next Door" starring Jackie Chan
June 12: Shrek Triple Play (instead of regular double feature) "Shrek 1, 2, 3"
June 19: "Percy Jackson and the Olympians"
June 26: Double Feature: "Alice in Wonderland" starring Johnny Depp and "Arthur and the Invisibles"

**K-Bar at the Captain's Club**
Movie Tavern First Tuesday of Each Month, show time is 7 p.m. Free Movie. K-Bar is open.

**Trivia On Tap**
Trivia Night at the K-Bar every Thursday night in June, 7 p.m. Teams of 4 compete by answering trivia questions. Great K-Bar prizes available to winners! Contact 516-6371 for more information.

**Bowling Center**
Free Lunchtime Bowling weekdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with Purchase of meal.

**CYP Youth Activities**
Summer Camp/Open Rec Program Registration has begun!!!
-Who: 5-18 year olds
-Register at the Navy Youth Center
-For more information call 516-6718

"Splatter Action Paintball"
-Who: Ages 10-18 year olds
-When: Saturday 5 June 2010
-Price: $25
-For more info call 516-6718

"America's Kids Run 2010"
-Who: Ages 5-13 year olds
-Where: MWR Fitness Center Track
-When: Tuesday 8 June 0900-1200
-To register visit www.americaskidsrun.org <http://www.americaskidsrun.org/>
-For more info call 516-6718

**Vet on board June 22**
The MWR Veterinarian will be on board NAS Kingsville on June 22, from 9 a.m. to Noon. The Vet will be available for vaccines and product sales.

Please call the VTF in Corpus Christi for appointments, and they can only accept cash or checks for payment.

Call 361-961-3952 for more information.

*Right is one of more than 30 exhibitors at the Health & Safety Fair held prior to the Memorial Day Weekend. The annual fair was sponsored by all base health and safety offices – NAS Kingsville, Branch Health Clinic, Training Air Wing TWO, L-3, Cape Fox, Rolls Royce and the Navy Exchange.*

*Electrical safety was one of the topics of information provided to the more than 600 personnel who attended the Health & Safety Fair on May 28. .*

*Cindy Cantu, with the Navy Federal Credit Union, provided information regarding personal financial security, including tips to help you protect and secure your banking information. (Photo by Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs).*

*Erica Magano, occupational health assistant, provided hearing protection information to safety fair attendees.*

# Health & Safety Fair *from page 1*

from exhibit to exhibit, they were able to talk to the health and safety professionals about their subject matter and receive educational literature and giveaways.

"Even if we don't get a chance to talk to them," said Meg Gilbert of the American Red Cross, "we can give them information on emergency communications."

The American Red Cross links members of the U.S. Armed Forces with their families during a crisis. The Red Cross quickly sends emergency communications to deployed service members on behalf of their family, 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year.

Cpl. Charlie Ramirez, with the Department of Public Safety, was sharing traffic safety information. He had literature explaining the new Texas law that requires children up to 8 years of age, unless taller than 4 feet 9 inches, to ride in an age-appropriate child safety seat.

"There's also a new law that comes into effect June 1, requiring any adult in a vehicle to wear a safety belt," Ramirez stated.

The annual fair was sponsored by all base health and safety offices – NAS Kingsville, Branch Health Clinic, Training Air Wing TWO, L-3, Cape Fox, Rolls Royce and the Navy Exchange.

Civilian participants included the Coastal Bend Blood Center; Texas Department of Transportation; Corpus Christi Department of Public Safety; Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD); Kingsville Parks & Recreation; Irv Thomas Motorcycles and ATVs; Navy Federal Credit Union NAS Kingsville; the American Red Cross of the Coastal Bend; Halo Flight of Corpus Christi; Kingsville Fastenal Safety & Supply;

Boy Scouts of America; Driscoll Children's Hospital; Harley Davidson of Corpus Christi; Suzuki; Custom Bikes of Corpus Christi; the American Diabetes Association; the American Cancer Society of Corpus Christi; AFLAC Insurance; the National Weather Service; and the American Red Cross of the Coastal Bend.

*HM3 Megan Jones provides CSCS Mike Reed, of the Consolidated Bachelor Quarters, with dental health information, while HM3(SW) Luis Figuero provides ACC Mike Presnell, of Air Operations (back right) with helpful tips to stop smoking. There were more than 30 exhibitors at the third annual Health & Safety Fair held May 28, to kick off the 101 critical days of summer.*

*Far left, AC1 Praise Sii demonstrates a traditional Tahitian dance during the Asian-Pacific Heritage Month celebration held May 25. Pictured left, (from left) Master Chief Charlie Ratliff, Chief William Hornbeak, Kevin Aguilar-Ferrari, Lt. Mike Wildman, and FC2 Natascha Josey trying to learn a Tahitian dance by making a "fruit salad." Pictured below, Lucy Clarkson attempts to teach CS1 Erasmo Guerrero how to perform the Tinikling Dance, a traditional dance from the Philippines. The other dancers were Rey Galonzaga, Marco Oballo, Alistier Andaya, and Keila Rangel. (Photos by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum.)*

# Celebrating diversity

## *Cultural event features displays, performances, traditional foods*

*By Jon Gagné,*
*NAS Kingsville Public Affairs*

The newly-formed NAS Kingsville Diversity Committee held a unique Asian-Pacific Heritage Month event at the Captain's Club Tuesday, May 25. More than 150 people attended the event.

The event featured a number of cultural displays and arts and crafts depicting Asian-Pacific life, several performances of cultural dances, and lunch.

Guest speaker was retired Senior Chief Ramon Panganiban of the NAS Kingsville Fleet and Family Support Center. A native of the Philippines, Panganiban spent 27 years on active duty before retiring following his tour at NAS Kingsville in 2003.

Master of Ceremonies for the event was Petty Officer 1st Class Praise Sii, an air traffic controller and member of the Air Operations team. Sii took the audience on a virtual tour of the islands by introducing cultural dances and encouraging several members of the audience to join in.

NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham, Executive Officer Lt. Cmdr. Dave Anderson, and Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff were among those who took a shot at the "Tinkling Dance," the national dance of the Philippines. Base leadership found the footwork required to be a little confusing, but handled the dance well.

Sii, who was dressed in traditional dance attire, also performed, providing an entertaining performance on the stage. Once she had completed her routine, Sii invited other members of the audience, including Lt. Michael Wildman, Chief William Hornbeak, and Installation Business Manager Kevin Aguilar-Ferrari to take part in making "fruit salad" from the fruits that are plentiful on the islands and on display near the stage. There was a twist, however, as this "fruit salad" consisted of using dance moves to help "stir" the ingredients. The result was a comical performance that drew laughs and applause from the audience.

This was the second event coordinated by the Diversity Committee since its inception in February. The committee hopes to hold special recognition ceremonies throughout the year to provide awareness of the cultural workforce that makes up NAS Kingsville.

"I thought the committee did an awesome job with this event," Ratliff said following the ceremony. "These type of events are both informative and entertaining for everyone involved, and it's a great way to learn about diversity in the workforce."

If you'd like to be a part of this committee, see your departmental Diversity Committee representative or contact Petty Officer Maurice Thigpen at 516-6339 or Chief Bernie Diaz at 516-6125.

***Guest speaker Ramon Panganiban, a retired Senior Chief, talks about what his time in the Navy was like as an Asian American to the crowd gathered at the Club to celebrate Asian-Pacific Heritage Month.***

**Chaplain (Lt.)**
**Mark Haley**
**Command Chaplain**

God Bless America.

God has blessed America with Freedom. Our Flag stands for freedom as we are united by 50 states. We fight together to continue to live free.

On Memorial Day, we remembered the freedom we have bought with our blood (past and present). We have the watch, and lift our heads high in salute to our flag and what it stands for; Freedom, one Nation under God!

Remember the past; Fight for our present; and Pray for our future. Freedom will lead the rest!

Memorial Day Weekend was amazing as we remembered the blood that has been shed for Freedom to continue to ring across our land. God has blessed America with Freedom.

Very soon, on Sunday, June 20, NAS Kingsville will have a new institution of faith open its doors for all to experience that freedom.

The newly-remodeled McFall Memorial Chapel will finally be turned over to the base, and we will rejoice by ringing our chapel bells, as we celebrate the return of this historic building and place of worship.

NAS Kingsville will conduct two Sunday services. Starting at 10:30 a.m., we will be uplifting the name of Jesus with a protestant service, as we worship God through praise songs, prayers, hymns, scriptural message, and fellowship.

A second worship service will follow with a traditional Catholic mass at 12:30 p.m.

Navy Chapels are open to people of all faiths. If you would like to lead your particular faith worship service, please contact the command chaplain's office and we will set up a time for you.

Freedom continues to ring at McFall Memorial Chapel. Come and worship with us.

## Religious Ministries Services

**Sunday:** Family Bible Services with Children's Church, 9:30 a.m.: Catholic Mass, 12:30 p.m.
**Tuesday:** Noon Bible Study.
**Wednesday:** Officer Christian Fellowship, 7 p.m.
**Thursday:** Catholic Choir practice, 4:30 p.m.; Prayer/Music Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
All events take place in the Chaplain's multipurpose room, Bldg. 2741.
Come join us!

## AFGE *from page 4*

For FISCJ, the new master contract is a major accomplishment that will serve more than 300 employees in 12 different locations. "In the past, we've had as many as 20 different agreements," said Cmdr. John Zollo of FISCJ. "Since they were all autonomous, Kingsville's grievance process might have been different than Mayport's. Now, the rules will be the same across our footprint. This agreement will serve as a model for others down the road."

The NAVFAC SE employs approximately 913 employees represented by AFGE at 18 of its 21 worksites, out of its total workforce of 1,760 employees. Like others involved in the negotiation process, Gino Andreoletti, chief negotiator for NAVFAC SE, sees the benefits of the master collective bargaining agreement.

"For NAVFAC SE, the new agreement consolidates eight different collective bargaining agreements into one, with standardized language and procedures so that our employees and management staff have only one to follow," Andreoletti said.

Mark McCabe, local union president at Naval Submarine Base (NSB) Kings Bay and chief negotiator for AFGE, plans to introduce the many changes encompassed in the new contract through joint labor/management training.

"I believe that both the bargaining units and the mission will be well served by the new contract," said McCabe, a veteran of seven previous contract negotiations. "While this one was by far one of the most challenging, the work was worth the effort."

Philip Adams, of the FISCJ Office of Counsel, who served with Tom Kathe of the NAVFAC SE Office of Counsel as legal advisors to the management negotiation team, agrees.
"To get three commands to view this contract as a common product, where special interests were put aside for the greater good, speaks highly of the work of the negotiating teams," he said.

The master labor agreement will remain in effect for three years, and can be renewed automatically thereafter with the consensus of all affected parties.

"We're looking forward to working with AFGE to implement the provisions of the new contract," said Jim Rountree, regional business manager for CNRSE and principal negotiator for the management group.

***Retirement Ceremony: Capt. James A. Crabbe, his wife Ellie, daughter Midshipman Vickie, and son Jimmy walk through the sideboys following an official retirement ceremony held on board the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi Bay Friday, May 28. Crabbe, a former NAS Kingsville and VT-21 commanding officer and recent Chief of Staff for the Chief of Naval Air Training, marked 30 years of active duty service with the retirement ceremony. His service to the Naval Air Training Command will continue for another 90 days, however, as he assumes the position of acting Chief of Naval Air Training while the current commander, Rear Adm. William Sizemore, recovers from a recent hospital stay. (Photo by Richard Stewart, Chief of Naval Air Training Public Affairs).***

***Capt. Scott Cooledge (left) relieved Capt. Dave Price as the Commodore of Training Air Wing 4 during a traditional change of command ceremony Tuesday, June 1, on board Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. Cooledge is a native of Portland, Maine, and has logged over 4,000 hours in Navy aircraft as both a Pilot and NFO, qualifying as a primary evaluator and instructor in both positions in the P-3 Orion. Cooledge recently graduated from the National War College in Washington, D.C., where he earned a Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy. Price's next assignment is as the military dean of engineering at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, Calif. Capt. James A. Crabbe (back), served as presiding officer for the change of command the ceremony. (Photo by Richard Stewart, Chief of Naval Air Training Public Affairs).***

# Moving? Fleet and Family Support Center resources can help

Navy Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC) offer many resources to help Sailors and their families when they receive Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders.

"Relocating to a new duty station is never easy, but can be made less stressful with proper planning and utilization of the free services of the Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC)," said Fred Davis, Fleet and Family Support Program's Relocation Assistance Program manager.

"Our Sailors and family members may be anxious about finding affordable housing, reputable schools, and employment opportunities, to name a few. The Relocation Assistance Program is designed to make the moving process as effortless as possible."

Plan on attending a Smooth Move Workshop hosted by the FFSC. The Smooth Move Workshop will address move-related topics such as who pays what for the move, how to ship personal property, and information about the sponsorship program.

There will also be a financial counselor available to discuss moving expenses to expect and how to prepare for the unexpected. FFSCs offer welcome aboard packets with information about bases worldwide.

Sailors who have shipped everyday items - such as portable cribs or toasters - to their new location, may be able to borrow them from FFSCs Some FFSCs also offer videos about life overseas.

"Planning and preparation, as well as a sense of humor and positive attitude, have been proven to be sure-fire stress reducers," Davis said.

For information about Fleet and Family Support Center's Relocation Assistance Program, visit http://ffsp.navy.mil.

Another tool available is on the website of Military HOMEFRONT. "Plan Your Move" allows you to create arrival and travel checklists and get information on your new community, schools, finance, housing, relocation assistance, transportation and finance contacts.

Interested in learning more about your new installation? Go to Military Installations at Military HOMEFRONT. You'll find over 250 installations worldwide – Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, Defense Logistics Agency and Department of Veterans Affairs.

Military Installations provides a map and directions to most services and programs on the installation, including the barber shop, legal offices, loan closets, the commissary, the golf course, and much more.

Military HOMEFRONT's Plan My Move tool and other relocation information is available at http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/tf/movingandrelocation. For more news from Commander, Navy Installations Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/cni/.

Aboard Naval Air Station Kingsville, call 516-6333 for information about class schedules and counselor availability. NAS Kingsville relocation assistance specialists can be reached at 516-6277.

*(Navy Installations Command Public Affairs)*

## Navy Ball 'Gas and Glass' fundraisers slated for June 10, 11

Navy Ball Committee members are holding fundraisers next week in support of this year's ball.

Thursday, June 10, from 4 to 8 p.m., they will hold a "Gas and Glass" at Love's gas station off the Highway 77 Coral exit. Volunteers will pump your gasoline purchase and clean the outside of your vehicle's windows.

On Friday, June 11, another Gas and Glass will be held at Murphy's, the Walmart gasoline station, from 3 to 6 p.m. All are welcome to come help raise money!

For more information, please contact Navy Ball fundraising coordinators IC1 Jesse Booth or FC2 Natascha Josey at 516-6348.

# Meeting Team Kingsville

**Fifi Kieschnick**
**Deputy Public Affairs**
**NAS Kingsville**

Service is just a day-in, day-out, ongoing, never-ending, unremitting, persevering, compassionate type of activity, says Leon Gorman, chairman of L.L. Bean.

We all provide service in some shape or form in our day-in, day-out jobs. But most of us aboard Naval Air Station Kingsville don't see dozens of people each day or provide service to thousands of people each year.

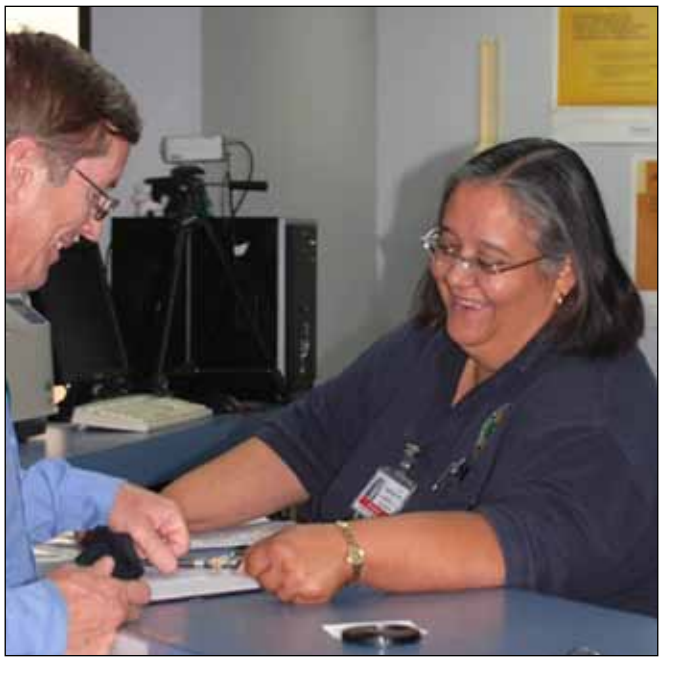
I met one such person when I first started working aboard the naval air station. And, I wasn't the most pleasant customer. As a matter of fact it was on one particular morning when I was exceptionally grouchy and not happy about having to make a stop at Pass and Tag.

To make matters worse, when I walked in I found that there were customers ahead of me and I had to wait my turn, which only made me grouchier. As I stood there, with my arms crossed, of course, I began tapping my foot. Then I kind of paced around.

Nidia Desiderio was the only person working at Pass and Tag that morning. She assisted me as soon as she had finished the task at hand. Nidia handles vehicle registrations, decals and identification cards, among other tasks at Security. And, even though I was bad-tempered, she took care of my car registration as if I was a pleasant customer, never getting riled by my rudeness.

Job done, I went on my grumpy way to work thinking that she probably had to deal with people much worse than me.

Later, I began to feel guilty that I had been so "ugly" to her. I told myself that I probably wouldn't have to ever go back to Pass and Tag for anything. I then tried to convince myself that if I ever did have to go back, she wouldn't remember me. I would just be my normal pleasant self and pretend that she had never met me in all my grouchiness.



**Nidia Desiderio**

I did have to go back.

And, contrary to what I had been telling myself, I couldn't pretend that I hadn't been there before.

So, when I returned to Pass and Tag, first thing I did was apologize – profusely -- to Nidia. And, I just didn't apologize once, I expressed regret every way I could think of especially noting that there was no good reason for me to be ugly to her.

Nidia replied, "How did I treat you?"

I was puzzled.

"How was your service? Did I take care of what you needed? How did I act toward you?"

Wow.

Her concern was that she courteously took care of her customer.

Wow. It was as if she "was rubber and I was glue." She hadn't focused on me being ill-tempered when registering my vehicle on base.

I've been back to Security several times since then and I can tell you that Nidia loves her job.

She has been working at Security as a Securiguard Inc./Lockheed Martin contractor for the past four years.

"I love working with people, helping people. I love what I do," says the Eagle Pass, Texas, native who has been married to her husband, Mike, for 23 years.

She said she got her work ethic and customer service skills from her first job.

"I started working at age 15 for a big drugstore. Before the store would let someone work on the floor, they would teach us how to sell and how to treat people," Nidia told me.

"They'd say that if you saw a person who was not comfortable, for whatever reason, your job was to make that person comfortable.

"I've carried that with me ever since."

Nidia's husband, Mike, is a professor at Texas A&M Kingsville teaching education courses. They have a daughter who is a theater arts and communication major at TAMUK with a 3.6 grade point average, according to the proud mom.

Nidia grew up the youngest of six – an older sister and four older brothers, three of whom played baseball; and as a result loves the game. She also likes football, is a supporter of the TAMUK football team and loves watching plays at the university, especially the ones with her daughter in them.

Currently, Nidia has no plans to leave the area, which is great for Team Kingsville.

# Navy commemorates pivotal Midway battle with wreath-laying ceremony, symposium

*By Darren Harrison*
*Naval District Washington Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON -- The 1942 Battle of Midway will be commemorated at the United States Navy Memorial June 4 at 9 a.m. with a wreath laying ceremony followed by a symposium in the Naval Heritage Center.

The battle is considered to be a pivotal moment in the war in the Pacific.

The small island of Midway located northwest of the Hawaiian chain was seen as strategically important by Japanese Combined Fleet Commander Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto. Yamamoto hoped to draw the U.S. carriers into a trap in order to prevent a repeat of the April 1942 Doolittle Raid during which bombers launched from USS Hornet (CV 12) and bombed Tokyo. The U.S. raid was in retaliation for Japan's attack at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Prior to Midway, the Japanese commanded naval superiority over the U.S. fleet. But after the battle, the two fleets were essentially equal and the U.S. fleet went on the offensive.

The Japanese plan hinged on faulty intelligence that the United States had only two aircraft carriers at their disposal. They erroneously believed that the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown (CV 5) had been sunk a month earlier during the Battle of Coral Sea and that the remaining two carriers, Enterprise and Hornet, were at anchor in Pearl Harbor instead of lying in wait for the Japanese fleet to the northeast of Midway.

Additionally, leading up to the battle, the Japanese and the majority of U.S. Navy personnel did not know that American and British code-breakers had broken the code used by the Japanese Navy (JN-25) and had identified Midway as the target of an attack on either June 4, or June 5, 1942.

"The Japanese had sent some messages identifying a target using the code AF and we didn't know what AF referred to, only that the Japanese were going to attack it," said retired Cmdr. Bob Allen, who served on the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CV 6) during the battle.

"So we sent a message out that Midway was running low on its water supply and the Japanese took the bait and notified everyone that AF was low on water."

"If we had lost Midway, we would have been in deep trouble as the Japanese could have bombed Pearl Harbor [again] at will," said retired Cmdr. Verner Utke-Ramsing. "We would have had to operate from the West Coast which would have been very ineffective and add weeks for us to get on station."

Utke-Ramsing was a submariner on USS Drum (SS 228) in 1942, and even though he did not see any action during the actual battle, his boat did play a significant role in disrupting the Japanese battle plans.

Drum torpedoed and sank the Japanese seaplane carrier Mizuho off the island of Hushu with its compliment of 10 midget submarines in May 1942. The Japanese had planned to use the submarines to attack American aircraft carriers in the battle for Midway.

If Drum had not sunk Mizuho, there would have been an additional 10 Japanese submarines, instead of the four surrounding Midway during the battle. They could have located Enterprise and Hornet, and the Battle of Midway might have had a different outcome.

During the Battle of Midway, USS Hammann (DD 412) was alongside Yorktown trying to keep it afloat after a Japanese dive bomber attack and torpedo hits.

On board Hammann was Chief Warrant Officer 2 Edward P. Anderson who was serving below deck when the ship was struck by a torpedo.

"I climbed up the ladder and got to the main deck," said Anderson. "As I got up there, I saw all the crew jumping into the water because we knew the ship was sinking. They say it only took a minute and 36 seconds for Hammann to go down."

The fatal blow to the Japanese fleet was delivered by dive bombers from USS Enterprise. Though running low on fuel, the pilots opted to trail a Japanese destroyer returning to the fleet following an unsuccessful attempt to depth charge against an American submarine. The dive bombers arrived when the Japanese carriers were at their most vulnerable, their decks full of armed aircraft. In their attack the American planes were successful at destroying three Japanese carriers.

"They caught the Japanese while they were re-arming their planes and so our dive bombers clobbered them," said Allen.

"We really thought that Midway was the turning point of the war. We had seriously damaged the Japanese carriers and after the Battle of Midway we went onto the offensive."

Japan lost four of its six fleet aircraft carriers during the battle as well as many of their highly trained aircraft crews during the battle. The Battle of Midway is credited with effectively ending large-scale Japanese expansion in the Pacific.

***Lt. Cmdr. Pete Zaleski (ret.) renders a salute during colors at the Rolling Thunder wreath-laying ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial. This event and the May 30 Rolling Thunder motorcycle procession from the Pentagon to the Washington Monument is designed to honor service members classified as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action, as well as recognizing American veterans from all wars. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Class Bruce Cummins)***

## Motorcycle enthusiasts host wreath-laying ceremony at Navy Memorial

WASHINGTON -- More than 400 motorcycle enthusiasts affiliated with Rolling Thunder, Inc., a non-profit nationwide organization dedicated to increasing awareness for U.S. Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) concerns, gathered at the Navy Memorial May 29, to recognize veterans past and present.

The wreath-laying ceremony came as a precursor to what has become a Memorial Day weekend tradition for more than two decades, a national gathering of motorcycle enthusiasts in Washington drawing more than 70,000 participants, several of whom are veterans of conflicts.

Incorporated in 1995, Rolling Thunder, Inc., is a non-profit organization with nearly 90 chartered chapters in the United States and members abroad, united in the cause to bring full accountability for POWs and MIAs of all wars, encouraging individuals through a variety of demonstrations, parades and community outreach events to ensure service members are accorded respect, evidenced through the organization's watchwords, "We Will Not Forget."

Lt. Cmdr. (ret) Pete Zaleski, Rolling Thunder, Inc. national veteran's rights officer, served as the event's guest speaker, addressing a crowd comprised largely of Vietnam-era veterans on the importance of both the organization's mission, as well as recognizing all U.S. citizens choosing to serve their country's armed forces.

"Today at the Navy Memorial, Rolling Thunder is here to honor not only our Sailors, but all veterans of all wars," he said. "We are here again this Memorial Day weekend as we have been for the past 22 years to show resolve in reminding our government that there are still those whose war has never ended."

Zaleski, a prior-enlisted Vietnam-era Navy veteran, along with Navy veteran Taylor Kiland, Navy Memorial public relations director, placed a wreath purchased by Rolling Thunder, Inc., at the foot of the Lone Sailor during the ceremony. The ceremony also included the playing of Taps, as well as a moment of silence, an emotional moment evidenced by the faces of the crowd.

Zaleski also addressed the changing role of the U.S. Sailor today, saying that despite the difference in which conflicts are conducted, the men and women in uniform will continue to have the respect and admiration of Rolling Thunder, Inc.

"Our military will win this war on terrorism," he said. "In this war we have Sailors serving on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan side by side with our Marines, Soldiers and Airmen. Many of our countrymen and members of Rolling Thunder are behind our men and women whom we've sent in harm's way. We're behind them 110 percent."

# Outdoor, indoor summer programs expand for military children

*By Elaine Wilson*
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – From camps to golf clinics to acclaimed museums, military children have an abundance of free summer programs to choose from this year, a Defense Department official said.

The activities not only offer a respite from day-to-day routines, but also foster camaraderie among children dealing with similar military challenges, said Barbara Thompson, director of the Pentagon's office of family policy, children and youth.

"Peer to peer is wonderful way for children to learn how to deal and cope with separations and parents' absence," she said. "Each person copes differently, but my personal belief is that when you're busy … it takes some of the burden off of your shoulders, takes away some of your anxiety and concern."

Thompson suggested military families start by looking into the plethora of day and residential summer camps.

Operation Military Kids, for instance, will sponsor 250 summer camps across the nation for school-age military children, both active and reserve, through a partnership with the Army, the Defense and Agriculture departments and 4-H. The camps cover a wide range of interests, including robotics, technology, high adventure, animals, cooking, photography and art.

These camps can be particularly beneficial for Guard and Reserve children who may not have a community of support around them, Thompson said.

"It shows that they're not alone, that there are other children facing the same worries and anxieties as they deal with the issues of the military lifestyle," she said.

The Defense Department will deploy more than 100 of its child and youth behavioral specialists to 99 of these camps, Thompson noted. They'll support the camp staff, she said, and also will conduct focus groups and other support activities for children.

The department will send hundreds of other child and youth specialists to Operation Purple Camps and to camps sponsored by the services, Thompson said.

In total, "we are going to be sending over 500 child and youth specialists across the world to take care of children in summer activities," she said.

Operation Purple Camps, sponsored by the National Military Family Association, are designed to help military children ages 7 to 17 cope with the stress of having a parent deployed, Michelle Joyner, the association's communications director, explained.

***Mackenzie Williams and Landon Perez enjoy arts and crafts at the NAS Kingsville Youth Activities Center. The Child Youth Program is now registering 5-to-18 year olds for summer camp and an open recreation program. Call 516-6718 for more information.***

"It's a wonderful opportunity to bring kids together so they can learn some coping skills to get through difficult times," she said. The children also are encouraged to form their own support networks, she added.

The association, through a grant from the Sierra Club Foundation, expects to send more than 9,500 children to camp this summer. Camps are located in 37 states and in two sites in Germany, Joyner said.

While camp registration has ended for this summer, registration still is open for Operation Purple Family Retreats, available to all members of a military family. The next retreat will be held July 4 at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. It includes a travel stipend to defray the cost, Joyner said. People can visit militaryfamily.org to sign up or to learn about the association's other family programs.

Military children also can seek camp and other summer activity opportunities through their installation libraries and child and youth services programs, Thompson said. Additionally, each installation has a pool, and some have pool lifts for swimmers with special needs. The department also has been revamping some of its playgrounds with special-needs children in mind, she added.

Off installation, Thompson encouraged parents to explore cultural opportunities through the Blue Star Museums program. This initiative, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, offers service members and up to five of their immediate family members free admission to participating museums from Memorial Day through Labor Day. More than 600 museums in 50 states and the District of Columbia have signed up so far.

"What a cultural opportunity," Thompson said. "It's just a wonderful way to spend summer days so it's not all games and fun, but there's some learning going on and cultural activities. We're very excited about this initiative."

For budding golfers, the First Tee Military Affiliate Program offers free golf instruction to children from Guard and Reserve families geographically separated from a military base, Thompson noted.

The instruction is available at First Tee's 200 chapters located across the nation. School-age children at all skill levels, from beginner to advanced, are invited to hone their golf game with the help of trained coaches.

The program not only sharpens their skills on the green, but also equips children with life skills. Along with basic golf instruction, First Tee coaches teach children interpersonal communication, managing emotions, goal-setting and overcoming obstacles. For parents looking to keep their kids' learning skills honed throughout the summer, Thompson suggested they visit Tutor.com, a free, online tutoring service for servicemembers and their families. Children can access round-the-clock professional tutors who can assist with school work.

"When children are out of school we want their time to be fun, but productive as well," she said.

Also aimed at education, the Department of Defense Education Activity will offer a four-week summer enrichment program that emphasizes math and language arts skills. This year, the program will be offered at 62 sites worldwide to about 10 percent of the activity's students from kindergarten through 8th grade.

The activity also offers a summer online high school program for students who are at risk of not meeting graduation requirements. These students can enroll in coursework to replace a failing grade or to fulfill a course requirement.

"Our summer school program helps our students meet their educational requirements through a virtual program," said Patricia Riley, chief of the activity's Virtual School Program.

From outdoor activities to educational opportunities, the department's summer-time programs are just another way of taking care of military families, Thompson noted.

"Children also serve," she said. "For them, it may be a little harder than [for] the adults in their life, because they can't always figure out what's going to happen next, especially depending on the age of the child. To have these opportunities for excitement and fun is just the best thing that we can do."

***A variety of activities, including basketball, are being planned for this summer's open recreation program. To register, or for more information, call 516-6718.***

# Navy volunteers recognized by Kingsville school district for making a difference

*By Fifi Kieschnick*
*NASK Public Affairs*

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give," said Martha Ramirez as she opened the recognition ceremony.

Ramirez, military child education coalition representative for the Kingsville Independent School District, was one of the KISD officials present to recognize Naval Air Station Kingsville volunteers last week. NASK personnel were recognized for volunteering their time with the students either reading to them or leading Junior Achievement in the classroom.

ABE2(AW) Kendall Armstrong finds reading to the students rewarding. "I love seeing how the kids light up when I talk to them – it's inspiring," the Greenville, S.C., native said, who read to second through fourth grade students.

HM2(FMF) Juan Gutierrez, of the Branch Medical Clinic, participated in a science fair and lead Junior Achievement in a classroom. He said he always wanted to teach kids at the high school level and this experience has helped reinforce that desire.

"Thank you for making a big difference in the lives of our students," Ramirez added. "This (recognition ceremony) is one way we can show our appreciation of the impact NAS (Naval Air Station) has made with the students."

Ramirez stated that of the 60 people who volunteered this school year, 90 percent were military.

***Pictured at the ceremony, from left: (front row) RPSN Quentin Williams, ABE2(AW) Kendall Armstrong, RP1 Christine Tamag, HM3 Megan Jones, HM2 Cyrus Cunningham, (back row) Lt. Mark Haley, HM3(SW) Luis Figueroa, HM2(FMF) Juan Gutierrez, and Jeannie Alexander. Photo by Fifi Kieschnick, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs.***

# Historic day at Naval Air Station Whiting Field as first student takes flight in T-6

*By Lt. j.g. Michael M. Daharsh*
*NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs*

WHITING FIELD, Fla. -- It was another historic day for Training Squadron 3 and Training Wing 5 as the first student naval aviator to train in the T-6B Texan II took flight at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field May 18.

Student naval aviator, Ensign Christopher D. Farkas, teamed up with U.S. Marine Corps instructor pilot, Capt. Michael Perkins to complete the inaugural flight.

"VT-3 has been the first of many in aviation, and it's fitting to have the pleasure of introducing the T-6B to training with a Navy student and a Marine instructor by an aircraft jointly developed by the Air Force and Navy," said Cmdr. Jody Bridges, VT-3 commanding officer.

The T-6B Texan II is replacing its long time predecessor the T-34C Turbomentor. Training Air Wing 5 anticipates a complete transition at NAS Whiting Field by 2015. Developed jointly by the Air Force and Navy, the advanced training aircraft provides increased training capabilities similar to that of modern fleet aircraft.

"It has been a long time vision to have a joint training aircraft," said Lt. Col. Kent Hobson, VT-3 Executive Officer. "To finally have it is a good thing."

Three weeks previous to Tuesday's flight Farkas began ground school for the T-6B with 13 of his peers. The class was composed of Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard students. However, as the morning dawned and the flight line came to life it was Farkas who would be the first student to fly the next generation of Naval aviation's training aircraft.

"It was unlike anything I've experienced," Farkas gleamed. "To begin take off and feel the power of the aircraft, to lift off the ground for the first time and experience how nimble and dynamic it is… It's incredible."

The 2009 Naval Academy graduate has known his goal for a long time. When he was four his parents took him to an air show, and from that moment he has wanted to fly. Farkas majored in Aeronautical Engineering and has hopes to one day fly the F/A-18 Hornet.

"I realize there is always going to be another step to take. On one hand it's very humbling to have the honor of being the first but it was really just right time and right place. On one hand it's just my first flight. I'm here for the Wing of Gold," he said. "It's just amazing. Right time, right place, right day, I really lucked out."

***Student naval aviator, Ensign Christopher D. Farkas, and U.S. Marine Corps instructor pilot, Capt. Michael Perkins, make preparations prior to taking the inaugural flight.***