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Fort Hood community, Nation pay tribute to victims of Post shooting spree

By Andrew Evans, American Forces Press Service

FORT HOOD, Texas, Nov. 11, 2009 – The mournful and all too familiar scene of a bugler playing Taps occurred again here Nov. 10 as the Fort Hood community paid its respects to fallen warriors struck down last week allegedly at the hands of a lone gunman, who also happened to wear an Army uniform.

"No words can ever express our sadness," Lt. Gen. Robert Cone, III Corps and Fort Hood commanding general said before President Barack Obama took the stage.

"We can never accept the loss of soldiers at home," Cone added. "Our Army family shares in the loss of your loved ones."

The general also praised the courage of the soldiers who disregarded their own safety to render aid to others at the

scene.

Prior to his public address, the president spoke with many of the survivors and the families of the fallen. Speaking to an estimated 15,000 people at the memorial, Obama vowed that justice will be done in the attack that left 13 dead and 43 wounded.

"No faith justifies these murderous and craven acts," Obama said, noting that Soldiers who responded to the attack "remind us of who we are as Americans."

Although the president told the families that "no words can fill the void that has been left," he added, "your loved ones endure through the life of our nation."

"Their life's work is our security and the freedom that we too often take for granted. Every evening that the sun sets on a tranquil town; every dawn that a flag is unfurled; every moment that an

American enjoys life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness – that is their legacy," the president said.

The Fort Hood community has suffered 545 soldiers killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Cone said, "but never did we expect to pay such a high price at home."

The Army Chief of Staff, Gen. George Casey, added, "Grieve with us. Don't grieve for us. Those who have fallen did so in the service of their country," he said. "They freely answered the call to serve, and they gave their lives for something that they loved and believed in."

The fallen came from 11 different states and from all walks of life to answer the call of service, Cone said, emphasizing their diversity. The deadly incident will motivate Soldiers to renew their resolve and commitment of the military

and to win the nation's wars, the general said.

"May our continued service be a tribute to them," Cone said.

Like generations before them, President Obama said this generation of service-members has paid the price for freedom.

"Their life's work is our security and the freedom that we too often take for granted. Every evening that the sun sets on a tranquil town; every dawn that a flag is unfurled; every moment that an American enjoys life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness – that is their legacy."

At the conclusion of the memorial ceremony, Obama and first lady Michelle Obama laid a presidential coin before each of the 13 battlefield crosses – the helmet, boots and rifle representing each of those killed – before family members and comrades filed past.

– Story courtesy of *Defenselink.Mil*

NAS Corpus Christi holds memorial service

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi held a memorial ceremony Nov. 6 for Lt. Bret T. Miller, one of two pilots who were on board a T-34C *Turbomentor* from Training Squadron 28 that disappeared from Radar Oct. 28 during a routine training flight. Miller's body was recovered off the coast of Port Aransas Oct. 30. The search for Lt. John J. Houston and the aircraft continued throughout the weekend before being suspended by the Coast Guard Nov. 1.

In the first two days of the search, more than 3,900 square miles were covered by US Coast Guard and Border Patrol aircraft sorties in hopes of located the wreckage and the pilots. The Coast Guard cutter Harry Claiborne and a Navy Dive & Salvage team were also involved in the recovery mission.

Miller, a native of East Troy, Mich.,



Lt. Bret Travis Miller Lt. John Joseph Houston

reported to VT-28 in March 2007. He had previously served with Patrol Squadron 16 (VP-16) in Jacksonville, Fla.

Houston, a native of Houston, Texas a Naval Academy graduate was commissioned in 2002. He reported to VT-28 in February 2009 after tours with Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 23 (HSC-23) and HSC-21 at NAS North Island, Calif.

A memorial service for Lt. Houston is being planned.



Redhawk Leadership Change: Cmdr. Chip Kelsey, left, renders a salute to Cmdr. Bill Bulis and states "I relieve you, Sir!" during an official VT-21 change of command ceremony Nov. 5 in the squadron hangar. Photo by Airman Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs. (See story and photos on page 6.)



Capt. Phil Waddingham
Commanding Officer,
NAS Kingsville



From the Bridge

Greetings NAS Kingsville!

Wednesday, 11 November was Veteran's Day and NAS Kingsville took some well deserved time off. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable day of rest and relaxation, and took advantage of the time to reflect for a moment on the contributions of all veterans, past and present, who have secured our safety and security and our way of life.

In case you haven't heard, our hometown Texas A&M Kingsville Javelinas will play in a first round playoff as part of the NCAA Division 2 race to the National

Championship against Tarleton State on Saturday at 1 p.m. At Javelina Stadium. The Javelinas finished the regular season 8-2, and embark now on a playoff journey that could mean five more games if they make it to the championship game. I spoke with Coach Atterberry and he indicated that they are taking this brand new season one day at a time, and staying focused on the task at hand. Come out on Saturday afternoon and cheer on this great football program, and support the team. I hope to see you there!

Finally, on behalf of the men and women of Team Kingsville, I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to the families of our fallen comrades and those injured at Fort Hood last Thursday. By order of the President, our Naval Air Station Flag, and those on all U.S. Government property, was flown at half mast through Wednesday in their memory.

Skipper Waddz sends.

Toys For Tots Service Club Challenge

Entries are now being sought for the local Toys For Tots 2nd annual Service Club Challenge, announced Jerry & Lisa Bockholt, Coordinators. The program challenges community service clubs and organizations to see which group can collect and donate the most toys to the local campaign. "Entry forms are available, and we look forward to more groups getting involved this year," said Lisa Bockholt, campaign coordinator.

All local service clubs are encouraged to participate in this year's contest. At the conclusion of the campaign, the winning Service Club will be presented with the "I think I can" travelling trophy to keep throughout 2010. The trophy, custom-made by local resident and woodworking artist Bobby Rich, has been in possession of and proudly displayed by the Kingsville Noon Lions Club for the past year for having presented the most toys to the 2008 campaign.

"The trophy replicates a train chugging upwards, incorporating the Toys for

Tots logo as well as the catch phrase 'I think I can,'" explained Bockholt. "It's a work of art, and something the winning organization will be proud to claim as their own until next year," Bockholt added.

For the second year in a row, the Kingsville Noon Lions and Noon Rotary Clubs have entered the friendly, all-for-a-good-cause competition. "We invite and encourage more service clubs to get involved, although we intend to do our best to hold on to that trophy again, for another year," said David Christopher, President, Kingsville Noon Lions Club.

Toy and monetary donations will be accepted through Dec. 12, at Stop-n-Lube Quick Oil Change & Car Care Center on King Ave., which serves as Campaign Headquarters.

Service Clubs wishing to enter the Challenge or get involved with this year's campaign should contact Lisa Bockholt at (361) 595-0909. Entry forms are also available at the Chamber of Commerce.

Deckplate Leadership

Sea Notes From the Command Master Chief

Re-Enlistments



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



What a Great Navy!

Last week the Navy League held its National Convention in Corpus Christi. The Skipper and I, along with our spouses, attended the concluding dinner and were treated to an outstanding meal as well as some great conversation with many Navy League members. The highlight of the evening was the address from Assistant Secretary of the Navy, the honorable Juan Garcia. He talked about a recent event that made me extremely proud to be a Sailor serving in our great Navy.

The event he discussed was *USS Lassen* (DDG 82) conducting a port visit to Vietnam last week. Although a port visit to Vietnam is newsworthy, the event in and of itself isn't exactly headline news. The story below is what made the *Lassen* port visit so special:

Nearly 35 years before *Lassen's* port visit, a young boy sought escape



HISTORIC VISIT -- DA NANG, Vietnam (Nov. 7, 2009) *Cmdr. H.B. Le, commanding officer of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Lassen (DDG 82), speaks to the press in front of the U.S. 7th Fleet command ship the amphibious command ship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19). Blue Ridge and Lassen are in Da Nang for a scheduled port visit. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Cynthia Griggs)*

from the horribly worn-torn country of Vietnam. The young boy's father, who was a Commander in the South Vietnamese Navy, ordered his men to go home to their families after realizing Saigon had fallen. The father then navigated a fishing trawler with his own family and 400 other passengers out to sea, where they were picked up by *USS Barbour County* (LST 1195) on May 2, 1975.

As you can imagine, leaving Vietnam was devastating on the young boy's

family. They came to America with absolutely nothing. Fortunately, the family was sponsored by American families who gave the young boy's father the opportunity to start over here in America.

As the young boy grew older, he began to think of serving in the Navy like his father had done many years before him. The boy became an American citizen in 1985 and was accepted into the Naval Academy in 1988. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1992 and earned his commission as a U. S. Navy Officer.

In April 2009, 34 years after escaping the war-torn country of Vietnam, and 17 years after becoming a Naval Officer, that young boy, now Commander H. B. Le, assumed command of the mighty warship *USS Lassen* (DDG 82) and its nearly 300 Sailors. And what makes this story so newsworthy is that *Cmdr. Le* was at the helm of *Lassen* as it pulled into port in Da Nang, Vietnam on Nov. 7.

Cmdr. Le's story proves that in this great country and in our great Navy the sky is the limit to what a person can do. I encourage each of you to set challenging professional goals for yourself and work hard to achieve them.

Regards, CMDCM Ratliff



Lt. j.g. Sean Duncan congratulates LS2 (SW) Jason Sigler on his recent re-enlistment Oct. 29. LS2 Sigler, who was born in Yokohama, Japan, has 12-plus years of service and added two additional years.

(Photo by QM2 Monica Crump).



Lt. Brent Simmons, FISC Jax officer-in-charge, congratulates Senior Chief Culinary Specialist Mike Reed on his recent re-enlistment. Reed, a Beaumont, Texas native, re-enlisted Nov. 9. (Photo by Airman Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs).



Capt. Mark Brooks
Commander
Training Air Wing TWO



In The Break

Happy Veteran's Day. As I write, I am happy to be back in Kingsville after another successful CNATRA Carrier Qualification Detachment to Cecil Field, Florida, and *USS Harry S. Truman* (CVN-75). Skipper Murphy of VT-22 led this Detachment where TRAWINGS ONE and TWO together added more than two dozen Student Naval Aviators to the ranks of Tailhook aviation -- future Veterans all. It is fitting that we returned home on this day, honoring those that have gone before us by carrying on the traditions of service in defense of our nation and ideals. Our Boss, Rear Admiral Bill "Size" Sizemore summed up the significance of this day well --I share it with you below.

Regards, Fingers.

CNATRA Team,

I always look forward to Veteran's Day as an opportunity to pause and reflect on the genesis of the day, its meaning to me as a Veteran and its meaning to this great nation, which benefits from the dedication, determination and sacrifices of its Veteran population.

The 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month in 1918 marked the armistice for The Great War, World War I. The world-wide jubilation felt due to the lack of conflict only masked the underlying tension of the armistice which set the stage for World War II. It was in this war where the greatest generation fulfilled its destiny and added millions to the roster of Veteran Heroes of America.

The stories of the heroic men and women of World War II influenced many of us to pursue a career in the military. The movies we watched and the books we read, chronicling the events which defeated tyranny and preserved liberty, inspired us. Our role models were developed from these and other events in our Nation's history. The actions of our Veterans in wars, operations other than war, humanitarian acts and explorations to the



William G. Sizemore II
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Chief of Naval Air Training



far reaches of the globe and the moon built our reputation, success through perseverance, with the light of liberty leading the way. From the time of the Revolutionary War to our most recent shuttle launch to the International Space Station, it is our Veterans who courageously band together as a team to preserve freedom for our future generations.

What you do for America is sometimes little understood by the majority of those who prosper from your efforts, which is the essence of selfless dedication. From Veteran to Veteran, past, present and future, I say thank you for your sacrifices and thank you for your inspiration.

One Team, One Fight; Honor and Respect our Veterans this day and every day.

All the Best and with Great Respect,
Size

Harshany new VT-21 XO

Cmdr. Edward T. Harshany, a native of Terre Haute, Ind., has assumed the role as VT-21 Executive Officer. Harshany is a graduate of the Naval Aviation Cadet Program through Purdue University and a graduate of the University of Central Florida. He received his commission and earned his Wings and designation as a Naval Aviator from VT-7 at NAS Meridian, Miss.

Harshany comes to NAS Kingsville from the Air Forces Northern, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command headquartered in Panama City, Fla., where he served as Navy liaison to the Joint Forces Air Component Commander for NORAD at Northern Command.

Harshany has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003) and served as Strike Fighter Tactics Officer with VFA-97 on board *USS Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001. He has logged more than 2,600 flight hours during his aviation career and completed over 550 carrier arrested landings.

NAS Kingsville / TW-2 Flight Log

Arriving:

Newly reported personnel

2nd Lt. Ryan Cunningham, USMC

Student Aviator, VT-21

Hometown: Milton, Fla.

Lt. j.g. Monica R. Mondloch, USN

Student Aviator, VT-21

Hometown: Wukesha, Wis.

Lt. Cmdr. Timothy J. Dierks, USN

Instructor Pilot, VT-21

Hometown: Overland Park, Kan.

HM3 Megan A. Jones, USN

Branch Health Clinic Kingsville

Hometown: San Diego, Calif.

Lt. Cmdr. Brian E. Pedrotty, USN

Instructor Pilot, VT-22

Hometown: Baldwin, Wis.

2nd Lt. Cory M. Frederick, USMC

Student Aviator, VT-22

Hometown: Baltimore, Md.

2nd Lt. Jeffrey D. Redmon, USMC

Student Aviator, VT-22

Hometown: Payson, Utah

ABH3 (AW) Luis A. Aguilar, USN

Air Operations / Field Support

Hometown: Edinburg, Texas

Lt. Casey Rowayne, USN

Instructor Pilot, VT-22

Hometown: Sweeny, Texas

Tanya Hamner

Emergency Management

Hometown: Corpus Christi, Texas

Hugh Hatton

Emergency Management

Hometown: Corpus Christi, Texas

Departing:

Lt. j.g. Adam H. Bosma, USN

Completed flight training, transferring to

VFA 106, NAS Oceana, Va.

Lt. j.g. Joseph M. Campbell, USN

Completed flight training, transferring to

VMFAT 101, MCAS Miramar, Calif.

1st Lt. Christopher Bergman, USMC

Completed flight training, transferring to

VMFAT-101, MCAS Miramar, Calif.

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NAS Kingsville
Commanding Officer
Capt. Philip L. Waddingham

NAS Kingsville
Executive Officer
Cmdr. Scott Allen

NAS Kingsville
Public Affairs Officer
Jon Gagné

Flying K Staff

Managing Editor
Jon Gagné

Editor:
Jon Gagné (Acting)

Asst. Editor /
Staff Photographer/Writer
ACAN Kiana Kahlbaum

Comments, letters, or suggestions should be sent via e-mail to:
kngv-pao@navy.mil

Direct Line Input:
Submit questions or comments for the Commanding Officer to:
kngv-pao@navy.mil
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Fleet and Force Master Chief leadership conference stresses deckplate concerns

By MCI Monica R. Nelson

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West hosted the Navy's Fleet and Force Master Chief Leadership Conference for 53 fleet, force, region, and a number of command master chiefs at the Officer's Club on Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, Nov. 1-6.

"It's important to reset the knowledge base of these master chiefs so they can take it to the deckplate," said West.

"I have Sailors in every region of the world," said Force Master Chief Petty Officer (FORCM) (SS/AW/SW) Chuck Dassage of Naval Network Warfare Command, Norfolk, Va. "When I visit with Sailors, I get their perspective. Being here gives me their senior leadership's perspective on Sailor issues and sometimes why the issues are what they are, which may be due to laws or Status of Forces Agreements. It also allows me to share my Sailors' perspectives with the senior enlisted of those regions."

West identified the benefit of networking between conference attendees as key to future leadership cooperation.

"These master chiefs are located all around the world, and many hadn't met before now," said West. "It's important to look them all in the eye and, like any shipboard

mess, get to know each other. They have to have that comfort factor in knowing how to communicate with one another."

Conference attendees also had the opportunity to hear from Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead and Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Mark E. Ferguson.

"Having the CNO here impressed upon everyone in MCPON's leadership mess the value of our leadership to him personally and what we bring to the Navy," said FORCM (SS) John Snyder of Naval Education and Training Command, Pensacola, Fla.

The evening of the CNO's visit marked the first ever dining in of the MCPON's leadership mess. The event raised a total of \$805, which was donated to Command Master Chief (CMDCM) (SW/SS) Jeff Hudson of NAS Jacksonville to be used toward Sailor food baskets.

"The dining in was the perfect balance of formality and levity," said Navy Region Southeast CMDCM (SW/AW) Joseph Curtin, Jacksonville, Fla. "Camaraderie is built through a dining in; it elevates the mess. We invited CMCs, senior enlisted advisers and command senior chiefs from the local area, so it provided mentorship opportunities for them."



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West speaks with a Seabee from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, home ported in Gulfport, Miss., at Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae. (U.S. Navy photo by MCI Bobbie G. Attaway).

MCPON's leadership mess visited area commands during their week in Jacksonville, including those at Mayport and Kings Bay.

CMDCM (FMF) Tammy Heap of Second Marine Logistics Command, Camp Lejeune, N.C., was able to connect with Fleet Marine Force Sailors at NAS Jack-

sonville hospital. "It was beneficial to sit down and listen to the issues of those Sailors who had been deployed FMF and those getting ready to go."

"The Jacksonville Sailors are very sharp," said West. "It makes me proud as the MCPON to represent these fine Sailors. Keep charging and keep up the hard work."

USS New York commissioned in the "Big Apple"

From USS New York Public Affairs

NEW YORK (NNS) -- USS New York (LPD 21), the fifth San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock, built with steel salvaged from the World Trade Center, was commissioned here Nov. 7 in a ceremony held in the shadow of the city for which it is named.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, a former New York senator, was the keynote speaker for the ceremony.

"This ship carries with it searing memories of September 11," said Clinton. "Lives cut short, families ripped apart, a nation attacked. And in that steel, burned but unbroken, lives the spirit we saw on 9/11 and the days that followed, the bravery of the rescuers, the resolve of the survivors, the compassion of this city, the patriotism of this great country."

Calling USS New York a symbol of freedom similar to the Statue of Liberty, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus explained how this ship will be a reminder of all New York and the nation went through on September 11th.

"Today, we witness the birth of another memorial to liberty. Eight years ago, this city witnessed the worst atrocities committed against our country. The New York will be a visible testimony to our resilience, to the character of this city, to the strength of this country," said Mabus.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead spoke to the ship's future and what it will mean to Americans through the years.

"Wherever she sails in the next 40 years...USS New York will forever conjure the valor, the sacrifice, the heroism and the tenacity of New York," said Roughead.

New York Governor David Paterson called the day "a great day for America, a great day for New York and a great day for everyone who believes in freedom and justice."

USS New York, the sixth Navy ship named for the state, was built at Avondale Shipyard in New Orleans by Northrop Grumman and christened March 1, 2008.



The ship arrived in New York Nov. 2 and rendered honors at the World Trade Center site before pulling into Pier 88 on the Hudson River.

Thousands of veterans and invited guests witnessed the ceremony, which was also broadcast live in Times Square and on the Navy.mil website. The commissioning was the culmination of a week-long

celebration of the Navy and Marine Corps team and the ship in New York City.

New York is an amphibious transport dock designed to transport Marines and their equipment. It will be used to support the nation's maritime strategy, to include humanitarian assistance and maritime security operations. The ship's homeport will be in Norfolk, Va.

Training Wing TWO completes carrier qualifications despite Tropical Storm Ida

Cmdr. Gerry Murphy, VT-22 Commanding Officer

Training Wing TWO completed a successful and expeditious detachment to *USS Harry S. Truman* (CVN-75) on Nov. 10. At the time of writing, the detachment was trying to avoid Tropical Storm Ida. Ida didn't impact the carrier qualification training for the Kingsville Navy and Marine Corps students but it made it a little hard to get home to South Texas.

Students from VT-21 and VT-22 persevered through a canceled airlift flight and found their way to Jacksonville Saturday to begin training on Truman Sunday morning. In a record pace, 15 students completed their initial qualification in the T-45 Goshawk. Students flew from Cecil Field in Jacksonville, to the carrier under the guidance of experienced Kingsville instructor pilots meanwhile safely avoiding a collegiate flying competition at Cecil and an airshow along Jacksonville beach. Special care and planning by the detachment coordinator, Lt. Jeremy "Cletus" Owens, ensured student naval aviators were not an unexpected addition to the normal Navy Blue Angels demonstration during the airshow!

In addition to the students, 6 instructor pilots carrier-qualified in the T-45 and

two instructors earned their coveted "lead safe" qualifications. Out at the Truman, the SDO and Tower representative team was lead by Cmdr. Barry "Bosco" Basel. As always the all powerful Landing Signals Officers (LSO) under Lt. Cmdr Mark "Shaq" Schadt (CNATRA), Lt. Craig "Manbag" Connor (VT-22), and Lt. Cmdr. Brian "B-Murph" Murphy guided and mentored the new carrier aviators at the same time ensuring a safe training evolution. On the first day of operations, even the most experienced of pilots were challenged by a missing four-wire, and on the second day, strong gusty winds provided a humbling moment for another, almost-as-experienced pilot!

The weather prevented the pilots from returning to Kingsville until Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, but Training Air Wing TWO officials were hopeful that the students and instructors would make it back in time to attend the USMC Birthday celebration Saturday, Nov. 14. Just in case they didn't make it, a small impromptu commemoration ceremony was held in the det's home-away-from-home Holiday Inns and Suites lobby while Tropical Storm Ida was coming ashore.



ATLANTIC OCEAN (Nov. 8, 2009) T-45 Goshawks assigned to VT-21 and VT-22 of Training Air Wing TWO and an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the Chargers of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 26 line the flight deck of the aircraft carrier *USS Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75). *Harry S. Truman* during carrier qualifications off the Florida coast last week.

(U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Leonard Adams).

Ospreys launch from Bataan to support OEF

USS BATAAN, At sea (NNS) -- The multipurpose amphibious assault ship *USS Bataan* (LHD 5) launched 10 MV-22B Ospreys from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit to fly into Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Nov. 6, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The aircraft, part of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263 (Reinforced), will be transferred to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261 and serve as part of 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade's Aviation Combat Element.

The 22nd MEU was the first Marine Expeditionary Unit to conduct a ship-based deployment with the tiltrotor aircraft. VMM-263 (Rein) attached to the MEU in September, 2008, and was also the first squadron to deploy with the aircraft to Iraq in 2007.

"It is a great honor for us to support 2nd MEB, and we are proud to be the first unit to bring this aircraft into Afghanistan," said Col. Gareth F. Brandl, 22nd MEU commanding officer. "We have spent more than a year working with the MV-22B and know that the added capabilities this aircraft brings will benefit the Marines currently engaged against the enemy."

"This historic mission has been one of

the highlights of our deployment," said Capt. Sam Howard, *Bataan's* commanding officer. "We did all we could to make sure they had all the material and logistic support necessary to have a safe and successful fly-off."

The Ospreys launched in three waves making the 510 nautical mile flight in just over two hours. During the aircraft's first amphibious deployment, it flew in support of theater security cooperation events in three countries, including U.S. Central Command's largest exercise, *Bright Star 2009* in Egypt.

The Osprey was also used to conduct multiple medical evacuations from ship to shore and was employed to conduct logistics flights to Rota, Spain; Naval Air Station, Sigonella (Sicily); Djibouti, Africa and Bahrain. For more than a month, the squadron supported desert training when the MEU trained ashore in Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

"The men and women of the squadron performed admirably in support of this mission," said Lt. Col. Paul P. Ryan, commanding officer of VMM-263. "I am convinced that this weapon system will serve the operating forces well for decades to come."



Ryan added that the MEU has learned a great deal about operating with the Osprey and has captured lessons learned throughout the deployment to support future tiltrotor squadrons as they begin to deploy with other MEUs.

The 22nd MEU, led by Brandl, is a scalable, multipurpose force of more than 2,200 Marines and Sailors. The unit is composed of its Ground Combat Element, Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment; Aviation Combat Element, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263 (Reinforced); Logistics Combat Element, Combat Logistics

Battalion 22 and its Command Element.

The *Bataan* ARG is composed of the multipurpose amphibious assault ship *USS Bataan* (LHD 5), the amphibious transport dock *USS Ponce* (LPD 15), the amphibious dock landing ship *USS Fort McHenry* (LSD 43), Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 22, Fleet Surgical Team (FST) 6, Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 2, ACU 4 and Beachmaster Unit (BMU) 2.

The *Bataan* Ready Group, with the 22nd MEU embarked, deployed May 13, 2009 to conduct maritime security operations in the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operations.

Bulis turns over helm of Fighting Redhawks as Kelsey assumes command of VT-21

Story by Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs

Cmdr. Bill Bulis turned over command of VT-21 to his friend and relief Cmdr. Chip Kelsey during an official change of command ceremony in the squadron hangar at NAS Kingsville Thursday, Nov. 5. Special guests included Rear Adm. Bill Sizemore, Chief of Naval Air Training, and retired Vice Adm. Al Harms, former Chief of Naval Education and Training Command. More than 300 guests, family, and Air Wing personnel attended the ceremony.

Training Wing TWO Commander Capt. Mark Brooks served as guest speaker for the ceremony and during his remarks he focused on the enormous responsibility of command and the teamwork required to accomplish the mission.

“Today is a good day for the Nation, the Navy, Training Air Wing TWO and certainly for VT-21,” Brooks said. “Above all, this ceremony is a time-honored tradition of passing the ultimate responsibility of command and the accountability and authority commensurate with that responsibility. I am very happy to be able to say that we have been most fortunate that Skipper Bulis has been at the helm of VT-21 these past 15 months, and he will pass the torch to another able-bodied leader in Cmdr. Chip Kelsey. For these two officers, one

has successfully completed, and the other is eagerly accepting the best job in the Navy. And that is another important part of this ceremony for those of you here today wearing flight suits. You should inspire to follow in the footsteps of these gentlemen.”

Following his remarks, military personnel were called to attention as Brooks presented Bulis the Navy and Marine Corps Meritorious Service Medal for superior performance as VT-21 commander. The citation cited Bulis’ superior leadership which led to the successful training of nearly 100 student aviators and the completion of over 20,000 flight hours.

During his remarks, Bulis talked about the base-wide team effort that allows Training Air Wing TWO and VT-21 to accomplish its mission of training the world’s best Jet/Strike aviators. He thanked the command-wide support team, from the squadron to the Wing, to the air station, to civilian employees and contract maintenance personnel for their contributions. He also thanked the Kingsville Navy League for being “great partners and advocates” by opening their homes and their hearts to student aviators who train at NAS Kingsville. And when he it came time to thank his instructor pilots, Bulis said all the credit for the squadron’s success was a result of their efforts.

“You guys,” Bulis said, “are responsible for making VT-21 a place that student



Cmdr. Chip Kelsey reports to Training Air Wing TWO commander Capt. Mark Brooks upon assuming command of VT-21. (Photo by Airman Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs).

aviators coming out of primary training are fighting to get in to. That was your doing, not mine. Detachments, weekends, day-to-day, you [all] were constantly flying and producing the best aviators in the world and you never compromised. Not ever. We know that quality [pilots] are going out the door and that folks are proud to be Redhawks because of you.”

After completing his remarks, Bulis read his official orders and turned the podium over to Kelsey who promised to keep his remarks brief.

“Standing over to the side in ranks,” Kelsey said, “the Redhawks are some

of the finest individuals this nation has to offer. I see [in them] the same drive, sense of purpose, and will to succeed that generations of naval aviators had before them. The standards they must meet cannot be waived, and will not be waived.

“My personal pledge is to focus on safely accomplishing this mission. I will do everything in my power to ensure that after each and every flight, all my Redhawks will go home to their families, and train and fly another day.”

Following the ceremony, guests were treated to a reception in the squadron hangar. Bulis’ next assignment will be as Air Boss aboard *USS Harry S. Truman*.



Ushers present flowers to members of the Bulis and Kelsey families during the VT-21 Change of Command Nov. 5. The ceremony was held in the VT-21 squadron hangar. (Photo by Airman Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs).



Training Air Wing TWO commander Capt. Mark Brooks, left, congratulates Cmdr. Bill Bulis after presenting Bulis a Meritorious Service Medal for superior performance as VT-21 commander from August 2008 to November 2009. (Photo by Airman Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs).

Border Patrol, NASK Fire & Rescue team up to foil dangerous drug smuggling attempt

Story by Agent (Intern) Ross Jackson, photos by Agent Lance Freeman, Kingsville Border Patrol

The occupation of a Border Patrol Agent has always presented its share of dangerous situations and encounters. However, the recent increase in manpower and current crackdown on illegal contraband being smuggled across U.S. southern borders has driven narcotics affiliates to create more intricate and dangerous concealment methods. The individuals who protect our nation's borders are putting themselves at an increased risk each day dealing with these new concealment methods.

One specific trend in concealment is the use of hazardous materials. The primary purpose is to conceal the odor of narcotics or to cause harm to agents and other law enforcement officials inspecting the compartments or packaging used in the smuggling operation. The more dangerous of these materials can corrode human skin or cause permanent damage to vital organs of the body, if not immediate death on inhalation.

The Border Patrol Agents of the Kingsville, Texas station on board NAS Kingsville encountered this tactic recently while inspecting a semi-trailer as it attempted to smuggle narcotics through the Sarita, Texas Border Patrol Checkpoint.

On Oct. 22, a semi-tractor pulling a cargo tanker was encountered by agents at the Sarita checkpoint on U.S. Highway 77. During the inspection of the vehicle a Bor-

der Patrol canine alerted to the cargo tanker. Because a canine alert provides probable cause that an item or person might be concealed in the vehicle, the agents directed the vehicle to a secondary inspection area. The check of the truck appeared to be routine until the agents opened the lid on the top of the cargo tanker. Inside, the agents saw what appeared to be several duffel bags in the front portion of the cargo tanker. The agents also smelled a strong chemical odor emitting out of the opened lid. Not wanting to enter the tanker because of the possible chemical presence, but suspecting that the duffel bags contained narcotics, the agents notified an on duty supervisor.

"Due to the inherent danger of an unknown and possibly deadly chemical substance, the supervisor decided take the proper safety precautions and ask for assistance from Naval Air Station Kingsville's Fire and Emergency Service's Hazardous Materials Response Team," said Kingsville Border Patrol agent-in-charge Don Allman. "This team is specialized in dealing with and disposing of hazardous materials, and once the NAS Haz/Mat team arrived on scene they began analyzing the air quality inside the cargo tanker."

Once entry was deemed safe the team entered the cargo tanker and retrieved the duffel bags. The bags were inspected and revealed individual bundles of marijuana with a total weight of about 438 pounds.

Through proper safety precautions and due diligence by Border Patrol agents and the Hazardous Materials Response team, the task was completed without yielding any injuries. Once again, the agents were reminded that being alert to their surrounding can help them avoid being injured when presented with a dangerous situation. The suspects driving the vehicle were taken into custody by the Kingsville Border Patrol and the case was turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration. The value of the marijuana was set at a street value of \$350,000.

While there is not currently an official Mutual Aid Agreement (MOA) between the Border Patrol and the Naval Air Station, DoD Fire Departments are encouraged to enter into mutual and automatic aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions when it is in the best interest of both parties, according to NASK Fire Chief Ruben Perez. "In the absence of a formal mutual or automatic aid agreement, installation commanding officers may provide emergency assistance when such assistance is deemed to be in the best interests of the United States and the Navy. In summary, dealing with today's cutbacks and fiscal constraints it has become very important to share resources during emergencies and this response is an example of the bridge that has been built between our two federal entities in the best interest of local citizens and law enforcement agencies."

Due to the working relationship between the Kingsville Border Patrol and the naval air station, the response to the request was answered swiftly.

"Once we arrived on scene we were told the tanker hatch had been open overnight and the vehicle's tank appeared to be empty of any chemical except for a small residual amount and an odor," said Fire Battalion Chief Eric Escalante. "We decided to start with the Mini Rae 2000 detector to check for organic compound materials. Next we used the Multi Rae detector to check for explosive limits and O2 levels. No hazards found and O2 levels were good. We then used the Smith Haz/Mat I.D detector on a sample of the chemical we removed from the bottom of the tanker with a sponge and rope, and the detector gave us a "not in library" message.

"At this point," Escalante added, "I decided to call Chemtrec who put us on a three-way conference call with the shipper to determine if we had any kind of inhalation hazard. We were informed that an inhalation hazard was unlikely due to low vapor pressure in the tank, but just to be safe, we should use level B suits and SCBA. At this point, I made the call to send two firefighters with level B suits and SCBA into the tank. They were able to remove eight duffel bags in a few minutes without incident."

After the recovery, the firefighters and equipment were decontaminated and the incident was terminated.

"Just when you think you've seen or done it all you get the chance to do something like this which is more in the law enforcement field then something you would normally run into in the fire service," Escalante added. "We were glad to be able to help our friends in the Border Patrol and play a role in the successful recovery."

While this type of evolution is part of the "norm" for Border Patrol agents, the assistance from the air station Fire and Emergency Rescue Haz/Mat team shows how two Federal agencies can pull together to make things happen.

"The Kingsville Border Patrol Station would like to express our sincere gratitude to the NASK Hazardous Materials Response Team who made the extraction of the contraband possible," Allman said. "We would like to offer personal thanks to the team members who responded, including Battalion Chief Eric Escalante, Capt. Joe Garcia, and firefighters George Alton, Shane Hennessey and Tony Guerrero."

-- Story and images courtesy of the Kingsville Border Patrol

Sarita Checkpoint Drug Bust

Contraband Removal:

Left, firefighters board the tanker at the Sarita Checkpoint. Below left, firefighter Shane Hennessey prepares to hand up one of the duffel bags of marijuana. Right, Hennessey and Battalion Chief Eric Escalante hand the duffel bags to Border Patrol agents below. Below right, Battalion Chief Eric Escalante, Captain Joe Garcia and Firefighters Antonio Guerrero, Shane Hennessey, and George Alton pose with the confiscated drugs. Photos by Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Lance Freeman, Kingsville Border Patrol.



Naval ROTC units experience surge

By Scott A. Thornbloom, Naval Service Training Command Public Affairs

GREAT LAKES, Ill. (NNS) -- Interest in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) program has increased significantly in the past couple of years. The program is available to students at more than 150 colleges and universities that either host NROTC units or have cross-town enrollment agreements with a host university.

"Consistent with the rise in applicants at the U.S. [Naval] Academy in Annapolis, Md., NROTC is experiencing an equally impressive surge in interest," said Rear Adm. Clifford S. Sharpe, commander of Naval Service Training Command (NSTC). Headquartered at Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill., NSTC oversees, supports and guides the NROTC units across the United States.

"We have seen an increase over the last few years," said Capt. Edward Martin, commanding officer and professor of Naval Science, NROTC Chicago Consortium.

"We have only five first class midshipmen (seniors) at Northwestern University this year, but we have 13 incoming freshmen. At Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) the numbers are similarly encouraging. We have 10 midshipmen first class who will be graduating and earning their commissions this year, and we have 23 incoming freshmen. So, we feel good about the vitality of the Chicago-area NROTC Consortium for the future." Martin also said that even though the economy may have something to do with a rise in NROTC applicants across the nation, he thinks the reasons are more unselfish and personal.

"I think it demonstrates a desire to serve among the youth of our country," he said. "Most of the midshipmen I speak with say patriotism is a prime motivator for participating in Naval ROTC."

According to Sharpe, 2,825 scholarships were offered this year and NSTC officials said more than 1,250 were accepted. Navy nurse degree scholarships were offered to 208 candidates with more than 120 accepted. The entire enrollment in NROTC units nationwide this year is expected to increase by 17 percent. A total of 22,000 applications were started and of those 5,450 met all requirements and ultimately went before the scholarship board.

Sharpe said NSTC weighs the "whole person" characterization in determining the best scholarship applicants.

"When evaluating a candidate, 25 percent is based on academics, and the other 75 percent is a rich blend of other dynamics we use to determine who will make the best candidate," he said. "It is a Navy goal to develop an officer corps that better reflects the demographics of this great country, and best mirrors the enlisted population which they will lead."

Nguyen, a second generation Asian-Pacific Islander, represents, in part, what the Navy's officer corps will look like in the future, and as a molecular biology major, she also represents another category the Navy is trying to increase -- graduates with technical degrees.

"We have seen a significant increase in the number of technical majors with this incoming freshman class," Martin said. "At IIT this year, 100 percent of the incoming (non-nursing) students are in what we call the Tier 1 or Tier 2 majors. These include aerospace engineering, biomedical engineering, electrical engineering, chemical engineering, math, and physics. The majority of our students have chosen to start going down a technical path."

Nguyen said her instructors and counselors at Lake Mary High School in Florida and in her Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Command unit guided her toward a technical field, "especially since I was interested in research," she said.

Sharpe noted more technical scholarships are being awarded this year, a change from past years. "We have awarded 85 percent of the scholarships with the understanding that the students would pursue a technical major," Sharpe said.

NROTC is also growing in the number of participating universities. This year Arizona State and Tuskegee Universities added units. Arizona State will have a Navy unit to add to the school's Army and Air Force NROTC units and the Tuskegee unit will join the Auburn (Ala.) University's unit to form an Alabama Consortium.

The NROTC program was established in 1926 to provide a broad base of citizens knowledgeable in the arts and sciences of Naval Warfare. Over the years, the program has expanded to develop midshipmen mentally, morally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty and loyalty. Added to the traditional Navy core values of honor, courage and commitment, these ideals provide the foundation for commissioning college graduates as Naval officers.



Navy's chief training officer tells business leaders open seas ensure American prosperity

By Joy Samsel, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- "Our Navy exists to provide for the safety, security and prosperity of America." That was one of the messages delivered to more than 500 business leaders by Rear Adm. Joseph Kilkenny, commander, Naval Education and Training Command.

The event was the annual Combined Rotary Military Appreciation Luncheon held Nov. 2 at the New World Landing restaurant in Pensacola, Fla.

Addressing the audience, Kilkenny explained the importance of free seas to America's commerce and security.

"Pensacola has deep roots in maritime history," Kilkenny said. "As early as the 16th century, Pensacola Bay was mentioned in the conversations of those who lead the maritime nations of Western Europe."

"Today, the economies of Pensacola, and indeed the entire United States, are tied to the seas. As many of you may know, 90 percent of the world's commerce travels by sea. The vast majority of the world's population lives within a few hundred miles of the oceans, and nearly three quarters of the planet is covered by water. Because the maritime domain -- the world's oceans, seas, bays, estuaries, islands, coastal areas, littorals, and the airspace above them -- supports 90 percent of the world's trade, it carries the lifeblood of the global system that links every country on earth. It links Pensacola to the world."

Kilkenny also gave the audience a

snapshot of how the military stationed in Pensacola affects the community.

"We introduce a diverse cross-section of America to the city where 'thousands live, and the way millions wish they could'", he said. "In fiscal year 2008 more than 4,000 uniformed staff at the local training commands provided training for more than 14,000 military students. These military members come from every state in the nation, as well as many of our allied nations."

Citing information from a 2008 economic impact report compiled by Naval Air Station Pensacola, Kilkenny told the business leaders the gross salaries of the uniformed military staff and students exceeded \$710 million. For the more than 4,000 civilian employees at area military commands, their salaries exceed \$210 million.

According to Kilkenny, the military impact on the local community can be measured in more than dollars.

"Every command has active community outreach programs that touch the lives of the elderly, the homeless, and others, as well as our nation's most precious treasure, our children," Kilkenny said. "Working with the various support organizations and schools in the area, our commands logged more 119,000 volunteer hours last year. This too is the legacy of the military in Pensacola."

For more news from Naval Education and Training Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnet/.

What you didn't know about H1N1

Tamiflu® does not kill but prevents H1N1 from further proliferation until the virus limits itself in about 1-2 weeks (its natural cycle). H1N1, like other Influenza A viruses, only infects the upper respiratory tract and proliferates (only) there. The only portals of entry are the nostrils, mouth and throat. In a global epidemic of this nature, it's almost impossible not coming into contact with H1N1 in spite of all precautions. Contact with H1N1 is not so much of a problem as proliferation is.

While you may be healthy and not showing any symptoms of H1N1 infection, in order to prevent proliferation or aggravation of symptoms and development of secondary infections, some very simple steps can be practiced:

-- Frequent hand-washing (well-highlighted in all official communications).

-- "Hands-off-the-face" approach. Resist all temptations to touch any part of face (unless you want to eat, bathe or slap).

-- Gargle twice a day with warm salt water (use Listerine if you don't trust salt). H1N1 takes 2-3 days after initial infection in the throat/nasal cavity to proliferate and show characteristic symptoms.

Simple gargling prevents proliferation. In a way, gargling with salt water has the same effect on a healthy individual that Tamiflu® has on an infected one. Don't underestimate this simple, inexpensive and powerful preventative method.

-- Similar to 3 above, clean your nostrils at least once every day with warm salt water. Blowing the nose hard once a day and swabbing both nostrils with cotton buds dipped in warm salt water is very effective in bringing down viral population.

-- Boost your natural immunity with foods that are rich in Vitamin C (Amla and other citrus fruits). If you have to supplement with Vitamin C tablets, make sure that it also has Zinc/bioflavonoid to boost absorption.

-- Drink as much of warm liquids as you can. Drinking warm liquids has the same effect as gargling, but in the reverse direction. They wash off proliferating viruses from the throat into the stomach where they cannot survive, proliferate or do any harm.

All these are simple ways to prevent, within means of most households, and certainly much less painful than to wait in long queues outside public hospitals.

Questions You May Have:

Q: How is H1N1 flu spread?

A: It is spread from person to person through respiratory secretions: coughing, sneezing, touching hands to nose or mouth. Hand washing or alcohol-based hand sanitizer is the best defense.

Q: What do I do if I get sick?

A: You are potentially infectious to other people for 5-7 days. Stay home until fever has been gone for 24 hours. (If you must go out consider wearing a mask and do not go to social events)

Q: Who is at high risk?

A: Hospitalized patients, Pregnant, Age 65 and over and 5 and under, and those with chronic medical problems like diabetes, heart disease, asthma, or immune problems.

Q: Where can I go for more info?

A: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/. If you have any additional questions or would like more information regarding the H1N1 flu, please contact the Preventive Medicine Dept. at (361)516-6344

*HM2 Cyrus Cunningham,
NAS Kingsville Branch Health Clinic*

King Ranch 16th annual Ranch Hand Breakfast

**Saturday, Nov. 21
7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the
legendary King Ranch
on Highway 141.**

This fun event is open to children and adults and serves as the major fundraiser for the annual La Posada de Kingsville celebration.

Guests will be treated to an authentic cowboy style breakfast on the King Ranch, and be able to tour live static displays, enjoy cowboy music and poetry readings, and enjoy a live rodeo!

Spend a morning on board the legendary King Ranch and help support the annual La Posada de Kingsville holiday celebration!

Purchase advance tickets at the Kingsville Convention & Visitors Center or the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce, or at the Ranch on the day of the event.

National Naval Medical Center promotes annual 'Great American Smoke Out'

By Sarah Fortney, National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs

BETHESDA Md. (NNS) -- National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) Bethesda's Health Promotion Office will host a series of events Nov. 12-19 to promote the benefits of tobacco cessation during a national campaign to help smokers quit.

The American Cancer Society's Great American Smoke Out is an annual event that provides smokers a chance to cut back for a day, said Adrienne Brantley, NNMC's tobacco treatment coordinator. It is an opportunity for smokers to make a long-term plan to quit for good, she said.

The Health Promotion office will set up a booth on Main Street Nov. 12-18 where staff members can sign up to "sponsor" a smoker for the Great American Smoke Out day, Nov. 19. Smokers can also commit to cut back or remain tobacco-free for that day at the booth, she said.

Information and various "smokeless sweets" at the booth, such as gum and lollipops, which smokers can chew

on instead of reaching for a cigarette, Brantley said.

The purpose of this event is to help smokers realize they can quit and raise awareness about the risks of smoking, she said. In addition, the campaign will inform smokers of the many resources available to them in terms of tobacco cessation, said Zizette Makary, a staff physician, NNMC's Internal Medicine Clinic.

Makary works closely with the Health Promotion office to help support the tobacco cessation services at the hospital. She is also involved with NNMC's Tobacco Cessation Team, a group of staff members and physicians who work as volunteers to promote tobacco cessation.

At NNMC, there are support group sessions, individual counselors and online courses to help smokers quit, Makary said. Smokers can also ask their health care provider for medication to help cut down the withdraw symptoms.

Be Patient
*Non Smoker
in Progress*


1.800.ACS.2345
www.cancer.org

Though NNMC offers several options for smokers, Makary said, the motivation to quit ultimately must come from within. The Great American Smoke Out will not only benefit those who are think-

ing about quitting, it will also help health care providers gauge how many people within the command smoke, she said, thus ensuring they provide sufficient tobacco cessation services.

MWR's "Sweat & Play" program gains grant, invite to the Navy Fitness Workshop

By Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs

The MWR Fitness Center's "Sweat and Play" program gained national recognition recently when it was selected to make a special presentation at the Navy Fitness Workshop in Orlando Dec. 1. Program director Jay King will make the trip and provide a 20-minute presentation on the program which has gained a full head of steam on board the air station among both children and parents.

"Sweat and Play" is a group fitness class for the playground parents who exercise with their children under their watchful eye. The class offers an instructional Total Resistance Exercise (TRX) workout for parents in the shaded playground behind the gym as their children play on the jungle gym behind the fitness center. The playground provides numerous anchor points for the TRX bands so parents are always in close vicinity of their exploring child.

According to King the program has been well-received by base patrons.

"It actually has been received with a tremendous gratitude and a surprising sense of relief," King said. "The patrons have shown tremendous appreciation for having a class that addresses the health and wellness of a military parent and they

are relieved to have finally an opportunity pursue their fitness goals."

Instructors are certified in personal training, pre and post-natal fitness, group exercise, and TRX instruction. Focus is paid on personal instruction while maintaining a safe environment and watchful eye of both the parent and the child.

This total body program warms up with cardio stroller fitness, and integrates specialized circuit training stations with resistance bands, bosu balls, and floor mats to complement the methods of TRX fitness enhancement. TRX suspension training integrates strength and balance into a single dynamic form that maximizes the benefits of bodyweight exercise for faster results.

With child care presenting a continuous challenge for parents who desire to work out, this class works to assist the busy parent and help them accomplish their fitness goals. It provides an environment of motivation and camaraderie with other parents while delivering specialized instruction to tone and shape the body.

The success of the "Sweat and Play" program is leading to the creation of similar fitness programs here that provide an avenue for fitness.

"We will continue to look at new opportunities that fulfill the fitness needs of our military community," King added.



Moms work out while their children play at the NASK Fitness Center (MWR photo).

"This program in particular continues to grow and we will ensure that we allocate the resources necessary to support continuous progress. We have added another class called "Moms On the Move" which serves the same demographic as "Sweat & Play" but in a more mobile fitness

fashion. We have also added additional staff to both classes to ensure the top quality fitness instruction, and a continuously safe environment for class participants and their children."

To register or participate in these programs, stop by the Fitness Center.

Navy wins diversity award topping leading Fortune 500 companies

By MC3 (SW/AW) Michelle Rhonhouse

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- Navy Region Southwest was awarded the President's Award for Diversity in the large business category from the league during an awards luncheon Oct. 29. The award honors businesses for maximizing opportunities for minorities in San Diego County.

Several large businesses were also nominated for the award, including Walmart, Federal Express and Wells Fargo.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead has pointed out his goal to see the Navy designated a top 50 employer. Ray King, president and chief executive officer of the San Diego Urban League, said the Navy in San Diego is helping the CNO realize this goal.

"The fact that the U.S. Navy won is a testament to the CNO's stated policy and the efforts and support from area commanders to promote diversity at all levels," Price said. "We congratulate and sa-

lute the Navy for being our 2009 winner."

Master Chief Petty Officer James Hervey, the Navy's equal opportunities advisor in the southwest, said the award demonstrates the Navy's commitment to attracting, promoting and retaining a diverse workforce.

"[It] shows that the Navy has awareness on how to manage diversity and is sensitive to diversity," said Hervey. "It is crucial in retaining and attracting employees."

Hervey represents Navy Region Southwest as a member of the Urban League, a position he says gives him insight into current corporate thinking and best practices in diversity.

"We are competing for the same talent as Fortune 500 companies and small businesses, and I get to see what works for them and share it with the Navy," he said.

As a member, Hervey is also able to identify opportunities for sailors to be involved in the communities around



Rear Adm. Patrick McGrath, center left, and Capt. Ken Barrett, Chief of Naval Personnel Diversity Directorate, accept an Urban League Leadership for Diversity award from the Urban League.

San Diego area bases, "to see beyond the fence," he said.

"Volunteer opportunities get sailors out on the front lines, and neighborhoods get to see we are all members of the community. "We don't just talk about diversity," Hervey said.

"We embrace it."

The Navy continues to attract, develop, mentor and retain a top diverse talent to remain a strong and relevant force and the award is a testament to these efforts.

ARRA project brings AMI metering to NRSE

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast

Jacksonville, Fla. – Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast is bringing advanced metering to region installations saving approximately two percent of energy costs through energy monitoring and replacing many outdated systems with the latest technology.

The Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center (NFESC) has been forming the structure and requirements for an integrated Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) that will enable Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) bases, NAVFAC Southeast and NAVFAC headquarters to manage utility commodities more effectively and efficiently.

“AMI is one of the basic building blocks of the Smart Grid initiatives we have been reading so much about recently,” said Tom Grant with URS Corporation, the design contractor. Smart Grid is the wave of the future in building controls such as HVAC control. When the meter recognizes that peak charges are occurring the meter can tell the thermostat to increase by one degree in order to save on energy cost.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) program provided NFESC a way to secure funds that are now accelerating the implementation of the Navy’s AMI Program.

As a result, three Design-Build contracts were awarded in the fourth quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2009. These contracts were regional contracts targeting the Northwest, Southwest and Southeast.

“Here in the Southeast region Square D was awarded \$23 million in September 2009, to install a comprehensive AMI system throughout the Southeast at 12 bases to include 2,177 smart meters,” said Don Shaver, NAVFAC Southeast AMI program manager.

Shaver further stated that Naval Weapons Station Charleston, Naval Air Station (NAS) Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, and NAS Fort Worth were not included in this initial ARRA funded AMI effort and that Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay was on the short list to be added to the ARRA list.

In addition, NFESC is utilizing non-ARRA funding to implement an AMI system in OCONUS locations such as Guam and in the Southeast at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

“Setting up the AMI program is com-

plicated,” said Grant. “It will require a phased process that will involve many people at the bases that are receiving the new system.”

There are four phases to the project. The first phase, Initiation or Inception, were the team visits the sites to develop the functional requirements. This is accomplished by sampling current metering programs and defining the scope of work.

During the second phase, the Development phase, the contractor will develop the final design for the Southeast region installations, each being unique in terms of size, location, mission, occupants, environment, etc. Specific meter installation requirements (pipe size, flow rates, indoor vs. outdoor) will be confirmed when the contractor develops the design surveys.

The third phase of the project is Implementation. Typically, this is the most visible phase of the project because it is during this time that equipment is actually installed.

“Because the primary utility commodity metered will be electricity, outages may mean interruption of computers, lights, air conditioning, etc., for short periods of time,” said Shaver. “If an electricity outage is necessary, base personnel will be asked to shutdown equipment in the affected area as a precaution to protect the equipment or any stored data.” Outages will be closely coordinated between installation public works and tenant commands to minimize impact to daily operations.

The fourth and final phase of the project is the Close Out. The importance of the Close Out phase cannot be over-emphasized. During this period, the newly installed meters and system will be tested and validated.

“AMI is here and the success of the program will rely on everyone’s participation, commitment and support of the project activities,” said Shaver. “The benefits will include dramatically improved accuracy in billing for all tenants on our bases and provision for real time data that will improve our ability to generate energy consumption reductions and consequently life cycle budget savings.”

This effort will further enhance the CNRSE’s ability to implement its energy strategy as the Regional Commander considers metering as vital component to this strategy.

Near-Miss reporting:

You can’t fix what you don’t know about

If you don’t investigate today’s near-miss incident, you’re not going to prevent tomorrow’s mishap. And, because you can’t examine what you don’t know about, make sure you can rely on employees to report all incidents.

Near-miss incidents (or “close calls,” as they’re also often dubbed) are leading indicators of safety performance. A “leading indicator” is a measurable factor or statistic that may indicate future value or direction of another variable, such as workplace mishaps.

A “lagging indicator,” on the other hand, is a measurable factor or statistic that indicates facts about past events. A workplace injury and illness log or a lost workday report are lagging indicators. The trouble with lagging indicators is that they don’t really tell you the root causes or catalysts for mishaps and near misses.

Near-miss incidents are invaluable tools for identifying patterns of undesirable events that could lead to mishaps. But, in order to examine near misses and find solutions to safety problems, you have to know about the hazards that cause these incidents. Unfortunately, under-reporting near misses happens because employees are afraid of getting into trouble.

According to safety professionals, a culture of blaming and disciplinary action associated with mistakes or unsafe behavior discourages reporting. You’ll only get employees to report incidents that could lead to mishaps in a blame-free environment where employees see positive action taken to eliminate hazards.

To encourage employees to report near-miss incidents:

- Place no blame and take no disciplinary action for reporting near misses.
- Allow anonymous reporting.
- Investigate all near misses the same way you do accidents and publish finding.
- Praise employees and contractors for reporting near misses.

Analyzing near-miss reports can aid you in effecting corrective actions or the development of contingency plans.

Help Is Available

Preventing mishaps is a central focus of everyone’s job. Coping with near misses and other safety incidents and using them to improve workplace safety is tough, demanding work. To help you through these difficult times, assistance is available by calling your Safety Office.



Ground Training’s Forrest Patton, TW-2 Combined Federal Campaign coordinator, accepts a donation from TW-2 commander Capt. Mark Brooks in the TW-2 command suite. The Combined Federal Campaign is currently underway on board the air station - see your departmental rep to participate! (Photo by Meg Cross, TW-2.)

Safety seals Navy win over Fighting Irish

Navy has a reservation for Houston and the Texas Bowl at Reliant Stadium thanks to last Saturday's upset win over 19th-ranked Notre Dame in South Bend. The Midshipmen scored first and never trailed in the 23-21 victory but the game got interesting in the final three minutes.

After Navy scored to take a 21-7 lead, Notre Dame responded with a scoring drive of their own as After Navy scored to take a 21-14 lead on a 12-yard scoring strike from quarterback Jimmy Clausen to wide receiver Michael Floyd with 4:46 left on the clock.

Navy's ensuing drive stalled after seven plays and a punt turned the ball over to the Irish at their own 13 yard line. On third and 10, Clausen was sacked for a 10-yard loss by Jabaree Tuani – setting up a 4th and 20 situation at the Irish 3 with 60 seconds left. Notre Dame had to go for it – and outside linebacker Graig Schaefer blitzed on the snap and pulled down Clausen in the end zone for a safety padding Navy's lead to 23-14.

The Irish came back to recover an onside kick to keep their hopes alive, and Clausen cashed in by hitting Tate with a 31-yard scoring pass with 31 seconds remaining. The extra point closed the gap to 23-21, but the onside kick attempt rolled out-of-bounds and Navy sat on the ball to run out the clock.

Navy rolled up 408 yards of total offense in the game led by fullback picking up 148



Navy quarterback Ricky Dobbs (4) is brought down by Notre Dame defenders after a short gain. (US Navy photo).

yards on 14 carries and a touchdown, quarterback Ricky Dobbs gaining 114 on 31 rushes. Dobbs also scored a touchdown and threw for another, connecting on a 52-yard pass to Greg Jones late in the 3rd quarter.

As of Nov. 11, Navy is the only bowl-eligible team in the nation that knows where it'll be playing. The Middies The Middies opponent will come from the Big 12 conference.

Navy improved to 7-3 on the season with three games remaining -- this week against lower-division Delaware, then the Mids travel to Hawaii, and end the season against Army in Philadelphia. Notre Dame falls out of the BCS race with the loss but remains in the bowl picture.

MWR Fitness: Upcoming Fitness Events

Thanksgiving Turkey Trot

Turkey Trot 5K is on Nov. 12 at 5:30 p.m. Entry fee is 2 non perishable food items that will be donated from NAS-K to a local charity. The first 30 people to sign up and give food donations will receive a free Turkey Trot T-shirt!! This race will have winners in certain categories. (Active Duty, Retired, Dependent, DOD/Civilian/Contractor, Navy League, and Youth Between 5 and 12 years old.) Winners will receive a prize from the MWR prize closet!

Jingle Bell Fun Run

Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m.
Registration is a donation of a new still in plastic, unwrapped toy that NASK will donate to the local Toys for Tots program. First 30 to sign up will receive a free t-shirt.

Sign up for either of these events at the base gym.

Trauma Dawgs claim volleyball championship



The Branch Health Clinic Kingsville "Trauma Dawgs" claimed the NAS Kingsville 2009 Volleyball League championship Nov. 4, finishing the season with a perfect record. The Dawgs downed Fleet Industrial Supply Command Kingsville's "Make it Rain" two games to one in the playoffs to cap the perfect season and send FISC to ICU.

The Trauma Dawgs, comprised of health care professionals from the branch clinic, anesthetized Rain, 25-7 and 25-10

even though Rain managed a narrow 25-24 recovery in the opening game of the championship match.

Pictured are: Front row (from left) Steve McKinley, Jorge Antonio Lafuente, Tara Elrod, and Gerald Randolph. Second row, Christopher Tharris, Jimmy Cook (team captain), Mike Garcia, Sam Jimenez, and Kelly Miller. Missing from the team photo are Marlon Rendon and Ismael Lopez.

Javelinas gain share of Lone Star conference title, host playoff game against Tarleton State

The Texas A&M-Kingsville football team found out on last Sunday afternoon that they are officially going back to the NCAA Division II Playoffs for the first time since 2004. The Javelinas (9-2) will play host to Lone Star Conference rival Tarleton State on Saturday, November 14 at 1 p.m.

Tickets for the game will likely go on sale to the public on Tuesday. More information will be released later today or early Monday.

The Javelinas finished the regular season in a three-way tie for the LSC title with Tarleton State and Midwestern State. The Hoggies earned the #4 seed in the NCAA Division II Super Region 4. Central Washington is the #1 seed and is followed by Northwest Missouri State, Midwestern State, the Javelinas, TSU and Abilene Christian.

The Javelinas entered the final week of the season in the eighth spot in the region, but a 35-32 win over Angelo State and losses by the #3-#6 teams in the region opened the door for the team to move up in the rankings.

Four Lone Star Conference teams



advanced to the playoffs tying the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference for most teams in the playoffs this year.

The Javelinas defeated Tarleton State earlier in the year by a score of 34-20 on October 3 at Javelina Stadium. The Midwestern State-Abilene Christian game is also a rematch. MSU defeated Abilene Christian, 15-13, in the final game of the regular season at home.

The last time the Javelinas made the playoffs they defeated Southeastern Oklahoma, 40-30 in Javelina Stadium in the first round and then lost to Northwest Missouri State, 34-14 on the road in the second round.

This is the 15th time the Javelinas have advanced to the NCAA Division II Playoffs. The Javelinas and Texans (9-2) have met once before in the playoffs with the Hoggies claiming a 34-10 win at Javelina Stadium on Nov. 22, 2003.

Bowling Standings (11/12)

In the Dog House League

POS	TEAM	WON/LOST
1.	Lane Breakers	37-19
2.	Three Minds	31-25
3.	Tumbalos	29-27
4.	The Guys	28.5-27.5
5.	Triple X's	27-29
6.	The Hounds	15.5-40.5

Weekly High Scores:

John Zapalac 279, 211, 673 series
Vic Kuntscher 245 game

Wednesday Night Mixed League

POS	TEAM	WON/LOST
1.	Pete's Angels	27-13
2.	Slow Rollin'	23-17
3.	Laugh Out Loud	22-18
4.	Pin Bangers	22-18
5.	DUHs	19-21
6.	Sixty Forty	18-22
7.	Big K Rollers	14-26
8.	Guttermouths	14-26

Weekly High Scores:

Darrell Beal, 253 game, 577 series