



Vol. 67, No. 26 Naval Air Station Kingsville, TX "We Train The World's Best Pilots Here!" <https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/kingsville> December 24, 2009

President signs 2010 Defense budget into law, includes 3.4 percent pay raise for military

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 2009 – Defense officials are hailing passage of the fiscal 2010 budget that funds military programs and wartime operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and provides a military pay raise.

President Barack Obama signed the 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Act into law Dec. 19 after the Senate approved it during a rare early Saturday session. The Senate passed the measure by an 88-to-10 vote.

The \$636.3 billion legislation provides \$128.3 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a 3.4 percent military pay raise.

The law also extends various authorities and other non-defense fiscal 2010 appropriations, White House officials announced. Most of those provisions involved temporary extensions of emergency unemployment and health-

care benefits that had been set to expire.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates issued a joint statement Dec. 18, pressing the Senate for action.

"We strongly urge Senate passage of the Defense Appropriations Bill today, prior to expiration of the current continuing resolution," the statement said. "Passage today will provide important support for our foreign policy and national security priorities and ensure continuity of funding for our troops in combat and for all of the Department of Defense."

The House passed the legislation Dec. 16. To view the 2010 budget, visit the U.S. Senate's official web site at <http://senate.gov>.

Story by Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service.



President Barack Obama signed the 2010 Defense Appropriation Act into law Dec. 19.

*Happy
Holidays
to you &
yours
from the
Flying K
staff!*

Next Issue: Jan. 15, 2010



Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes from the NASK leadership - (from left) Master Chief Charlie Ratilff, Capt. Phil Waddingham, secretary Janie Ramos, and Cmdr. Scott Allen.

Home School Meeting scheduled

The NAS Kingsville School Liaison Officer will hold a Home School Support Meeting on Thursday, January 14 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Base Library and is open to all active Duty and Civilian personnel and their families.

Discussion will focus on how the School Liaison Officer can assist you with your child's education needs, and ways that you can collaborate with other families that are home schooling their children.

Please contact Jeanie Alexander at 361-675-0112 for more info.



Capt. Phil Waddingham
Commanding Officer,
NAS Kingsville



From the Bridge

Greetings Team Kingsville!

Has anyone else noticed that in addition to Christmas and the coming New Year, we are approaching the end of a decade? Where has the time gone? Ten years ago I was serving at Special Operations Command (SOCOM), anxiously awaiting the coming summer when I would head back to Whidbey Island to start my PXO track in the EA-6B Prowler FRS. I was also knee deep in Y2K (Year 2000) contingency planning. Some of you are probably too young to remember, but the concern at the time was that come midnight, when the clocks struck Jan. 1, 2000, chaos would ensue, and

not only would your alarm clock fail, but computers that use “time stamps” to communicate with each other would stop communicating. Planes would not be able to takeoff or land, ATMs would not issue cash, traffic lights would fail, and cats would be living with dogs. At SOCOM, we were providing daily briefings to command leadership consisting of both flag and general officers, on how we would continue to operate in this worse-case scenario.

The backbone of the SOCOM command and control network, known as SCAMPI, was critical to the continuity of SOCOM operations. If it failed, then so would SOCOM. The good news was that in the year prior, literally millions of dollars were invested in sophisticated communications equipment at hubs and nodes spread across the globe to ensure that the scenario described above would not happen.

The bad news was that every day I had to brief the brass and “guarantee” the success of a program for which I had responsibility, however, knew very

little about. I found myself relying very heavily on the advice and wisdom of a seasoned cadre of “technical experts.” I placed a significant amount of trust in their assessment of the situation. I had faith that everything would work as advertised, and that at the end of the day, cats would not be living with dogs.

My aim here is not, as you might think, to draw any comparison to that period and the one our Nation is in now. Nor is it meant to suggest that there are any similarities to the Christmas season, although the reliance on faith is a powerful and profound notion, and one that has universal applicability.

What I really remember most about that time was that an entire organization – SOCOM, at the time about 1,400 strong at the headquarters – was focused with laser beam precision on solving a problem. It was one of the finest examples of teamwork that I have ever witnessed, and ranks up there with some of the major combat operations in which I have participated in terms of scope and complexity, although clearly not with the

same set of life or death consequences. Cats living with dogs is really not that bad in the big scheme of things.

As we enter 2010, the NAS Kingsville/Training Air Wing TWO Team has much to be excited about. By focusing – with laser beam precision – on the goals we have established, we will “guarantee” our mission success.

In the next edition of the Flying K, we will outline the roadmap for NAS Kingsville in 2010 and beyond. 2010 will be the “Year of Construction” at NAS Kingsville, and both readiness and quality of life will get a big dose of Vitamin SRM (sustainment, restoration, and modernization). Think of it as a big package under the tree. You can’t wait to find out what it is, but you’re going to have to wait until the next Flying K!

Until next year, please have a safe and merry holiday period, and thanks again for all you do.

Blessings, Waddz

Deckplate Leadership: Sea Notes From the CMC



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



Team Kingsville:

With this being the last edition of the Flying K for 2009, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our Sailors, Navy Civilians, and contract employees for your hard work this year in support of NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO. All of you work extremely hard every day and sometimes you may wonder if anyone notices your efforts. Serving in the Command Master Chief position affords me the opportunity to see how the hard work of individuals makes for successful departments and how successful departments work together to successfully support the Command and its mission. So yes, others do notice and are appreciative of your efforts.

I hope each of you have the opportunity to take some time off to relax during the holiday season. I also hope all of you have the opportunity to enjoy some time

with family and/or friends. As you enjoy the holidays, please be careful - I want to see everyone back safe and sound following the holiday season. With that said, here are a few holiday safety tips:

- Be careful with Christmas lights and replace any lights that have frayed or damaged wiring. Also remember to turn the lights off when you go to bed- it’s safer and you will save on your electricity bill.

- Be careful if you have a live Christmas tree. Make sure it has plenty of water to prevent it from drying out and don’t set it up near heat sources or appliances.

- If you are going to travel, use the TRIPS system located on NKO to plan your trip ahead of time. If you begin to get tired, stop for the night and rest.

- Finally, don’t drink and drive. If you are going to drink, have a plan. If something goes wrong with your plan, call a friend or the Command Duty Officer (CDO) to come get you and give you a ride home. Remember a call to the CDO won’t result in disciplinary action or a DAPA referral, but the bad decision to drink and drive, will.

Again, Happy Holidays to all of you! I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing all of you after the holidays.

Regards, and Happy Holidays! CMC

DOD Releases 2010 Housing Rates

From Department of Defense

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Department of Defense released the 2010 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates Dec. 16.

Military members will receive an average housing allowance increase of 2.5 percent when the new rates take effect, Jan. 1, 2010.

For members with dependents, average increases in the BAH are approximately \$37 per month. A typical junior enlisted member with dependents, for example, will find his/her BAH about \$25 per month higher than last year, while a senior non-commissioned officer with dependents will receive about \$42 more than last year.

Three components are included in the BAH computation: median current market rent; average utilities (including electricity, heat, and water/sewer); and average renter’s insurance.

Total housing costs are calculated for six housing profiles (based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms) in each military housing area. BAH rates are then calculated for each

pay grade, both with and without dependents. An estimated \$19 billion will be paid to nearly 1 million service members in 2010.

An integral part of the BAH program is the provision of individual rate protection to all members. No matter what happens to measured housing costs, an individual member in a given location will not see his/her BAH rate decrease. This assures that members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if the area’s housing costs decrease.

The continued improvement in housing allowances represents the Department’s commitment to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure that provides members with a suitable and secure standard of living to sustain a trained, experienced, and ready force in the future.

For more information on BAH, visit <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>.



Capt. Mark Brooks
Commander
Training Air Wing TWO

In The Break

Happy Holidays! Hard to believe it's almost 2010. I assume all would agree that 2009 has been a very eventful year. I for one am looking forward to 2010—it promises challenges and opportunities for all of us.

Unfortunately I was pretty accurate in a previous Flying K when I predicted the recent weather. Despite very challenging conditions that stretched from south Texas all the way to Jacksonville, Florida, the

December CQ Detachment run by Skipper Kelsey and his team from VT-21 was a real success story; kudos to Skipper "Chip", the Assistant OIC "Charlie" Murphy, and TW-2 Operations Officer "Bosco" Bassel aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75). If anything, Naval Aviation is flexible and everyone on the Detachment from Instructors to students to Maintenance proved that to be true.

Enjoy a well-deserved break during the holidays. Come back in 2010 focused with your batteries recharged. TW-2 will have a "Back in the Saddle" Stand-down on Jan. 4, and we launch off on yet another Weapons Detachment to El Centro, Calif., less than two weeks later. See you in 2010!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Fingers



Santa climbs out of a T-45 Goshawk on the NAS Kingsville tarmac and prepares to meet the children from TW-2, VT-21 & VT-22. See page 6 for more images.

The Flying K

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Happy Holidays from the Housing Office and PPV Housing

Housing Greetings

Members of the NAS Kingsville Housing staff pose for a holiday photo on the NAS Kingsville Quarterdeck. From left are Rosa Quintilla (Hawks Landing manager); Michelle Auburn (Hunter's Cove manager); Lynn Early (NASK Housing director); and Carol Garza (NASK Housing assistant).

Photo by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs.



NASK Staff Greetings

NASK Headquarters staff members pose for a holiday photo on the NASK Quarterdeck. From left are Admin. Asst., Chad Walker; Admin Customer Service Petty Officer YN2 Brandon Weaver; Financial Manager Anna Carvajal; Admin. Officer Maryann Shramko; Financial Asst., Viola Glasgow; Emergency Manager Monette Walker; PAO Jon Gagné; and Training Officer Chris Code.

Photo by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs.

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NAS Kingsville
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on the info line add: Direct Line

Joint connection in the skies over Afghanistan

From USS Nimitz Public Affairs

USS NIMITZ, At Sea (NNS) -- Air Force tankers provide a vital in-flight refueling lifeline to extend Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11 missions over Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

CVW 11 aircraft assigned to the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) leave the flight deck from hundreds of miles away to support troops on the ground in Afghanistan. The KC-10A Extender is an airborne gas station capable of delivering 350,000 pounds of fuel per mission to U.S. and coalition aircraft.

"We work very well with our coalition partners both in the air, U.S. Air Force and other coalition air forces from the region, and with the troops on the ground," said Rear Adm. John W. Miller, commander, Nimitz Carrier Strike Group/Carrier Strike Group 11, "We are all on the same team and we are all trying to accomplish the same mission."

CVW 11 aviators work with Army air controllers on the ground and Air Force assets in the sky to provide joint precision support to counter insurgency operations.

"Without the ability to utilize joint

tanker operations we would be unable to provide the continuous un-interrupted support of ground forces in Afghanistan," said Lt. Tommy Kolwicz, assistant operations officer for Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 97.

Since entering the U.S. 5th Fleet Area of Operations Sept. 18., CVW 11 has flown more than 1,800 sorties and totaled more than 10,000 cumulative flight hours in support of OEF.

Nimitz provides 30 percent of the close air support to the coalition force in Afghanistan.

Nimitz Carrier Strike Group is comprised of Nimitz, embarked CVW 11, embarked Destroyer Squadron 23, and the Ticonderoga-class cruiser USS Chosin. Ships assigned to Destroyer Squadron 23 include the destroyers USS Pinckney, USS Sampson and the frigate USS Rentz.

Squadrons from CVW 11 include the "Black Aces" of Strike Fighter Squadron 41, the "Tophatters" of VFA 14, the "Warhawks" of VFA 97, the "Sidewinders" of VFA 86, the "Indians" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 6, the "Black Ra-



AFGHANISTAN (Dec. 9, 2009) An F/A-18F Super Hornet assigned to the Black Aces of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 41 refuels from a U.S. Air Force KC-10 Extender aircraft. The Nimitz Carrier Strike Group is on a deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Graham Scarbro/Released)

vens" of Electronic Attack Squadron 135, the "Providers" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 30 and the "Wallbangers" of Carrier Airborne Command and Control Squadron 117.

Helicopter detachments include the "Easy Riders" of Helicopter Anti-subma-

rine Squadron Light 37, the "Battle Cats" of HSL 43, the "Wolfpack" of HSL 45, the "Scorpions" of HSL 49 and the "Wildcards" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 23. Also accompanying the Nimitz CSG are Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11 and the USNS Bridge.

Additional Seabee battalions deploying to Afghanistan

By Daryl C. Smith, Commander, 1st Naval Construction Division Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- Two battalions of Navy Seabees will deploy to Afghanistan in coming months as part of the 30,000 additional U.S. forces deploying to the region.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 will deploy from Port Hueneme, Calif., and NMCB 133 will deploy from Gulfport, Miss. Each NMCB contains about 580 Seabees.

Seabees are a vital enabler required for the buildup of additional troops in support of President Barack Obama's strategy in Afghanistan. The Seabees' mission is to help provide infrastructure such as bases, berthing facilities, roads and airfields for the increasing number of U.S. forces in country.

Both battalions will deploy by March, but may deploy as early as January. As part of their normal rotation cycle, NMCB 4 and NMCB 133 were originally scheduled for deployment in February. NMCB 133 was scheduled to go to Afghanistan, and NMCB 4 was originally scheduled to deploy to the Pacific region.



"Since World War II, the Seabees have supported the Marine Corps in every major conflict. This is our legacy, and we are proud to be part of this important mission," said Rear Adm. Mark Handley, Commander, First Naval Construction Division.

Both battalions had already completed their required homeport training in preparation for deployment.

"Our Seabee battalions receive ex-

tensive training in both construction and defensive skills, so this mission is exactly what we have traditionally trained for. Seabees have a vital role to play as they work to provide the infrastructure necessary to complete our country's objectives in Afghanistan," Handley said.

"After a successful homeport training cycle, NMCB 133 stands ready to answer the president's call to surge additional forces into Afghanistan," said Cmdr. Christopher Kurgan, commanding officer of NMCB 133. "We appreciate all the responsive support that we have received from across the Naval Construction Force to finalize our training and equipping. We also deeply appreciate the understanding and support of our families as they continue to sacrifice and allow us to answer our nation's call."

The deployment of these two battalions will require adjustments to the deployment schedule of other Seabee units. These adjustments are currently pending approval by the chief of naval operations.

Various vehicles, equipment, tools and materials are also being prepared to be shipped from Gulfport and Port

Hueneme to support their mission. Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center (NFELC) and Seabee Readiness Group personnel are breaking out containers and preparing them for shipment from Gulfport, Miss., and Port Hueneme, Calif. Construction equipment is also being broken out from warehouses, de-preserved and operationally checked. This gear will be staged for shipment when it is ready. Some items will be shipped by air, but most will go by ship transport.

Many of the pieces of heavy construction equipment will be armored before they are deployed. NFELC has active contracts to armor construction equipment in Gulfport and Port Hueneme. Mobile Tactical Vehicle Replacements (MTVRs) are also being armored at other locations in California, North Carolina and Florida.

Troops are being outfitted with the latest in Personal Gear and Combat Equipment including ballistic protective eyewear, body armor, hydration systems, extreme cold weather gear and fire resistant clothing. About 2,600 Seabees are currently deployed to about 20 different countries around the globe supporting a variety of humanitarian missions and contingency operations.

-- Story courtesy of Navy NewsStand

NAS Kingsville announces 2009 Sailors of the Year

NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Phil Waddingham and Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff recently announced the selections of the 2009 Sailors of the Year for the air station.

Electronics Technician 1st Class (AW/SW) Heath W. Britt, a native of Glenmora, La., was selected as Sr. Sailor of the Year for the command. Britt, 33, is assigned to the NAS Kingsville Air Operations Department and serves as Ground Electronics leading petty officer and 3M Coordinator.

"Petty Officer Britt has my strongest personal recommendation for NAS Kingsville's Senior Sailor of the year," said Air Operations Officer Lt. Cmdr. David Anderson. "He is an exemplary Sailor and role model that is respected, approachable, and well-rounded. Through his actions he inspires junior Sailors, raises the bar for his peers, and is respected by his seniors throughout the command."

Britt's leadership and management skills have provided uninterrupted support for over 320,000 incident-free flight operations by ensuring 100% operability of two multi-million dollar RADAR systems, 29 navigation aids, and more than 9,000 pieces of communication and support equipment. Doing a job normally reserved for a Chief Petty Officer or above, Britt also manages maintenance for 13,000 pieces of Air Traffic Control (ATC) gear and air support equipment at three air fields, with a record of accomplishment report of 98.9% and a 100% accomplishment confidence factor. His unparalleled leadership helped the command's successful on-time and on-budget completion of the \$11.5 million National Airspace Modernization upgrade with no impact on flight operations. Britt also served as the 2009 Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization quality assurance assessment coordinator, and his efforts and programs were officially recognized when NAS Kingsville received an "Outstanding" overall score and was named "Best Site Inspected" by the senior inspector.

In addition to his many accomplishments and achievements at Ground Electronics, Britt was recently re-elected to serve a second term as president of the NASK First Class Petty Officer's Association. A 14-year Navy veteran, Britt reported to NAS Kingsville in July 2007. He and his wife Beth have two children.

"ET1 Britt is truly the most dedicat-



ET1 (AW/SW) Heath Britt
2009 Sr. Sailor of the Year



AC2 (AW) Daniel Tarrega
2009 Jr. Sailor of the Year



CS3 Erick Soliz
2009 Bluejacket of the Year

ed, devoted, and talented Petty Officer I have served with in my over 20 years of naval service," said Anderson. "He is clearly deserving of the recognition that selection as Sailor of the Year affords."

The Jr. Sailor the Year is Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Daniel Tarrega, a native of Jackson Heights, Queens, N.Y. During the past year, Tarrega supervised more than 60 air traffic controllers at one of the Navy's busiest Approach Control facilities. He also served as the leading petty officer for the air station's Color and Honor Guard, who perform at more than 50 events annually throughout South Texas. With 6 years of Navy service under his belt, Tarrega has his eyes set on making the Navy a career.

"I'm very happy with my Navy career so far," Tarrega said recently. "I have experienced more things in the past 6 years than I ever would have if I would have stayed a civilian. In the near future I will transfer from NAS Kingsville and continue my career at NAS Diego Garcia. From there, it's hard to say what will be next. But, I look forward to see where the Navy will take me and my family."

Tarrega has been a top performer for the command during his time on board. He reported to NAS Kingsville as an E-3 in May 2006. He was selected for E-4 off the September 2006 exam and advanced to E-5 in 2008. He admits he is honored to be selected as Sailor of the Quarter/Sailor of the Year.

"It feels good to be selected as Ju-

nior Sailor of the Quarter and Sailor of the Year for NAS Kingsville," Tarrega said. "I hope I inspire other Sailors to strive and achieve high standards for themselves and their careers in the Navy."

Tarrega, 30, and his wife Felicia are expecting their first child any day now.

The Bluejacket of the Year is Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Erick Soliz., a native of Pasadena, Texas. Soliz serves as the NAS Kingsville Bachelor Housing Complex manager.

Soliz reported to NAS Kingsville in January 2009 but made the most of his first year on board. He facilitated 15 Bachelor Housing and Navy Gateway Inns & Suites (NGI&S) self-help projects during the past year, saving the Navy more than \$55,000 in labor costs while vastly improving quality of life for command personnel. He is responsible for the tracking and management of over \$700K of furniture and equipment. In addition, his work ethic and leadership was noted as key to the command receiving a 90-percent grade on the 2009 Commander, Navy Installations Command Resident Satisfaction Survey.

Soliz is also an active member of the NAS Kingsville Junior Enlisted Association (JEA), serving as treasurer. He volunteered more than 30 hours to basewide Community Outreach projects, helping the air station maintain its superb relationship with the local community.

Bachelor Housing Manager and leading chief CSCS (SW) Mike Reed believes that Soliz is well-deserving of the

honor. "CS3 Soliz has been a valuable asset to Bachelor Housing and NGI&S," Reed said. "His dedication and reliability far exceeds his pay grade of a Third Class Petty Officer."

Soliz has already done much to help improve the command's quality of life, as well as overseeing several short and long range Quality of Life improvement projects worth over \$1.2 million, according to Reed. Soliz also lead a tiger team in performing several maintenance repairs and improvements around the CBQ, saving the Navy another \$12,000 in labor costs.

"CS3 Soliz is constantly evaluating his achievements and monitoring his progress throughout the year," said Reed, "which helps to keep him competitive within the command and the Navy."

In addition to off-duty involvement with the JEA, Soliz is involved with the Keep Kingsville Beautiful project (Adopt-a-Spot), and serves as Recycling Petty Officer for Bachelor Housing and NGI&S.

"The one thing that stands out most about CS3 Soliz is that he has the ability to motivate individuals around him and has earned the respect of all," Reed said. "That's a trait that is not common for a 3rd Class Sailor."

Soliz is honored to be selected by the command. "I'm very surprised and honored to be selected," he said, "I'm just part of a great team at NGI&S."

— Story/photos by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum and Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs.

3 receive Wings of Gold at Training Air Wing TWO holiday winging ceremony

By Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs

Three student aviators were presented their Wings of Gold and were designated as Naval Aviators during Training Air Wing TWO's holiday winging ceremony at the Captain's Club Friday, Dec. 18. TW-2 Commander Capt. Mark Brooks presided over the ceremony, along with squadron skippers Cmdr. Gerry Murphy and Cmdr. Chip Kelsey.

Receiving their Wings were:

1st Lt. Bradley M. Gates, USMC (VT-21): A native of Spokane, Wash., Gates began his military career two weeks after graduating from high school by enlisting in the Marine Corps Reserves. Following boot camp, Gates began his college education at Washington State University. He was activated and deployed with Operation Iraqi Freedom, and when he returned to the states he resumed his studies, switching his degree path from business to liberal arts. He completed his studies in 2006 and earned his commission through the PLC Program.

After attending the Marine Corps' Basic School in Quantico, Va., he began flight training at NAS Pensacola, completing primary flight training with VT-6 at NAS Whiting Field in Milton, Fla. He reported to NAS Kingsville for jet/strike

training in September 2008.

Lt. j.g. Matthew Simmons, USN (VT-21): Raised in Laguna Hills, Calif., Simmons attended Blair Academy Prep School in New Jersey before being accepted to the Naval Academy. He eventually graduated from the Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science Degree in computer science, and entered the Navy flight training program.

Simmons completed his primary flight training at NAS Whiting Field in Milton, Fla., with VT-2, and reported to NAS Kingsville for jet/strike training in September 2008.

1st Lt. Christopher M. Dunick, USMC (VT-22): 1st Lt. Dunick, a native of Houston, got hooked on aviation at an early age - starting civilian aviation training at 15 at Oakland International Airport. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1997, becoming a Nuclear Biological Chemical Defense Specialist in the Marine Corps Reserves.

In 2000, Dunick resumed his flight training and within a year had earned flight ratings up to certified Flight Instructor Single/Multi Engine and Instrument. He completed his studies with Embry Riddle University in 2003 and was selected for a Marine Corps commissioning program in 2006.



HOLIDAY WINGING: Members of the Training Air Wing TWO team pose with the Navy and Marine Corps' newest Jet/Strike Aviators Dec. 18 at the Captain's Club. Top row, from left, are Maj. Brian Rolf, TW-2 Sr. Marine; Cmdr. Chip Kelsey, VT-21 CO; Capt. Mark Brooks, TW-2 Commander; and Lt. Col. Terrence Latorre, VT-22 XO. Bottom row, from left: Cmdr. Gerry Murphy, CO VT-22; 1st Lt. Christopher Dunick; Lt. j.g. Matthew Simmons; 1st Lt. Bradley Gates; and Cmdr. Edward Harshany, VT-22 XO. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs).

Training Air Wing TWO coming events

El Centro, Calif., Weapons Detachment: Jan. 11-Feb. 5, 2010

Multi-Sortie Detachment, Key West, Fla., Feb. 7-12, 2010

Carrier Qual Detachment, Key West, Fla.: Feb. 3-6, 2010

Carrier Qual Detachment to Cecil Field, Fla., March 7-11, 2010



Wing, Squadrons welcome Santa, Mrs. Claus

Santa Claus made a quick visit to the Hangar this past Saturday, Dec. 19. TW-2, VT-21, and VT-22 families were treated to a T-45 Goshawk ferrying Santa to NAS Kingsville during his busy holiday season.

With the help of some local helpers, Lt. Cmdr. Dave Camburn, Capt Matt Beers, Lt. Cmdr. Dave "Rudolph" Killian and Ensign Tim Herman, about 40 children and their parents were able to get their last-minute requests to Santa before he headed back to the North Pole to get ready for Christmas delivery. Also, Officer Spouse Club members from both 21 and 22 provided cookies and other treats to entice Mr. Claus to the area. (Photos courtesy of Cmdr. Gerry Murphy, VT-22 Commanding Officer).





Local Toys For Tots coordinators Jerry and Lisa Bockholt (center) present a certificate of appreciation to ET1 Heath Britt, left, and ETCS Kirk Hurst for the Air Operations Department's contributions to the toy drive. The Bockholts stopped by the Club during Air Ops' holiday party Dec. 12, to pick up the toys and offer their thanks to Air Ops personnel. (Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Dave Anderson, Air Operations Officer).

NASK personnel eager to share the holiday spirit

By Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs

It never fails. When the holidays come around, personnel on board the air station open their hearts and their wallets to help others. Even during hard times, the gift of giving is foremost on the minds of military and civilian personnel who work on board the air station.

That was the case again this year as Sailors, Marines, Army Reserves, Civilians, and Contract employees went out of their way to support Community Outreach Programs designed to make the holidays easier for families on a tight budget.

From the Chapel's Operation Shipmate, which focuses on junior Sailors over the Thanksgiving holiday, to the annual Toys For Tots campaign for Kleberg and Kenedy Counties, NASK personnel were eager to participate.

As with any Community Outreach Program, there are behind-the-scenes tasks that require volunteers to go the extra mile. This is especially true with Operation Shipmate and Toys For Tots.

Aside from managing the Operation

Shipmate program, the Chapel staff also sets up all the donation boxes, sorts all the food donations, logs and accounts for all the monetary donations, and puts all the packages together for the selected Sailors. It's a task that requires a lot of pre-planning and extra hours, but RP1 Christine Tamag, RP2 Ken Greathouse and RPSN Quinten Williams were up to the challenge.

The same kind of dedication is required for Toys For Tots. Once all the toys have been collected, NAS Kingsville personnel were eager to chip in at the Secret Santa warehouse to help sort toys, package family gift bags, and distribute the gifts to local families. This year, more than 30 NASK personnel volunteered their time to support the Toys For Tots program, directed by CS2 Holly Clow of the Consolidated Bachelor Quarters who served as the NASK volunteer coordinator.

On behalf of all of Team Kingsville, I thank all of you who supported these programs, and helped make the 2009 holiday season a little brighter for those in need. Thank you for caring!

Corpus Christi 8-yr. old is Pilot For a Day

Story and photos by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs

On Thursday, Dec. 17, Training Air Wing TWO and NAS Kingsville welcomed aboard 8-year old Corpus Christi native Destanee Rae Pineda as the December Pilot for a Day. Pineda is a patient at Driscoll Children's Hospital (DCH), recovering from a cardiac catheterization for tachycardia.

The Pilot For a Day Program is a joint community outreach effort between Training Air Wing TWO, NAS Kingsville, and the hospital. Each month, the Wing and the air station open their gates and their hearts to selected chronically or critically ill children being treated at DCH as Pilots For a Day, providing them a day of pampering and special attention to take their minds off the daily routines.

Destanee was accompanied by her parents, Lori Lee and Joel Pineda, and her grandmother Lupe. VT-22 sponsored this month's evolution, with Maj. Kyle Ditto serving as Destanee's sponsor pilot.

The day started in the VT-22 ready room, with Destanee meeting VT-22 Executive Officer Lt. Col. Terrence Latorre and being presented her own flight suit

and squadron patches. She then was taken on a tour of the squadron spaces.

Following the squadron tour, the PFAD team moved on to the paraloft for a demonstration of aviation survival gear that is required to be worn by pilots in flight. The gear adds up to about 35 pounds and Destanee wore it all.

After a tour of air traffic control facilities -- including the tower and radar room -- the group headed to Ground Training and the T-45C flight simulator.

Lunch consisted of pizzas at the Captain's Club, and after a morning spent learning about flying and air operations, Destanee rounded out her day on board the base with a visit to the Fire Department, where she toured the fire house, tried on firefighter gear, took a ride in a fire truck, and sprayed water from a fire hose. Afterwards, Destanee enjoyed cake with the fire crew, and was designated an Honorary Firefighter.

Her day on board concluded back at the VT-22 squadron where she posed for group photos and was presented a Certificate on behalf of the squadron and the Wing designating her as an Honorary Aviator.



BHC Kingsville Sailor is area-wide SOY

By HM2 Cyrus Cunningham

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (Fleet Marine Force) Jacob Welch of Branch Health Clinic (BHC) Kingsville captured the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi overall Junior Sailor of the Year title at a command-wide competition in Corpus Christi Dec. 7. Welch competed with his peers from the Corpus Christi clinic and its three BHCs located at Fort Worth, Ingleside, and Kingsville.

"It is a great honor to even be considered for Junior Sailor of the Year, much less, actually winning it," stated Welch. "Our command has represented very well in Corpus Christi by winning three of the four FY 2009 Junior Sailor of the Quarter boards, so the competition here was obviously very tight."

Welch hails from Joshua, Texas and enlisted the Navy in 2002. He joined the BHC Kingsville team in 2006 and serves as assistant leading petty officer for the Family Practice clinic.

Welch also represented BHC Kingsville in Corpus Christi as Junior Sailor of the Quarter (JSOQ), Third Quarter and garnered the top overall JSOQ title,

HM2 (FMF)
Jacob Welch

Branch
Health Clinic
Kingsville



Third Quarter there.

"Hard work, dedication and the combined help of my fellow sailors and chain of command helped me to prepare for the board," said Welch about the stiff JSOY competition that he faced at the core facility.

Welch is extensively involved in the community through youth outreach programs and volunteer work during off-time, as well as furthering his education by attending college classes.

Welch recently returned from a 7-month deployment at EMF Kuwait and is currently preparing to transition to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7 in Gulfport, Miss., for his next duty station.



Branch Health Clinic Kingsville Note: H1N1 Vaccines are currently being administered to all ACTIVE DUTY personnel assigned on board the Naval Air Station. For those who did not receive their vaccinations prior to Dec. 23, the Clinic will be administering them next week between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the Clinic conference room. Once all active duty personnel have received their vaccinations, civilian and contract employees will be scheduled.

Energy: Office/Home Energy Checklist

Below is a simple checklist of energy conservation/efficiency measures to use at the office or at home:

- Replace incandescent lights with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) or light-emitting diodes (LEDs) for desk lamps and overhead lighting. Using CFLs instead of comparable incandescent bulbs can save about 50 percent on your lighting costs. CFLs use only one-fourth the energy and last up to 10 times longer.
- Switch off all unnecessary lights. Use dimmers, motion sensors, or occupancy sensors to automatically turn off lighting when not in use to reduce energy use and costs.
- Turn off lights when you leave at night.
- Use natural lighting or daylighting. When feasible, turn off lights near windows.
- Use task lighting; instead of brightly lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it, to directly illuminate work areas.
- Use energy efficient ENERGY STAR® products.
- In the winter months, open blinds on south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your workspace. At night, close the blinds to reduce heat loss at night.
- Unplug equipment that drains energy when not in use (i.e. cell phone chargers, fans, coffeemakers, desktop printers, radios, etc.).
- Turn off your computer and monitors at the end of the work day, if possible. If you leave your desk for an extended time, turn off your monitor. (See Office Equipment.)
- Turn off photocopier at night or purchase a new copier with low standby feature. Purchase printers and fax machines with power management feature and use it.
- Clean or change furnace filters once a month during the heating season. Check furnace ducts for disconnects or leaks.
- Insulate water heater, hot water piping and tanks to reduce heat loss.
- Install low-flow toilets and shower heads.
- Verify the energy management system (EMS) switches into setback mode during unoccupied hours. Also, time clocks and computer controls may need adjustments after power outages or seasonal time changes.
- Visit Businesses Can Save Energy this Winter with Help from EPA and ENERGY STAR for 5 steps to save energy this winter. The steps are based on lessons learned from ENERGY STAR business and organization partners.
- Save paper. Photocopy only what you need. Always use the second side of paper, either by printing on both sides or using the blank side as scrap paper.
- Collect your utility bills. Separate electricity and fuel bills. Target the largest energy consumer or the largest bill for energy conservation measures.
- Carpool, bike, or use mass transit when commuting to work.
- To save gas: drive the speed limit, accelerate and decelerate slower, and make sure tires are pumped up.
- Use coffee mugs instead of disposable cups.

Cactus Bowl Volunteers Needed

The 2010 NCAA Division II Cactus Bowl all star game will be played at Texas A&M Kingsville's Javelina Stadium Jan. 9. The game features some of the best Div. II players in the country - and perhaps, some future NFL stars.

A pregame "Meet the Players" Texas-style BBQ dinner and Silent Auction will be held at the JK Northway Coliseum Jan. 6, and NAS Kingsville supports this annual event through volunteers. The NAS Kingsville Public Affairs Office is currently looking for 30 volunteers to help with the festivities Jan. 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. NASK volunteers will work on the food service with people from other local businesses who support the cactus Bowl and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Volunteering for the Meet the Players BBQ is fun and it shows the players that the Navy is part of the local community. If you'd like to volunteer your time to this event, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 516-6375.

Working Outdoors in Cold Weather

Who can forget the fond memories and the scenes of the South Texas snow of winter 2004? They are hard to forget. Nonetheless, we must all be cognizant of the hazards brought forth with the advent of winter.

Cold weather hazards are nothing to fool around with. The cold weather can seriously injure or kill workers and including winter sports participants and enthusiasts. Make sure your workers know how to cope with cold conditions and how to recognize danger when working outdoors.

With the arrival of the cold weather comes the need to properly dress for the outdoors. For the next few months, many workers will be required to work briefly or for sustained periods in cold weather conditions and will face the special hazards that such work entails.

The two main health hazards of over-exposure to cold weather are frostbite and hypothermia.

Frostbite occurs when body tissues freeze. Most often, frostbite affects fingers, toes, nose, cheeks, and ears. Frostbite can cause permanent tissue damage and loss of movement in affected parts. Though this is not common here in the local area, the temperatures can go below 32° F at times.

Hypothermia occurs as the result of exposure to cold, which can send body temperatures down to dangerously low levels. Hypothermia can even occur in above-freezing temperatures when it's windy, or when a person is exhausted or wearing wet clothes. Untreated, hypothermia can lead to unconsciousness and death.

There are other safety hazards involved with working in the cold. For example, the cold can affect the function of hands and fingers so that a worker loses feeling and dexterity, making it difficult to handle tools, equipment, and materials, thereby increasing the chance of a mishap.

The cold can also affect a worker's mood. Workers who are cold and uncomfortable may be less alert to hazards or may rush to get a job done so that they can get inside and get warm.

People who constantly work outdoors will tell you that one of the keys to working safely in the cold is to consider the wind chill factor.

The wind chill factor can account for

as much as 80 percent of total body heat loss on a cold day.

“Different combinations of air temperature and wind speed can present the same hazards. For example, when the air is calm and the temperature is 1°C [about 34° F] the body will feel cool. The same temperature with 40 km/h [about 25 mph] winds can produce bitter coldness. The wind blows away the thin layer of air that acts as an insulator between the skin and the outside air.”

So on windy, cold days, the risk to employees working outdoors increases dramatically. And it's a risk that workers might not even be aware of until it's too late.

Wearing the right clothing is essential to protect against cold weather and to prevent heat loss. The cold weather work clothes should:

- Provide high insulation.
- Allow the escape of moisture from within.
- Resist wetting from outside.
- Shed snow.
- Have a means of varying insulation and airflow.
- Not restrict movement.
- Have minimum weight and bulk.
- Be easy to put on and take off.
- Be durable.

The following cold weather clothing system is recommended:

Cotton shirt and shorts should be worn under thermal underwear. Long underwear in a two-piece style is better than one single garment. The fit should be loose so that blood vessels are not constricted. High wool socks are recommended. Socks should encourage evaporation of sweat. Stretch socks restrict circulation. Wool and quilted pants or lined thermal types are recommended. Pants should be roomy and worn with suspenders rather than a belt, because belts are constricting.

The best boots are felt-lined, rubber-bottomed, and leather-topped with removable insoles. Footwear should be waterproof and reach high up the leg. A wool shirt (cotton or synthetic shirt worn under for those allergic to wool) should be worn over underwear tops and suspenders with shirttail worn outside pants to aid ventilation. Wool knit caps or hat liners that extend down the back of the neck should be worn. A balaclava (ski mask) provides further face protection.

Workers who can't afford reduced



NAS Kingsville's White Christmas, 2004

vision on the job can wear facemasks. Facemasks should be removed periodically to check for frostbite. Mittens offer the best protection over gloves but limit finger movement. On very cold days, it's wise to carry both.

Fortunately, there are additional simple precautions employees can take to minimize cold weather risks. For example: Keeping active while outdoors in the cold; taking frequent breaks in a warm place; changing out of wet clothes; being familiar with and watching for frostbite and hypothermia symptoms; or moving into a warm place if feeling very cold or numb. It's also important for employees who work outside in the cold weather to be mindful of factors that increase the risk of frostbite and hypothermia, such as: age; weight; smoking and drinking; certain medications, allergies, or poor circulation; wind chill; and failure to recognize symptoms and take prompt action.

Make sure your employees can recognize frostbite and hypothermia symp-

toms and know the proper first aid for each. Frostbite symptoms vary from feeling extremely cold, numb, tingly, or achy, especially in the extremities and white or grayish-yellow glossy skin, sometimes followed by blisters.

Treat frostbite by warming the frozen body part with blankets or warm (not hot) water.

Don't rub affected body parts, break blisters, or give victims caffeinated drinks. Don't warm victims with a hot stove, fire, heat lamp, or hot water bottle. Exercise warmed body part (but stay off frostbitten feet). Get medical attention.

Symptoms for hypothermia include chills, shivering, numbness, slurred speech, poor coordination, confusion and drowsiness. Treat hyperthermia by covering the victim with blankets and/or provide body heat. Don't give hot bath or use electric blanket or hot water bottle. Keep victim awake. Get medical attention.

Prepare yourself and avoid injuries while working or playing outdoors during the winter.

Retirement a “tough road ahead” for 36-year NAS Kingsville employee

By Jon Gagne, NASK Public Affairs

For the last 36 years, NAS Kingsville has been a home-away-from-home for Shirley Brzenski. Driving to the air station each workday since 1973 has become such a normal routine for the 63-year-old Kingsville native that at times, her car seems to follow the route to the base on auto-pilot. But as of Dec. 31, that will all change as Brzenski officially retires from Civil Service.

“I’m not sure how I’ll spend my time once I’m officially retired,” Brzenski said last week at a luncheon in her honor at the NAS Kingsville Captain’s Club. “I really can’t believe I’ve worked on the base for 36 years, but I have. And honestly, I’ve enjoyed every minute of it. Retirement is going to be a difficult transition for me; but, I’m ready for it.”

It’s safe to say that Brzenski has become an icon of sorts. She is among but a handful of people who have worked on board the base for more than 30 years, and as the air station’s mission was fine-tuned, Brzenski simply adapted to the changes.

“I started as a clerk at the ‘old’ Navy Exchange, which is now home to the MWR Fitness Center,” Brzenski recalled. “After a while I assumed the job of department manager, with two employees, responsible for ordering special items for the store.”

Brzenski would later move on the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department (MWR) as a clerk typist and purchasing clerk and a few other roles before finally bridging into the Civil Service system as a property clerk with the Public Works Department in 1990.

Two years later, Brzenski moved again - this time to the NAS Kingsville Supply Department as purchasing supervisor with three employees and the responsible for purchasing, invoice payment, and managing the petty cash fund.

When the command credit card program came into existence in 1996, Brzenski was the perfect person to take on the challenge. In her new role as Agency Program Coordinator, Brzenski brought the program to life, held training for card users and approving officials, and maintained a careful and watchful eye over base expenditures. Sometimes, she’d even have to remind people that program rules and regulations were there for a purpose; and that there were no ex-

ceptions.

“NAS Kingsville and Naval Station Ingleside were the first two commands in South Texas to establish the new program,” Brzenski recalled. “Once we got our program up and running, we brought the other Texas commands online. It was my responsibility to make sure the program followed the guidelines established by the Department of the Navy,” Brzenski said. “So, yes, sometimes I was pretty head-strong when it came to doing things by the book. But the bottom line was,” Brzenski added, “that I was tasked by the Commanding Officer to ensure the program was run correctly. So, that’s what I did.”

When the Supply Department reorganized under the Fleet Industrial Supply Center, Jacksonville, Fla., in 2000, Brzenski assumed the official title of Agency Program Coordinator for NAS Kingsville. She moved her office into the NASK headquarters building, serving as a special assistant to the commanding officer. But the change in locations didn’t stop her from keeping a tight rein on the program.

Occasionally, Brzenski admits, she ruffled feathers. On other occasions, she simply sat down with the card holders and provided on-the-job-training. “But there were other times,” Brzenski added, “when I became a little out-spoken. But, that’s what was needed.”

Brzenski’s efforts did not go unnoticed. During her career she has been named employee of the quarter several times, and in 2003, Brzenski was named the air station’s Manager of the Year for her work with the credit card program. In 2008, she was selected as the air station’s Sr. Civilian Employee of the Year.

“I’ve always felt that those awards were special because they meant that the command and my fellow workers appreciated what I did,” Brzenski said. “But I’m really just one part of a great team that is charged with taking care of our Sailors. That’s what we’re all here to do, and that’s the approach I’ve always taken with any job I’ve had on base.”

She and her husband Dan Brzenski Sr. met in 1971 when he was on active duty stationed at VT-23 working the night shift at the squadron. Since he worked nights, Dan took a job at the Kingsville H-E-B during the day, and that’s where the two first met.

“I’d like to say it was love at first sight,” Shirley chuckled, “But it wasn’t.”



FOND FAREWELL!
36-year NASK employee Shirley Brzenski cuts the cake at her retirement luncheon at the Captain’s Club Dec. 16.

(Photo by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs).

Still, there was enough of a spark that pulled them together - a relationship that hit 38-years this past May. They have raised three sons. The oldest, Ronnie passed away in 1998. Younger brothers Dan Jr., 36, and Michael, 34, live in Kingsville. Shirley says the greatest joy in her life are her six grandchildren: Daniel, 14; Kiara, 10; Kyle, 8; Kourtney, 4; Caedance, 4; and Korban, 1.

The turnout for retirement luncheon caught Shirley by surprise. In addition to a large number of co-workers and family members, a number of old friends also

showed up - including former NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer and current CNA-TRA Chief of Staff Capt. James Crabbe.

“I was just blown away by the number of people who showed up for the luncheon,” Brzenski said, fighting to hold back tears. “[The luncheon] was a very nice way for me to say goodbye, and I am very grateful to Anna Carvajal, Viola Glasgow, Maryann Shramko, Monette Walker, Norma Cano and everybody else who helped put the luncheon together. I will miss them all, but I will stay in touch. I wish the very best for the command and the people who work here.”



Shirley and her husband Dan enjoy lunch with Cmdr. Allen



Navy beats Army; headed to Texas Bowl

Last Saturday's 110th Army-Navy clash in Philadelphia in front of more than 69,000 fans and a national television audience provided two different scenarios. The first half was battle of defensive units, with Army taking the advantage - and a 3-0 lead into the intermission. The second half was all Navy. The end result was a 17-3 victory for the Midshipmen, their eighth straight against the Cadets (5-7). The win improved the Middies' to 9-4 on the season heading into their Reliant Texas Bowl clash with Missouri (8-4) Dec. 31 in Houston.

Navy took control of their game with Army in the third quarter as the Midshipmen took the opening kickoff and put together an 11-play, 68-yard drive that resulted in a 25-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Ricky Dobbs to Marcus Curry. Navy added a field goal on their next possession, closing out a 12-play, 55-yard drive to take a 10-3 lead. The Midshipmen added another touchdown in the fourth quarter to put the game out of reach, as Dobbs dove over center for a 1-yard scoring run.

With the win, Navy heads into the Texas Bowl Dec. 31 to take on a tough Missouri squad that finished second in the Big 12 North Division this season. The Tigers will be making their fifth straight bowl appearance and sixth in the last eight years.

The Tigers are led by a trio of first team All-Big 12 selections in senior wide receiver Danario Alexander, senior linebacker Sean Witherspoon and sophomore kicker Grant Ressel. Alexander tops the nation in receiving yards per game, averaging 137.0 per contest. Freshman defensive end Aldon Smith was named the Big 12 defensive freshman of the year after registering 11 sacks on the season.

Navy head coach Ken Niumatalolo is cautious when he talks about Navy's chances against Missouri. "Missouri is a great football team and they will provide a tremendous challenge for us," Niumatalolo said.

The bowl game will be televised nationally on ESPN, and more than 400 fans representing NAS Kingsville will be in the stands, thanks to free tickets to the game courtesy of the Naval Academy.



Cheese Pizza takes intramural football title: Cheese Pizza, student aviators and instructor pilots from VT-21 and VT-22 won the MWR 2009 Flag Football League Championship Dec. 14. The team waltzed their way through the season unbeaten and then shut town Air Operations in the championship game. NALF Orange Grove finished in third place, rounding out the top three teams. The champs received a plaque and a gift card for a team dinner at Chili's, courtesy of MWR. Photo by Renee Hill.



Navy players celebrate as they leave the field after beating Army, 17-3 Dec. 12 in Philadelphia. The win clinched the Commander-in-Chief's trophy for Navy for the fifth straight year and gave the Midshipment a 9-4 record for the season. Next stop for Navy is the Reliant Texas Bowl in Houston, Dec. 31. Kickoff is at 2:30 p.m. and the game will be broadcast on ESPN. More than 400 fans from NAS Kingsville will be on hand to root Navy on to Victory. (U.S. Navy photo).

