



NASK fire department is best

By Fifi Kieschnick, NASK Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Kingsville's Fire and Emergency Services Department has been named the Navy's best. And, the firefighters are being led by the Navy's best – their fire chief.

The NAS Kingsville fire department was recently selected at the Navy's 2009 Fire Department of the Year for medium-size installations in its annual Fire and Emergency Services Awards program. Fire Chief Ruben Perez has been recognized as the Navy's best fire chief.

The department and its 46 firefighters were recognized for their work in a wide variety of areas, ranging from their internal training program to their broad community fire prevention efforts.

"Our fire department – led by Chief Perez – represents one of the best examples of Kingsville pride on board our naval air station," said Capt. Phil Waddingham, commanding officer of NAS Kingsville. "It makes me proud to see [them] get this high

level of recognition. Fire Chief Perez and his team can be justifiably proud!"

Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale, Commander, Navy Installations Command, congratulated all Navy fire and emergency service awards winners and nominees.

"Competition at this level is very keen," he stated, "and selecting this year's Navy winners was extremely challenging.

"All participants should be very proud of their professional achievements and well-deserved recognition," Vitale said.

Rear Adm. Townsend "Tim" Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, echoed CNIC's remarks. "I'm very proud of the entire force and am especially pleased to see our superstars recognized with these prestigious awards. Well done, and thanks for keeping us all safe," Alexander stated.

Several things have made the Kingsville fire department stand out, says Perez. "We provide the highest level of fire protection in direct support of our nation's interests," the

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Firefighters from the NAS Kingsville Fire & Emergency Services Department hose down a mock aircraft fire during a recent training exercise on board the air station. The Fire Department maintains an aggressive training program for all firefighters to ensure that the staff is prepared for any type of emergency. (Photo by Jon Gagné, NASK Public Affairs.)



Ground Electronics' ET1 (SW) Daniel Tapia conducts maintenance checks in the Air Operations Radar Facility. Tapia was recently selected as the Navy and Marine Corps' 2009 Air Traffic Control Technician of the Year. Photo by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs.

Tapia is ATC Technician of the Year

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The selections of the Navy and Marine Corps 2009 Air Traffic Controller and Air Traffic Control Technician of the Year were announced last week and one NAS Kingsville Sailor was at the top of the list. Electronics Technician 1st Class (Surface Warfare) Daniel Tapia was selected as the Vice Adm. William P. Lawrence Technician of the Year honors over a strong field of candidates from Navy and Marine Corps commands worldwide.

"Petty Officer Tapia's devotion to duty and superior technical skill continually set him apart from the rest of his peers," said Air Operations Officer Lt. Cmdr. Dave Anderson. "These qualities are on display daily, whether he is repairing a high-profile system or simply doing routine preventive maintenance. As the command's lead air surveil-

lance radar, STARS and 2M technician, he was responsible for the preventive and corrective maintenance of these high profile air traffic control systems critical to mission completion and safety of flight."

In addition, Anderson added that Petty Officer Tapia's commitment and superior technical skill were displayed throughout NAS Kingsville's \$11.5M National Airspace System Modernization (NASMOD) installation which took place from February to July 2009.

In preparation for the installation, Tapia contributed more than 50 off-duty hours, overcame aggressive time tables, rapidly completed 15 maintenance procedures and performed 12 emergent corrective maintenance actions on 11 major air traffic control

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Capt. Phil Waddingham
Commanding Officer
NAS Kingsville



From the Bridge

The term “team” gets used a lot around here, doesn’t it? Some say it’s just a saying, others think it’s merely ‘business speak’ and doesn’t really apply to how we operate here. In fairness, the majority of the folks and their associated organizations that make up “Team Kingsville” do “get it.” For these, the term is not just a bumper sticker slogan, it has real meaning. In fact, I think you can argue that they have embraced the concept, and have institutionalized it into their day-to-day manner of mission accomplishment.

As your base commanding officer, I’ll go on record as saying that for the most part, I believe what we have here at NAS Kingsville are some of the best examples of teamwork I have ever observed in my 26 years of active Naval service. Let me provide you a few examples.

One such organization is the NAS Kingsville Fire and Emergency Services Department, led by Fire Chief Ruben Perez. In the interest of space, I will not tell the whole story of how his organization recently was chosen as the Navy’s Fire and Emergency Services Department of the Year (read story on page 1), but I do

want to share some of Chief Perez’ words when I announced the news. Chief Perez, also chosen as the Navy’s Fire Chief of the Year, stated, “The award is a reflection of the teamwork atmosphere/support (NAS Kingsville) leadership and staff has instilled upon us on a daily basis. The Fire Department has received support from all NAS Kingsville departments and it has made a difference. We truly are TEAM KINGSVILLE!”

To Fire Chief Perez and his entire organization, I say this: You and your team reflect great pride on your unit, on NAS Kingsville, and on the U.S. Navy. Thank you for what you do in supporting NAS Kingsville’s mission, and in particular, our primary mission of supporting Training Air Wing Two. You have made me, and all of us assigned to NAS Kingsville and its tenant commands, extremely proud. Well done!

Another example of Team Kingsville’s finest is the recent selection of ET1 Daniel Tapia, of the NAS Kingsville Air Operations Ground Electronics Branch. ET1 Tapia was chosen from a list of frontrunners from among all U.S. Navy aviation shore commands as the best Air Traffic Control Technician in the Navy (read story page 1). The NAS Kingsville Ground Electronics Branch is responsible for keeping the high tech equipment like radars, navigational beacons, and radios used to safely conduct flight operations in support of Training Air Wing Two and CNATRA at peak operational efficiency. Often times, it means getting down and dirty and spending countless

hours troubleshooting a faulty system after normal airfield hours, so as to get a critical system back to full mission capable status before the next day’s flight operations begin.

To ET1 Tapia, I say: Your selection marks a significant milestone in your career, and it is a credit to your professionalism and expertise, and reflects well on you, the Ground Electronics Branch, NAS Kingsville Air Operations, Team Kingsville, and the U.S. Navy. Well done!

NAS Kingsville is the proud home of Training Air Wing Two, and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, U.S. Army Reserve, as well as 16 other tenant commands and organizations. The individual tenant commands, each with their own chain of command and mission priorities, must rely on one another to some degree to get the job done. As far as this goes, we are no different than any other U.S. Navy installation.

As your base commanding officer, all tenant commands should rest assured that your priorities become my team’s priorities, and it is my number one job to provide the best reliable and sustainable shore infrastructure and services within existing resources to enable and support the fleet, fighter, and family. Team Kingsville deserves nothing less, and although some things take time (the following are examples of some of the projects that conceptually started over two and a half years ago: Chapel, new fitness center, renovated barracks, new Navy Gateway Inns & Suites, hangar repairs, jet engine test cell, runway resurfacing and repairs, new Radar

Air Traffic Control facility, communications upgrades at NALF Orange Grove and NAS Kingsville, new carrier box lighting at NALF Orange Grove, building integrated photovoltaics, new electrical infrastructure, smart electrical meters, photovoltaic array, Subway restaurant, new air park and main boulevard esplanade, HVAC upgrades to the Ground Training Simulator Building, and our number one military construction project--a new Ground Training Simulator building). We at NAS Kingsville continue to fight the good fight and seek ways to make the base more efficient, increase our readiness, and improve the quality of life for everyone on board.

But I’m a realist. I understand that I can’t make everyone happy. Recently I had the opportunity to read several student end-of-course critiques (this is a regular step in their check-out process). In the section provided to allow for feedback on base services, one student remarked how the gym was “great,” and another remarked that the base is doing “everything right.” Another felt that the gym was “crumbling” and “more attention needed to be paid to existing buildings” and such. In the span of approximately five minutes, I read comments from both ends of the spectrum. What you may not realize is that I take them both equally seriously. Well-written, constructive feedback is always desired and welcome.

Again, congratulations to our award-ees. Keep doing what you are doing, and individually, collectively, and as a team, we will make a difference. ATB, Skipper W

Deckplate Leadership



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



Team Kingsville,

On May 6, I will be joining members of the Kingsville Navy League and the Kingsville Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for lunch at the Sirloin Stockade in downtown Kingsville. What makes this event special is that the Navy League is honoring our Sailors of the Quarter (SOQ) for the 1st Quarter. The awardees are: AC1(AW) Jarred Lee; ABH2(AW) Jesus Martinez; and ACAA Robert Chamberlain, all from the Air Operations Department. Congratulations on your selection as SOQ shipmates!

Capt. Waddingham recognized each of these Sailors last week at the monthly NAS Kingsville Quarters and Awards ceremony at the Captain’s Club. The Navy League and VFW hold quarterly luncheons as well to recognize our top Sailors and we certainly appreciate their support of what we do here. It’s always a fun lunch to attend, and certainly, I’m proud as can be to represent these Sailors who, in turn, represent all of us.

And speaking of the monthly quarters and awards event, Capt. Waddingham also presented two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals at the ceremony highlighting superior performance and leadership. Both were end-of-tour awards, but they were also well-deserved. Receiving their NAMs were AC2 Nathan Guffey and AC2 Jeremy Whiteley. Congratulations, guys!

In addition to all of that, last week, we found out that another NAS Kingsville Sailor had won a very competitive Navywide

award. ET1(SW) Daniel Tapia, from our Ground Electronics Division, was selected as the Navy’s Air Traffic Control Technician of the Year. This is an extremely prestigious award because every aviation shore command in the Navy nominates a candidate. ET1 Tapia, well done shipmate!

And how about Ruben Perez our NAS Kingsville Fire Chief? Last week he was selected as the Navy Fire Chief of the Year.

What’s even more impressive is the fact that under Ruben’s leadership, our NAS Kingsville Fire Department was selected as the Navy Fire Department of the Year. A “Job Well Done!” to Ruben and all of our Team Kingsville Firefighters!

A common trait shared by all seven of these Team Kingsville members is outstanding leadership. That’s right, even ACAA Chamberlain, the junior member of this group, is demonstrating leadership in the work center. These leaders demonstrate lead-

ership by setting the example in what they do every day. They do the right thing for the right reason. They work hard to get the job done efficiently and safely. They work hard to support their division and their department. And more importantly, as members of Team Kingsville, they work hard to support other divisions, other departments, and other activities -- ‘One Team One Fight!’

It’s a pleasure being part of this group of individuals who come together to support each other and the team as a whole.

I know many more of you are making significant contributions to your work centers and to Team Kingsville. You should know that what you do on a daily basis is appreciated by all of us. I’d like to close by thanking each and every one of you for your hard work and your contributions to the “Team.”

You’re all winners to me.

Regards,
CMC

Student pilots, instructors complete carrier qualification detachment

Training Squadrons VT-21 and VT-22 students and instructor pilots participated in a carrier qualification detachment to Cecil Field, Fla., April 24-27 to carrier-qualify on board USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), off the Florida coast. Rear Adm. William Sizemore, Chief of Naval Air Training, and his Chief of Staff, Capt. James Crabbe, joined Training Air Wing TWO Commander Capt. Mark Brooks and Training Air Wing ONE Commander Capt. Keith Taylor for the training detachment.

Eight student aviators participated in hopes of completing their final training requirement, with six students achieving qualification. Seven instructor pilots also qualified during the detachment, including an Air Force U-2 pilot.

Lt. Matthew Edwards, a P-3 transition pilot assigned to VT-22 earned the Top Hook Award for the highest score during qualifications with a GPA of 2.76.



Carrier Quals:

Above, Sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) stand by as a T-45C Goshawk training aircraft assigned to Training Air Wing TWO launches from the ship. George H.W. Bush is conducting carrier qualifications in the Atlantic Ocean. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Nicholas Hall). Left, Sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) push a T-45C Goshawk training aircraft assigned to Training Air Wing TWO on the ship's flight deck. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Daniel S. Moore).



Air Ops Sailor signs on for additional 4 years

Air Traffic Controller 3rd Class Scott Jordan took the oath of enlistment April 22, at a reenlistment ceremony at the Air Operations Department. Lt. Jody Kite, air traffic control division officer, served as reenlisting officer.

Jordan, 23, who hails from Fort Lee, Va., entered the Navy in April 2006, and reported to NAS Kingsville two months ago. His first Navy assignment was on board USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).



Above left, AC3 Scott Jordan goes over his reenlistment with NAS Kingsville Career Counselor QM2 Monica Crump prior to taking the oath of enlistment from Lt. Jody Kite (right) in the Air Operations lobby April 22. Above insert, Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff congratulates Jordan on his decision to "Stay Navy." Jordan's reenlistment also netted a \$12,500 bonus. (Photos by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs).

The Flying K

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on the info line add: Direct Line

Faith, hope and life --two wings and a prayer



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



will never forget our landings, as all air landings are in my prayers; especially this one, since my faith was tested.

After pulling a few G's we banked left, and "Opie" brought us in for a perfect landing. My prayers were answered once again. I always pray for safe landings for all our Naval aviators, especially here at NAS Kingsville.

The carrier qualifications detachment went well. Both training wings from NAS Kingsville and NAS Meridian were there flying their hearts out. The best Naval aviators were also there, making sure that our new air warriors demonstrated their training, as training morphed into valuable experience.

The word that best describes the whole operation for both air wings coming together with the crew of USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) would be "trust." You must trust that all Sailors in the operation are doing what they are trained to do. Flying jets, all air crews, both on land and sea, must work together trusting each other and the instruments that are maintained to make flight and landing possible. It takes both wings and a prayer to overcome our finite abilities; to soar above the things in this world and live out our

As I mentioned in my last column in the April 23 issue, last week I had the opportunity to experience my first flight in a T-45 Goshawk. It was also my first opportunity to participate in Training Air Wing TWO's monthly carrier landing qualification detachments which took place aboard the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), off the coast of Florida.

Flying in a Navy jet was just what I expected – very exciting and enlightening; two wings and a prayer. It takes trust, training, and prayer to fly as an eagle. The training Cmdr. Ted "Opie" Muery gave was amazing, as he demonstrated the life of a Navy fighter pilot. He used all his Navy training and experience to plot a flight to Pensacola to refuel, and then we completed our flight to Cecil Field near NAS Jacksonville, Fla. I

freedoms.

Faith in a prayer gives hope to all, so we can live our lives trusting one another. Where there is trust, there is flight. Thank you for all your prayers as we continue to support our freedoms that we enjoy in our homes, communities, and the "Good Ol' USA."

To God be the glory, as we continue to build our faith and hopes into a life we can trust.

In God we can trust, as we fly with two wings and a prayer.

Religious Ministries Chapel Services

Sunday: Family Bible Services with Children's Church, 9:30 a.m.
Catholic Mass, 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Noon Bible Study

Wednesday: Catholic Noon Lent Season Mass; Officer Christian Fellowship, 7 p.m.

Thursday: Catholic Choir practice, 4:30 p.m.; Prayer/Music Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

All events take place in the Chaplain's multi-purpose room, Bldg. 2741.

Come Join Us!

Stay tuned for the grand opening of our new Chapel ... coming soon!



Mission Accomplished!

Chaplain Mark Haley gives a thumbs-up after arriving on board USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) last week. The ship was conducting carrier qualifications training off the Florida coast and hosted personnel from Training Air Wing TWO and Training Air Wing ONE (NAS Meridian) April 23-26. Haley not only got to experience his first flight in a T-45, he also got to make his first carrier landing!

Marriage Enrichment Retreat May 14-16, Omni Hotel

The Retreat is free to NAS Kingsville personnel, and begins Friday at 7 p.m. and concludes Sunday after lunch. The Retreat is designed to encourage healthy marriages and to help couples grow. It is not designed for couples who need significant counseling.

This is a great opportunity to have a great weekend with your spouse. We need to invest in our relationships and this is a great investment opportunity without any cost to you. Investing in our marriages is mission readiness.

Please check your calendars and see if you can make this vital investment being held May 14-16. There are only a few spots left to fill! Call the Chaplain's Office at (361) 516-6331 or register directly at the CREDO Southeast office 904 542-4914.

During the Retreat, couples discover ways to:

- Nurture their marriage
- Handle the inevitable conflicts
- Establish roles and boundaries
- Discover their spouses love language
- Build intimacy and communication
- Strengthen the emotional, physical, and spiritual aspects of their marriage

Who should attend? Couples seeking greater satisfaction, closeness, and genuineness in their marriage. As always, there is no charge to the participants, as CREDO will pay for the entire weekend.



National Day of Prayer Celebrated



Approximately 25 members of Team Kingsville gathered at the Headquarters Building flagpole on Thursday, May 6, as Chaplain Mark Haley led them in celebrating the National Day of Prayer. Chaplain Haley led prayers for students and instructors flying, families, all military personnel, and Rear Adm. William Sizemore, chief of naval air training, to name a few. The program was followed by a fun run. (U.S. Navy Photos by Jon Gagne, RELEASED)



Youth Center 4-H recognized at Kleberg County Courthouse ceremony

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The NAS Kingsville Youth Center's 4-H Club participated in a proclamation reading by Kleberg County Judge Pete De La Garza at the Kleberg County Courthouse April 26, in honor of Month of the Military Child.

The proclamation recognized military 4-H Clubs and NAS Kingsville's Youth Center as one of the most active programs in the state. The event provided youngsters the opportunity to talk about the impacts of the 4-H Club, in addition to hearing Judge De La Garza read the proclamation and discuss the importance of the Month of the Military Child.

According to YAC Director Brent Edwards, 4-H After School is a special-focused effort within the 4-H Youth Development Program that helps 4-H and other youth-serving organizations create and improve after school programs in urban, suburban and rural communities across the U.S.

"4-H After School is one of the delivery methods through which 4-H programming is implemented," Edwards said. "The program gives community-based organizations access to the considerable resources of 4-H and the Cooperative Extension System of the nation's land-grant universities and the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture).

"Our primary goals in 4-H After School are to provide youth development training to after-school program staff, make hands-on curricula available to children in after-school programs, and organize 4-H Clubs in after-school programs."

The NAS Kingsville program includes electing youth officers for 4-H, promoting knowledge of 4-H programs and requirements, holding monthly meetings, coordinating 4-H projects, and conducting social recreation among members.



The NAS Kingsville Youth Center's 4-H Club participated in a proclamation reading by Kleberg County Judge Pete De La Garza, far left, at the Kleberg County Courthouse April 26, in honor of Month of the Military Child. The proclamation recognized military 4-H Clubs, and NAS Kingsville's Youth Center as one of the most active programs in the state. The event provided youngsters the opportunity to talk about the impacts of the 4-H Club, in addition to hearing Judge De La Garza read the proclamation and discuss the month's importance.

The opportunity to have Judge De La Garza participate in the ceremony was presented to Edwards by Frank Escobedo, Kleberg County's 4-H extension agent.

"After talking with Frank we decided the ceremony would be a great way to get our youth involved," Edwards said. "So, we decided to empower the children by having them recite the 4-H Pledge, 4-H Motto, and

talk a little about what the 4-H program meant to them. I think the children did a great job relating their thoughts to the judge and everyone else that attended the ceremony."

Edwards turned the planning of the ceremony itself over to the 4-H president, Dominic Torres, who held a meeting with 4-H members and selected two other children to speak at the ceremony. Torres also charged

all members to join in reciting the 4-H pledge and motto.

As chapter president, Torres works closely with Youth Center program assistant Melodie Harris to outline specific goals of the club, come up with ideas for special projects and community service programs, and create 4-H event calendars.

Navy's FOCUS is DoD model program, assists military families cope with stress

By Judith Snyderman

Emerging Media, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON – A program that started three years ago to help Navy and Marine Corps families cope with stress from multiple deployments and other types of pressure has proven so successful it has become a model for the Defense Department.

Kirsten Woodward directs family programs at the Bureau of Navy Medicine and Surgery. She developed the multifaceted approach in partnership with the UCLA Health Services Research Center in 2007.

During a "DoD Live" bloggers roundtable recently, Woodward said a gap existed in the past between family social service programs

and medical mental health care services.

"There really wasn't anything in the middle, addressing both prevention and intervention," she said.

The program Woodward created -- called FOCUS, short for Families Overcoming Under Stress -- aims to fill that gap. The licensed clinical social worker said the goal is to offer practical help in situations where symptoms may be mild, acute or anywhere in between, and it aims to remove the stigma from seeking assistance.

FOCUS uses a color code to help families pinpoint current stress levels. Woodward explained the colors range from "green being 'good to go' and through the continuum to red being 'hot' or 'not good to go.'"

That baseline, she said, guides the entry tier of service best suited for clients. Woodward said the tiers range from education and guidance on stress prevention to skills-based peer learning groups geared to children, adolescents and adults.

The "bull's eye," or most intense treatment, she said, is multi-session resilience training. That course runs from eight to 10 weeks.

So far, about 97,000 people have tried it out at 10 Marine Corps and eight Navy locations. The staff at each site includes psychologists, social workers, licensed marriage family therapists and resilience trainers.

A year ago, Woodward said, the officials at the Pentagon's military community and

family policy office independently reviewed the program and cited it as a best-practice program. As a result, plans are under way to expand FOCUS to other branches of the military. So far, four Air Force and four Army locations are running pilot programs.

All members of the military community are eligible to tap into FOCUS services at any location where it's offered, Woodward said, noting there's no need to wait for stress to build to high levels before seeking help.

While she is pleased by studies that have proven the effectiveness of the program, Woodward said she is most gratified by the good word-of-mouth referrals the program has garnered.

NAS Kingsville Sailor is 2009 Air Traffic Control Technician of the Year

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systems. As a direct result of his technical expertise and leadership, the transition from NAS Kingsville's aging radar facility to the Transportable Air Traffic Control Facility (TATCF) was a complete success and allowed the Naval Space and Warfare System's installation team to start NASMOD installation four days ahead of schedule.

Tapia played a key role in the process by conducting critical system alignments and verification tests on three newly installed systems, which resulted in the on-time completion of this critical upgrade with zero impact to flight operations.

"Petty Officer Tapia is one of the best technicians I've ever worked with," said Ground Electronics Leading Chief ETCS Kirk Hurst. "He was nominated for the award because of his dedicated efforts prior to and during the 2009 Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) Quality Assurance inspection, and NAS Kingsville's \$11.5 million National Airspace System Modification upgrade. His innovative thinking, technical ability, leadership and hard work were instrumental in the unprecedented success of both of these major events."

Tapia was also recognized for his efforts in supervising and leading other Sailors within the Ground Electronics Division. In preparation for the 2M work center re-certification,

Tapia conducted 32 training evolutions with junior technicians and managed the complete inventory of more than 1,000 2M tools and spare parts, which led to the high marks NAS Kingsville's 2-M program received during re-certification.

Additionally, Tapia completed more than 100 microminiature repairs, saving the Navy more than \$150,000 in repair part costs, while quickly restoring eight critical systems to full mission capability.

"Petty Officer Tapia consistently displays sustained superior performance and unparalleled technical ability," said Lt. Sean Duncan, GE division officer. "His willingness to take on the toughest tasks and, in many cases, with no previous formal training has made him a valuable asset to this command. He is truly a superior Sailor and technician."

Going the extra mile to get the job done right is nothing new to Tapia. The Corsicana, Texas, native has spent more than 15 years in the Navy and served aboard three ships. He has used that experience to make himself the best technician he can be, and strives to pass his knowledge and work ethic on to his Sailors, the same way he benefited from his supervisors during his career.

"I'm very honored to be selected as technician of the year for the Navy," Tapia said recently. "I think this proves that when you have [qualified] people in leadership roles,



ET1 (SW) Daniel Tapia, right, and ETCS AW/SW Kirk Hurst check out one of the air traffic control computer systems in the Radar Approach Control Facility. Hurst serves as the Ground Electronics Division's leading Chief. (Photo by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs).

Sailors will learn and take advantage of their experience."

Tapia credits his award to his fellow Sailors within his division and the Air Operations Department. "We have the very best technicians and air traffic controllers at NAS Kingsville," Tapia said. "And I feel fortunate to work with them every day."

Editors Note:

A former NASK Sailor was also nominated for the Air Traffic Controller of the Year award. AC1 (AW/SW) Miguel Estrella, who departed NAS Kingsville last year, was nominated by USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).

Nominees for the Vice Adm. William P. Lawrence air traffic control Technician of the Year award were:

Cpl. Stephen Case, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan (First runner-up)

Cpl. Derek Fitch, MCAS Yuma, Ariz.

Sgt. Mallory Campbell, MACS 2, Det. C, Cherry Point, N.C.

ET3 Tamara Cochran, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69)

ET2(SW/AW) James Thomas, USS George Washington (CVN 73)

Cpl. Nathaniel Rambo, MCAF Quantico, Va.

Selected as the 2009 Air Traffic Controller of the Year was Sergeant Keith A. Atkinson of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C. Nominees included:

AC1 (Air/Surface Warfare) Luis A. Sedillo, NAS Oceana, Va. (First runner-up)

SSGT Matthew Robinson, MCAS Camp Pendleton, Calif.

AC1 (Air Warfare) Joshua Simon, USS George Washington (CVN 73)

SSGT Aaron Kawczk, MACS 2, Det. C, Cherry Point, N.C.

SGT Paul Valentin, MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan

AC1 (Air/Surface Warfare) Keith Adams, TACRON 21

AC1 (Air/Surface Warfare) Miguel Estrella, USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)

AC1 (Air Warfare) Anthony Swinton, USS Essex (LHD 2)



ET1 (SW) Daniel Tapia checks the wiring of an air traffic control computer in the Radar Approach Control Facility at the NASK Air Operations Department. The new, all-digital Radar Facility, was updated last year as part of an \$11.5 million National Airspace System Modernization (NASMOD) program that helped transform the air station into the most "modern air traffic control facility" in the Navy. (Photo by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs).



Capt. Phil Waddingham congratulates ET1 (SW) Daniel Tapia April 29 on his selection as the Navy's Air Traffic Control Technician of the Year. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs).

NAS Kingsville Fire Department, Fire Chief earn Navywide awards

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Portland, Texas, resident said.

Asst. Fire Chief Brian Marshall added that the NAS Kingsville fire department has grown tremendously over the years.

"We could do our job – put out fires," Marshall said about when he first came on board about 11 years ago. "But now, everything's improved – including training and certification requirements. One of the things we've been able to accomplish is that all firefighters are required to get certified above their pay grade. What that means is, they can all step into a leadership role should it become necessary."

In terms of operational support, the department responded to 260 emergency responses in 2009, without any fire loss. They also provided fire support to a 2,118-acre controlled burn for the air station, with a cost savings of \$69,000 in grounds maintenance.

Outside the fence line, the team assisted the Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Border Patrol by providing EMS and fire service support for several border operations including the removal of \$2.3 million in illegal drugs from a tanker at the Serita checkpoint.

NAS Kingsville firefighters are also proud of their customer service which includes: delivering cutting-edge fire presentations and public education programs to a diverse community of more than 3,500 adults and children; increasing department-level awards, accreditations and certifications; and, robust presence in the local community by volunteering and participating in community functions and parades. They are also

regular supporters of the command's Pilot For a Day program.

Kingsville's fire chief attributed his award to "... the teamwork, atmosphere and support (that NAS Kingsville) leadership and staff have instilled upon us on a daily basis," says Perez. "The fire department has received support from pretty much all NAS Kingsville departments and it has made a difference. We truly are 'Team Kingsville.'"

Perez adds that the best part of his job is "the challenge of ensuring NASK is in a continuous readiness mode to mitigate any type of emergency event aboard NAS Kingsville."

The most enjoyable aspect Perez said is "all the personnel at NASK are working with one common goal or guiding principle, which is training fighter pilots. You sense the pride and energy throughout the installation, it's truly one team."

Perez' future goals include acquiring the skills and tools to increase productivity by identifying and focusing on his top priorities. And, to "try to be the best role model and father to my children" he said.

The NAS Kingsville fire department and fire chief, along with the other 2009 Navy Fire and Emergency Services award winners, will be formally recognized at the Navy and Marine Corps Fire and Emergency Service Awards and Recognition Luncheon on Aug. 26, in Chicago.

The awardees automatically become the Navy's nominees for the DoD-wide Fire and Emergency Services Awards. DoD-level award winners will be announced at the DoD Fire and Emergency Services Training Conference being held Aug. 27.



Fire Chief of the Year Ruben Perez uses a mock-up of the flightline to demonstrate the firefighter's response during a mass casualty exercise prior to the 2010 Wings Over South Texas air show. Perez and the NAS Kingsville Fire Department will be recognized as 2009 Navy Fire and Emergency Services award winners in August at a recognition luncheon being held in Chicago. (Photo by Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs)



NAS Kingsville firefighters provide assistance to injured personnel during a recent training exercise on board the air station. Fire & Emergency Services personnel conduct training on a regular basis to prepare for contingency situations. Pictured left, Fire Department and Medical inspectors grade firefighters on how well they respond to a mock aircraft accident that included injured personnel. (Photos by Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs).



More than half of junior enlisted Sailors have retirement savings accounts

By Bruce Moody

CNIC, Fleet and Family Support Program

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- More than half the Navy's junior enlisted Sailors have retirement savings accounts through the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).

A report released April 10 by the Secretary of Defense's Office of Personal Finance, shows 62.7 percent of the Navy's active-duty E-4s as having TSP accounts.

As Sailors rise in pay grade, so do the numbers contributing to their retirement funds: while 39.5 percent of E-1s have set up a TSP account, the percentage increases to 50.4 percent for E-2s and to 56.4 percent for E-3s.

The manager for the Navy's Personal Financial Management program is located at Commander, Navy Installations Command HQ. Arnie Norem, the program manager, attributes the numbers to a training curriculum, which has been developed with Navy Education and Training Center and Center for Personal and Professional Development.

Training begins at boot camp. Sailors graduate from Recruit Training Command and immediately get two days of training in personal financial management.

"Sailors are shown how to create a spending plan," Norem said. "We go over

everything from car buying and credit management to financial planning for deployments."

The training continues throughout a Sailor's career. It's presented at least annually during all-hands general military training and each time a Sailor is promoted.

A Sailor going through petty officer in-doc will get training on consumer awareness, savings and investments. At the senior ranks, training focuses on topics like retirement planning.

In addition to training, commanding officers appoint Sailors as command financial specialists. These are generally E-6s. They go through a week-long course that prepares them to educate and counsel personnel on financial management issues.

"It's a powerful program," Norem said. "It prepares shipmates to help shipmates and their families."

Fleet and Family Support Centers also provide classes on a variety of issues and individual counseling on financial management.

"One-on-one sessions at the FFSCs are available for Sailors and family members and it's free," Norem said. "That same kind of service off base can be very expensive."

The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement benefit that is offered to employees of the



A Sailor takes a moment to decide which credit card to use to complete his purchase at the local commissary. According to results of the 2008 Financial Health Quick Poll, most Sailors agree that they are able to pay the bills and meet their financial obligations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class LaTunya Howard)

U.S. Government. It is similar to "401(k)" plans available to many private sector employees. The TSP provides the ability to participate in a long-term savings and investment plan. Participating in the TSP can significantly increase retirement income,

though financial planners say getting started early in life is key. Contributing early gives money more time to increase in value through the compounding of earnings.

More information about the TSP is found at <http://www.tsp.gov>.

Recycle Kingsville



Learn how to recycle
at home, work & play

Saturday, May 15
9 a.m to 12 noon

at the
Kingsville Recycling Center
202 W. Lee



*Bring your
recyclables!*

*Plastics - #1 & #2
Aluminum
Tin Cans
Newspapers
Cardboard Boxes
Misc. Paper*

Flooding at NSA Mid-South impacts personnel systems, processes

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Naval Support Activity Mid-South in Millington, Tenn., encountered substantial flooding throughout the base May 1.

The flooding was brought on by torrential rains and thunderstorms that swept through the area and caused creeks that run adjacent to the base to swell beyond protective levees. In addition to the base, the surrounding Millington community, as well as parts of Tipton County to the north of the base, encountered similar flooding.

The flooding at NSA Mid-South in Millington, Tenn., are impacting personnel systems and processes.

As of May 3, all Navy Personnel Command (NPC) offices are closed and only mission essential personnel are allowed on base. Decisions regarding the rest of the week will be made as the situation is assessed.

According to NAVADMIN 159/10, major systems currently down affecting all Navy personnel are Bupers Online (BOL), Physical Readiness Information Management System (PRIMS), and the Web Enabled Record Review (WERR). The NPC website, www.npc.navy.mil, is also offline.

Access to NMCI in Millington is unavailable and orders cannot be issued due to the loss of the Navy Messaging System.

The telephone system in Millington has been restored, however phone messages are not being monitored since personnel do not have access to their office spaces.

“With the events in Millington, many services that Sailors and their families have come to rely on have been temporarily affected,” said Rear Adm. Don Quinn, commander, Navy Personnel Command, deputy chief of naval personnel. “Assessments are being made to evaluate the damage and estimate when the services will be restored. This may take some time so your patience is greatly appreciated.”

The E-8 selection board has been placed on hold until selection board services and access to Electronic Military Personnel Records System (EMPRS) is restored.

Sailors can continue to conduct reenlistment and detailing activities as normal using Career Management System Interactive Detailing (CMS/ID) although detailers have no access to this system. Perform to Serve (PTS), Fleet Rating Identification Engine (FleetRIDE), Enlisted Assignment Information System (EAIS) and Officer Assignment Information System (OASIS) are unaffected.

According to a NSA Mid-South public affairs release, all base personnel and residents have been evacuated and there are no known casualties following a door-to-door inspection by NSA security personnel.



An aerial photograph shows flooding at Naval Support Activity Mid-South in Millington, Tenn. Two days of rain dumped more than 14 inches in the area, causing a levee to become overrun, flooding the base and surrounding community. The base is closed to all but mission-essential employees until further notice. Naval Support Activity Mid-South hosts several commands, including Navy Personnel Command and Commander, Navy Recruiting Command. (U.S. Navy photo by Mark Wilson).

High rate of retention, recruitment shows military pay competitive with private sector

By Lisa Daniel, American Forces Press Service
WASHINGTON – Military compensation is competing well against the private sector, as evidenced by the high rate of recruitment and retention, a Defense Department official told a Senate subcommittee recently.

Therefore, the department is focusing on targeted special pays and bonuses as an efficient means to give incentives for people to sign up for hard-to-fill and hard-to-retain specialties, William J. Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel policy, told the Senate Armed Services Committee's personnel subcommittee.

Using regular military compensation – basic pay combined with housing and food allowances and federal tax advantages – as a comparison, military members are paid higher than 70 percent of their private-sector peers of similar education and experience, Carr said.

A \$340 million investment in such pays could provide \$30,000 bonuses to more

than 11,000 service members the military especially needs, Carr said, while the same amount would buy only a 0.5 percent across-the-board basic pay raise for all service members. At the same time, however, it is important to ensure regular compensation remains competitive, he said, noting the department's request for a 1.4 percent across-the-board pay increase for next year.

Carr called specialty and incentive pays “essential,” especially for special operations forces and people with medical, dentistry, mental health, aviation and nuclear skills. The services paid out \$6.4 billion in specialty pays last year, comprising 4.4 percent of the personnel budget. The department is requesting \$5.6 billion for 2011.

The decrease does not mean such targeted incentives are less important, Carr said. Rather, he explained, it reflects less need to use them during the slow economic recovery.

When recruiting and retention dropped in the strong job market of the late 1990s,

Congress and Defense Department officials reacted quickly, Carr said. Since 2002, pay has risen 42 percent, housing allowance has gone up by 83 percent, and the subsistence allowance has grown by 40 percent, he said, compared to a 32 percent rise in private-sector salaries.

Three outside military experts – Brenda Farrell of the Government Accountability Office, Carla Tighe Murray of the Congressional Budget Office and James Hosek of the RAND Corporation think tank's national security division – testified with Carr and agreed that the overall military compensation package compares well against the private sector, with some studies placing military compensation equal to or greater than 80 percent of their civilian counterparts.

Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, a former Navy secretary who chairs the subcommittee, said military pay has risen dramatically in the three decades of the all-volunteer force.

Hundreds attend historic Naval Station Ingleside base closing ceremony

By Fifi Kieschnick, NASK Public Affairs

A ceremony was held Friday, April 23, marking the closing of Naval Station Ingleside, and the reversion of the property to the Port of Corpus Christi.

Nearly 400 people were on hand to mark the historic occasion, from local politicians, to past employees, and community leaders who played a hand in bringing surface Navy to South Texas more than 20 years ago.

"It's an honor to be here," said Rear Adm. Townsend "Tim" Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, "and a pleasure to see so many of you here today on this special and memorable occasion.

"Special because we come together as a Navy and a community to celebrate a job well done, and memorable because we are closing the book on a significant chapter in our Navy's history."

Naval Station Ingleside began with a groundbreaking ceremony on Feb. 20, 1988. The South Texas Coastal Bend area was chosen as the location for a homeport because of its quick access to the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico, the well-protected waters inside the barrier island, the existence of sufficient land, and the area's potential for growth. Original plans designated Naval Station Ingleside as homeport for the battleship USS Wisconsin (BB 64) and the

carrier USS Lexington (AVT 16). Later, the direction changed when Navy officials designated Ingleside as the U.S. Navy's "Mine Warfare Center of Excellence." Support of the U.S. Navy's mine countermeasures fleet became the primary mission of the Station.

Naval Station Ingleside was dedicated on July 6, 1992. The first mine countermeasures ship – USS Scout (MCM 8) – arrived in June 1992, and has the distinction of being the first U.S. Navy ship to be homeported in Texas since World War II.

As the Navy's "Mine Warfare Center of Excellence," Naval Station Ingleside served as the focal point for mine warfare training, repair and support facilities not duplicated elsewhere in the world. Conveniently located with easy access to the Gulf of Mexico, Naval Station Ingleside provided an ideal training, logistics and repair base for the mine warfare fleet.

Alexander acknowledged and thanked those in attendance for their support of the Navy. "To the Sailor and civilians, each and every one of you, your work as made a difference," he said to the hundreds gathered in the former Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Fifteen building. "You have had an impact on our Navy and our nation.

"If you can, imagine for a moment the ripple effect of all the young men and women

Continued on page 12



INGLESIDE -- Mike Carrell, Chairman, Port Commission for the Port of Corpus Christi Authority (left) and Captain Leland "BT" D. Taylor, Commanding Officer, Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, hold up a ceremonial key to the Ingleside base as part of the Reversion Ceremony held on board Naval Station Ingleside April 23. The key signifies the Port taking ownership of the base, when it closes April 30. The ceremony represented the final closing of Naval Station Ingleside. Naval Station Ingleside was slated for closure due to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission decision. (U.S. Navy photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs).

Kingsville Trash Off Day

Saturday, May 15

8 a.m. to Noon

Next to the Kingsville Police Department
1700 East King Ave.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSIST CITY OF KINGSVILLE with trash pick-up, unloading and trash sorting from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Navy Child and Youth Programs and MWR Teen Summer Employment Program

In 2009, CYP and MWR successfully employed 12 local NASK dependent teens throughout the summer months in various MWR facilities. These 12 teens did an amazing job last year and we're looking to exceed their expectations again. CYP, MWR, and the Fleet and Family Support Center will be hosting 2 events prior to summer employment:

What: "Teen Workshop"

Who: Teens (Ages 14-18, NASK dependents)

Where: FFSC Training Room

When: Friday, May 7, 5-7 p.m.

Topics include Resume Building and Interview Preparation.

What: "Teen Job Fair"

Who: Teens (Ages 14-18, NASK dependents)

Where: MWR Fitness Center Gymnasium

When: Friday, May 21

Time: 5-6:30 p.m.

Teens are expected to dress business casual, some food/drink provided. **NOTE: All applications are due by May 19 to MWR HRO Ms. Paulina Soto [paulina.soto@navy.mil or call 516-4388.**



Runners take part in unique team relay

NAS Kingsville running enthusiasts took part in a unique team relay April 29, on board the air station. The "6-Pack Challenge" featured six runner teams competing in an easy, 1.1 mile race around the base, starting and ending at the Fitness Center.

Runners passed off sports drinks to their teammates in the same way they would pass

a baton during normal team relays, but the "challenge" portion required each runner to down the drink before tackling the run. The team that finished the run - and the challenge - first took home the top prize.

"This was a fun event," said MWR Sports Coordinator Kristin Lokken. "I think everybody had a good time, and that was

what it was all about."

According to Lokken, a number of teams used this race to help prepare for them for the upcoming Beach to Bay team marathon, which takes place on May 15 in Corpus Christi.

Above, runners down their sports drink prior to the start of the race.



CS2(SW) Montreon Smith (left), FC2(SW) Natascha Josey and IC1(SW/AW) Jessica Booth (right), of the Navy Ball Committee, held a "Gas and Glass" vehicle wash behind Love's service station on April 16. The fundraiser netted \$209 and benefits the 2010 Navy Ball.

MWR Event Calendar

Pool Season: Pool opens Saturday, May 29. Pool hours: Monday through Friday: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (lap Swim); 1-8 p.m. recreational lap swim. Saturday, Sunday and holiday recreational lap swimming 1-8 p.m.

Daily pool fees (single): Active duty, Reservists and retired military - Free. Family members/authorized civilians \$1; Navy League, \$2

Monthly fees: Active duty, Reservists and retired military - Free. Family members/authorized civilians \$10 single, \$13 family; Navy League, \$13 single, \$30 family.

Pool Parties: Private parties are \$50 per hour with a minimum of two hours. Public parties are \$50 (flat fee) and include tables and chairs for three hours. Call 361-516-6113, for reservations.

Lifeguard Class: June 7-11. Certifications include Lifeguarding AED, First Aid, and CPR for the professional. Participants must be at least 15 years of age and must complete all required swimming tests. Cost: \$100 for active duty, Reservists, Retired Military and Dependents. \$150 for authorized civilians.

Hamburger Cook-Off. How good are you on your grill? The NASK Library is holding a Hamburger Cook-Off competition Thursday, May 13, to see who makes the best burgers. Register by Monday, May 10.

Motor Vehicle Storage: \$25 per month fee for all eligible MWR patrons.

ITT: The ITT office has an in-house movie room showing current releases every Wednesday at 7 p.m. You can also select movies from ITT's library of more than 600 films and watch them on one of ITT's three large screen TVs.

Fitness: Check out the Fitness Center's schedule of programs being offered to help you get in shape! Classes include Super Circuit Training, Sweat N' Play, Moms on the Move, and more. Call 516-6167, for more details.

Hunting: Escondido Ranch is now open. All hunters must first purchase a King's Hunt Club membership before using the facility or hunting on base. Cost is \$20 per person. For more information, contact the Ranch at 830-373-4419, or visit www.NavyEScondidoRanch.com.

Bowling

In The Dog House League Final Standings

Pos.	Team	Won	Lost
1.	Triple X's	86.5	57.5
2.	Lane Breakers	84.0	56.0
3.	3 Minds in the Gutter	82.5	61.5
4.	The Guys	68.0	76.0
5.	Tumbalos	58.5	85.5
6.	The Hounds	52.5	91.5

Wednesday Night Mixed Final Standings

Pos.	Team	Won	Lost
1.	DUH's	81.5	46.5
2.	Pete's Angels	71.5	56.5
3.	Pin Bangers	71.0	57.0
4.	Slow Rollin	67.0	61.0
5.	Big K Rollers	63.0	65.0
6.	Laugh Out Loud	62.0	66.0
7.	Sixty Forty	57.5	70.5
8.	Guttermouths	37.5	86.5

Ingleside closing *from page 10*

who have completed training here, and have gone on to lead others and do great things for our Navy. They were able to focus on the rigors of warfighting training because the people at this base took care of everything else," Alexander added. "And for that service, I sincerely thank you."

Capt. Leland "BT" Taylor, commanding officer of Naval Station Ingleside also talked about people. "When I took command of Naval Station Ingleside 24 months ago, I knew the base was on the BRAC list. I really didn't know what to expect," he said.

"During my initial week here on board, before the change of command ... I realized the reversion of the base to the Port was going to be very successful. The personal integrity and professionalism I saw in everyone I talked to was beyond words."

"I am happy to be here, but not happy for the occasion," said Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz, 27th Congressional District of Texas, who was the keynote speaker. Ortiz stressed that the Port and the city of Ingleside must work together to get what is needed on "this beautiful piece of real estate," he said.

Mike Carrell, Chairman of the Port Commission, who received a symbolic key to the base from Taylor, stated that the base was a "great foundation to work on," and that the Port will navigate through tricky waters to "match the property with the right companies

to increase the tax base and generate good high paying jobs.

"The concern is shared by us because the impact (of the Navy's departure) is great. We know our obligation to find the highest and best use for this land.

"Thanks for the foundation," Carrell stated. "Rest assured we will make something happen for the entire region."



The national ensign is lowered for the final time aboard Naval Station Ingleside on April 30. The base closed last Friday and the property now belongs to the Port of Corpus Christi.



Chiefs donate goods to women's shelter

Corpus Christi women's shelter manager Pam Garcia thanks NAS Kingsville Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff for items donated to the shelter by the NAS Kingsville Chiefs' Mess. Items donated included linen, comforters, tumblers, sippy cups, and more.

"All the donations," Ratliff explained, "were items that will help out women and mothers who utilize the shelter in Corpus Christi, and often leave their situations with nothing but the clothes on their back."

The donation was coordinated by GMC Tom Taylor of Public Works.

Train Days of Kingsville

May 7-9, Train Depot downtown

Schedule of Events

Friday, May 7

Noon to 5 p.m. -- Model Display, Venders Setup, and BBQ Cook-off Setup

5 p.m. -- Telegraph Demonstration

6 -7 p.m. -- Open Extended Hours, and Zay Santos Music

8 p.m.-- Dedication Ceremony

9-11 p.m. -- Del Castillo Music

Saturday, May 8

9-10 a.m. -- Downtown Walking Tour, Model RR, Operation Lifesaver, Ivan Jaime of Union Pacific

Noon to 2 p.m. -- Model Train Display, Vender Display, Lion's Club Eye Screening, Jason Smith Band

2-4 p.m. -- Open Extended Hours, Lyrical Binge, speaker Lisa Neeley, Jay W. Depot Construction and Oso Texas Music

4-6 p.m. -- Oso Texas Music, Model Train Display, Vendor Display, and Kathryn Evans Book Signing

6 p.m. -- Announce BBQ Cook-Off Winners

7-8 p.m. -- The Band In Black

10 p.m. to Midnight -- Blue Moon Swamp Music



Photo by AC1 (AW) Daniel Garza

Sunday, May 9

10 a.m. to Noon: Model Train Display, Vendor Display, Walk the Rails Walking Tour, Taft Ballet Floklorico

Noon to 2 p.m.: Justine Ozuna, Mariachi singer, Model Train Display, Vendor Display, Telegraph Demonstration

2-4 p.m.: Kingsville Youth Ballet Floklorico, Model Train Display, Vendor Display, KISD Mariachi

4-5 p.m.: Los D Boys Music, Model Train Display, Vendor Display