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Alex puts damper on South Texas

By Fifi Kieschnick, NASK Public Affairs

Hurricane season opened with a "bang" last week. The first Atlantic hurricane of the year raged in the Gulf and grew to a Category 2 storm before it made landfall in Mexico June 30.

All eyes followed the storm's path and Naval Air Station Kingsville personnel promptly prepared as the tropical storm advanced toward the South Texas coast.

When storms begin to form, NAS Kingsville's Emergency Manager Monette Walker participates in conference calls that are held by Commander, Navy Region Southeast, and those that are held by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service with local, city, county, and various other government agencies.

"We monitor the weather," said Walker, "and make recommendations about what actions we should take based on what we are seeing unfold. Then Conditions of Readiness are set based on where the storm is and what is being predicted."

NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Mark McLaughlin directed staff on June 29 to set modified COR 3 in preparation of the arrival of tropical storm force winds.

"Safety of our resources, especially our personnel is paramount," McLaughlin said. "Everyone responded swiftly in preparing for the foul weather we were expecting. We were able to secure personnel early so they could travel safely and put their homes in order."

Administrative preparations were made and employees ensured necessary supplies were on hand. Some of the actions Public Works personnel took included picking up gear adrift, such as cones, construction materials, park benches and electric carts, and securing them indoors. They also checked all emergency gen-

erators, tightened static aircraft tie-downs, emptied dumpsters, filled the water tower and instructed contractors to secure their job sites.

All personnel ensured their recall information was up-to-date and those with government vehicles topped off their gasoline tanks

Training Air Wing TWO pilots flew 40 T-45 "Goshawks" to locations away from the Coastal Bend threat area as a precautionary measure. The other T-45s on base were moved into hangars to protect them from tropical storm force winds.

Hurricane Alex made landfall about 9 p.m. June 30, about 100 miles south of Brownsville, Texas, as a Category 2 hurricane, with winds in excess of 100 miles per hour.

"Fortunately, the path Alex chose kept NAS Kingsville from dealing with anything more than tropical storm force winds and heavy rain," McLaughlin said. "The Kingsville area was also fortunate to escape any major damage from the storm."

"To all command personnel, well done," McLaughlin said Thursday morning July 1. "Everyone did a tremendous job preparing the base for this storm."

NAS Kingsville's pre-storm preparations ensured the base was "hurricane ready" and the following morning no damage was reported on board the air station from Alex.

"We only had minor tree debris scattered around and some minor leaks in a few buildings," said Cmdr. Troy Hamilton,



Naval Air Station Kingsville made preparations June 29 for impending Tropical Storm Alex. Among those preparations, T-45 "Goshawk" aircraft that were not flown off prior to the storm making landfall were stowed in hangars to protect them from the storm. Top photo, T-45 aircraft at transported to the hangar in between bands of rain. Above, L-3 Vertex employees move one of many T-45s into a hangar before the skies "let loose." (Photos by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum, NASK Public Affairs)

NAS Kingsville public works officer.

COR 5 was set shortly thereafter.

However, Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities that had been planned were

negatively affected.

"Alex certainly had a dampening effect on the MWR planned events for the Inde-

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Capt. Mark McLaughlin
Commanding Officer
NAS Kingsville



From the Bridge

I'll begin my first Flying K article with a "Thank You" to everyone who was part of the Change of Command ceremony on June 25. It was a first-rate ceremony and a wonderful send off for the Waddinghams; it will live in my memory for life.

Kristin and I appreciate the hospitality afforded to us, and our extended families who visited from out of the area. Again, Thank You.

These first two weeks have certainly not been lacking for excitement. Hurricane Alex exercised our Emergency Management team and I was very impressed by all station personnel, including the tenant commands, who prepared NAS Kingsville for the storm-Well Done!

Not soon after Alex, we suffered a casualty in the fire main system at the Radar Control Facility. Water intrusion into the electrical boxes, sub-floor lines and the equipment room within the facility presented us with a dangerous situation for the multi-million dollars worth of air traffic control equipment.

Thanks to the quick thinking of the Ground Electronics and Air Operations Departments, the equipment was secured prior to any tripping or damage. However; this created a secondary problem in that NAS Kingsville was now without operational radar control and tower facilities that safely control air operations in our 36,000 square miles of airspace.

The impact to flight operations for Training Air Wing TWO was profound. I'm pleased to report that the Public Works, Ground Electronics and Air Operations team returned both facilities to full mission capable status in only 48 hours. Public Works is still working on repairing the fire main.

During the reclamation efforts, Air Operations, Fire, Security, Fuels, Public Works and Training Air Wing TWO worked through the challenges of no radar and no tower, and essentially moved flight operations for Training Air Wing TWO to NALF Orange Grove. These efforts supported Capt. Brooks and his team at the Wing to get the critical student sorties completed to stay on timeline for the upcoming carrier qualification detachment and graduation

ceremony of fleet-bound pilots. Again, Well Done!

Finally on my excitement meter is the visit Monday, July 12, by Congressman Ortiz's Professional Staff Delegation from the House Armed Service Committee. Team Kingsville, Capt. Brooks and I had the great opportunity to show off the Naval Air Station and Training Air Wing TWO to our visitors. I'm sure they were impressed by the progress since their last visit over a year ago.

In closing, my first two weeks have been challenging, yet exciting, and I thank everyone who performed their duties with such professionalism and calm.

Our mission is to enable the base personnel to support the Fleet, Fighter and Family. Our primary tenant that has to produce the goods is Training Air Wing TWO, and it is their mission of producing combat ready pilots to the fleet that requires our fullest support. So I ask everyone to refocus and rethink your part in this effort.

Finally, don't forget to take care of yourselves and family, take care of your people and leave the ranch better than you found it.

Until next time,
 Skipper Mac



Capt. Mark McLaughlin receives a Legion of Merit from Rear Adm. William Sizemore, Chief of Naval Air Training, prior to assuming command of Naval Air Station Kingsville. McLaughlin had served as assistant chief of staff, Training and Standardization for CNATRA from April 2007 to February 2010. His superb professional ability, motivation and leadership directly and positively contributed to the Naval Air Training Command meeting all operational requirements. Possessing astute strategic vision and unparalleled business acumen, he superbly supervised a department responsible for the management of 28 training courses and thousands of pages of courseware and training materials, as well as standardization of instruction by more than 1,500 military and contract instructors. He initiated an improved process that ensured the alignment of undergraduate and graduate level flight training via semi-annual curriculum reviews by the Commander, Naval Air Forces Deputy for Aviation Training. McLaughlin provided meticulous oversight of major training programs that directly impacted the undergraduate flight training students. His actions to bring forward a system of quality metrics has enabled a new focus on undergraduate flight training quality that will benefit student aviator production for years to come. (Navy Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs)

The Flying K

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NAS Kingsville
Commanding Officer
Capt. Mark A. McLaughlin

NAS Kingsville
Executive Officer
Lt. Cmdr. David R. Anderson

Training Air Wing TWO
Commander
Capt. Mark Brooks

NAS Kingsville
Public Affairs Officer
Jon Gagné

Flying K Staff
Managing Editor
Jon Gagné

Public Affairs Specialist / Editor
Fifi Kieschnick

Staff Photographer/Writer
AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum

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Murphy completes successful command tour, Latorre takes command of VT-22

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Cmdr. Gerry Murphy passed the VT-22 command flag to his friend and executive officer, Lt. Col. Terrence Latorre, July 6 during an official change of command ceremony at the Captain's Club. The passing of the flag symbolized the change in leadership for the squadron, with Murphy relinquishing his command to Latorre, who in turn, passed his executive officer responsibilities on to Cmdr. Darren Guenther. Training Air Wing TWO Commander, Capt. Mark Brooks, served as presiding officer and guest speaker for the ceremony.

"It has been a pleasure working (again) with Cmdr. 'Sticky' Murphy," Brooks said during his remarks. "His leadership and vision have set the Golden Eagles up for continued success as Lt. Col. 'Sponge' Latorre takes the reins."

Following his remarks Brooks presented Murphy a Meritorious Service Medal for his performance as squadron commander. The citation outlined Murphy's resourceful leadership during a period of transitional challenges for the squadron and Air Wing including instructor shortages, limited training assets, and training facility shortfalls. Despite these obstacles, VT-22 achieved the highest level of performance and student pilot training.

Under his lead, the "Golden Eagles" amassed 19,679 mishap-free flight hours and produced 71 Navy, Marine Corps, Brazilian and Indian Naval Aviators. The

squadron also earned the Chief of Naval Operations' Safety Award for 2009, and scored a grade of "Outstanding" during the annual Chief of Naval Air Training (CNA-TRA) Standardization Inspection.

In addition to these accomplishments, Murphy served as the officer-in-charge of two CNATRA Carrier Qualifications detachments and three Training Air Wing TWO detachments to active Navy aircraft carriers for training evolutions. During these detachments, TW-2 logged more than 1,500 arrested landings for 80 students and 40 instructor pilots. Murphy also attained a personal honor by landing on his 14th active Navy aircraft carrier during his career.

"Cmdr. Murphy was a great commander, leader and mentor for the Golden Eagles," Latorre said of his friend and predecessor. "He was always willing to go the extra mile to train our students, and he loved nothing more than flying with them as they learned the intricacies of Naval strike training.

"His talents went beyond flying," Latorre added. "He was a firm supporter of community relation projects and the Golden Eagles supported many events in our community like Toys for Tots, Special Olympics, Pilot for a Day, science fairs, and Kleberg Reading Programs, just to name a few."

Latorre was the perfect compliment for squadron leadership, and he and Murphy worked extremely well together.



Left, Cmdr. Gerry Murphy passed the VT-22 command flag to his friend and executive officer, Lt. Col. Terrence Latorre, July 6 during an official change of command ceremony at the Captain's Club.

Latorre is eager to continue to lead the squadron and continuing training the world's best fighter pilots. He reported to NAS Kingsville as the squadron's executive officer in April 2009.

"As far as my assumption of command," Latorre said, "let me say I am honored and very privileged to have been chosen as the commanding officer of the Golden Eagles. I know of no greater honor than being given the opportunity to lead the Marines, Sailors, international officers and the civilians of VT-22. As the commanding officer, I fully understand and embrace the authority and responsibility entrusted to me and I'm extremely proud to be able to defend our nation in this regard.

"I firmly believe VT-22 is great because of the people behind our patch and that this squadron is able to accomplish its mission safely as a result of the continued hard work day in and day out. My Golden Eagles have shown themselves to be a highly effective team of professionals and my intent, as I assume command, is to build upon those successes," Latorre added upon taking the reins.

Murphy, whose next assignment will be as Air Boss aboard USS Harry S. Truman, said he will always look back upon his command tour at NAS Kingsville with pride, and he and his family will take fond memories of South Texas with them as



Lt. Col. Terrence Latorre said he was eager to continue to lead the squadron and continuing training the world's best fighter pilots. He reported to NAS Kingsville as the squadron's executive officer in April 2009.

they move on to their next assignment.

"I am certain that I am leaving VT-22 in capable hands," Murphy said during his remarks. "Lt. Col. Latorre will take this squadron to new heights. For me, it has been a very rewarding tour, and I and my family have thoroughly enjoyed our stay in Kingsville. But I'm also looking ahead to my next assignment and the challenges that it brings."



Training Air Wing TWO Commander, Capt. Mark Brooks, who served as presiding officer and guest speaker for the ceremony, presented Cmdr. Gerry Murphy a Meritorious Service Medal for his performance as squadron commander. The citation outlined Murphy's resourceful leadership during a period of transitional challenges for the squadron and Air Wing.

NASK prepares for Hurricane Alex

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pendence Celebration,” said David Haigh, MWR director. “Those events affected included the Youth program’s America’s Kid Run, the pool’s Team Swimming Relay, Trivia Night at the K-Bar, and the biggest event – Food, Fun & Fireworks.

“But we are rescheduling them,” he added. “The America’s Kid Run is rescheduled for July 20, the Team Swimming Relay will be held Aug. 17, and the Food, Fun & Fireworks will be rescheduled around Labor Day weekend.” Though

we weathered the storm and came out virtually unscathed, we’re keeping an eye on the storms forming in the Gulf, as we know it’s predicted to be a busy hurricane season.

“Everyone did a tremendous job preparing the base for this storm.”

-- Capt. Mark McLaughlin



Naval Air Station Kingsville made preparations June 29 for impending Tropical Storm Alex.

Below: Training Air Wing TWO pilots fly T-45 “Goshawks” to locations away from the Coastal Bend threat-area as a precautionary measure. The other T-45s on base were moved into hangars to protect them from tropical storm force winds. Left and below left: T-45 “Goshawk” aircraft that were not flown-off prior to the storm making landfall were stowed in hangars to protect them from the storm.

Above: T-45s were “parked” nose-to-tail in the hangars. (Photos by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum)



Kingsville Health Clinic's OIC passes command to native Texan

By Bill W. Love, NBHCCC PAO

Officer in Charge, Branch Health Clinic (BHC) Kingsville held a change of charge ceremony at Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville, Texas July 8.

Lt. Cmdr. Russell Braden relieved Lt. Cmdr. Dawn Hardin as clinic OIC.

"Lt. Cmdr. Braden, you couldn't have asked for a better staff and crew than the group you are looking at right now," Hardin announced. "They are proud to be part of this clinic and they show it every single day! I had the most fun with this staff and have reaped so many personal and professional accomplishments and made so many friends, I know you will too."

Beginning in May 2007, Hardin led more than 40 military and civilian staff in providing health care to over 1,500 enrolled TRICARE Prime beneficiaries who account for over 6,300 annual visits.

"The professional care that they receive here is top notch," stated Capt. Mark McLaughlin, commanding officer at NAS Kingsville, in his keynote remarks. "We know it because they give us [praise] in their customer surveys. But we also know by the base population."

NAS Kingsville is home to Training Air Wing TWO and 18 other tenant activities including the U.S. Border Patrol, with a base population of approximately 1,850 personnel. Training Air Wing TWO trains about 150 Navy, Marine Corps and allied forces strike/jet pilots each year.

Capt. Randy Kelley, commanding officer of Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi,



Lt. Cmdr. Dawn Hardin, left, outgoing officer-in-charge at Branch Health Clinic Kingsville, returns Lt. Cmdr. Russell Braden's salute as he relieves her during a change of charge ceremony July 8, as Capt. Randy Kelley, center, Commanding Officer, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, looks on. (U.S. Navy photo by Bill W. Love)

ti, in his comments at the ceremony, spoke about the Kingsville Clinic's vital mission in supporting the fleet by, "keeping aviators flying so that they can train and learn the skills to protect our Nation. It is also important that this support and care be excellent because often times it is [an experience] that the aviators remember later on in their careers of how the docs and corpsmen

helped them out when they were young and had the stressors of training on their minds, and we kept them well and we kept them working."

Referring to it as the best Navy Branch Health Clinic in the Navy, Hardin credited her staff.

"They care about each other, they care about the patients and customers, and they

care about the outcomes of decisions they have made. Each and every one of the staff members makes a daily contribution to the successes of this clinic," Hardin said, adding, "it all contributes to the function and ability to deliver quality patient care for the clinic."

The clinic's incoming OIC said that he is looking forward to his new job. A native of Corpus Christi, Braden will not be in unfamiliar territory.

"My wife said moving back to Texas is a good thing and a bad thing," Braden quipped. "Good, in that we will be back close to family. Bad, because I'm not ever [going to] see you because you will be out hunting and fishing with your dad all the time. Can't argue with that."

Prior to returning to Texas, Braden served at the Officer Training Command Newport, R.I. There, he was assistant department head of Readiness and Training, and also a master course scheduler and Officer Development School course instructor.

Hardin, known throughout the command for her cheerfully routine greeting, "It's always a great day in Kingsville," ends her naval career July 23.

"It was absolutely my pleasure serving for 27 years as I retire," she stated, "but the last three years were over the top, thank you for the opportunity!"

Hardin will be piped ashore during an official retirement ceremony at the Captain's Club July 23. All hands are invited to attend the ceremony.

Kingsville corpsmen hustle through tactical combat casualty course

Photo and story by Bill W. Love NHCCC

Sixteen Branch Health Clinic Kingsville (BHCK) Navy Corpsmen sharpened their tactical combat casualty (TCC) skills during the 3rd Annual Hospital Corpsmen Olympics June 17.

Negotiating six different lifesaving scenarios along a three-quarter mile course at NAS Kingsville, four teams carrying their "wounded" on stretchers competed against the clock while seasoned proctors grilled each group with rapid-fire questions at each stop.

Coinciding with the Navy Hospital Corps' 112th birthday, the timed event was supervised by HM2(FMF) Steven J. McKinley for the second consecutive year.

"We change [events] every year so that the people who did it last year don't see the same things coming, and so it doesn't get monotonous," remarked McKinley, who also

acted as a proctor at stations one and two, care under fire, and tactical carry.

The NINE-Line MEDEVAC station returned to the course last having been included in the 2008 competition.

"It was a big thing," stated McKinley. "We didn't have that last year. You triage your patients and then you actually call back to the rear for a helo to come in and MEDEVAC your patient. Once you leave the green side or leave FMSS [Field Medical Service School] you kind of forget that, but when you are in a situation where you need to know it, it all comes back."

Three other corpsmen and a Navy nurse managed the remaining four stations ensuring that the teams remained focused and hustled, mentally and physically.

HM1(FMF) Billy R. Chanek, who drilled participants in airway, gunshot wounds, and

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Faced with a penetrating chest wound and a collapsed lung, HM2(FMF) Ismael A. Lopez (foreground) demonstrates the function of an Asherman Chest Seal flutter valve that keeps outside air from returning to the pleural space as HM3 Corey Hopper looks on. (Photo by Bill W. Love, NBHC Corpus Christi).



Left, Capt. Mark McLaughlin salutes Rear Adm. Tim Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, after assuming command of Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, June 25. Former NAS Kingsville commander Capt. Phil Waddingham watches the salute, which simulates assuming command. Above, Rear Adm. Tim Alexander, presents Capt. Phil Waddingham with a Legion of Merit for his superb professional performance as commanding officer of Naval Air Station Kingsville. Below, Capt. Mark McLaughlin, center, tells those assembled that he considers having the opportunity to command NAS Kingsville to be a "true privilege." Seated left is Rear Adm. Tim Alexander and seated right is Capt. Phil Waddingham. (Photos by AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs)..

McLaughlin takes command of Naval Air Station Kingsville

Story by Jon Gagné and Fifi Kieschnick, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Capt. Mark A. McLaughlin, a native of Caldwell, Idaho, and the son of Dr. Roy and Charlotte McLaughlin of Chewelah, Wash., became the 32nd commanding officer of Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, during an official change of command ceremony on board the air station June 25. McLaughlin relieved Capt. Philip L. Waddingham, who had commanded the air station since August 2007.

Rear Adm. Townsend "Tim" Alexander served as the presiding officer and guest speaker for the ceremony. Alexander commands Navy Region Southeast, which comprises 17 Navy installations throughout the southern United States, including Texas installations.

"Capt. Mark McLaughlin is the perfect choice for assuming command of this air station," Alexander told more than 400 people who attended the ceremony. "He is a proven leader, a true visionary, and a tested combat aviator. I have no doubt he will take NAS

Kingsville to new heights."

McLaughlin reports to Naval Air Station Kingsville from the staff of the Chief of Naval Air Training, where he has served as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Training for the past three years.

"The opportunity to command NAS Kingsville is a true privilege," McLaughlin said. "The fact that it will be my second command in the same area is a blessing that my family and I have been most gracious in accepting. The department heads I have met with so far have been superb in training me and I'm fortunate to have such a wonderful team to work with as we move forward," he said.

McLaughlin added that he intends to follow through with the course his predecessor has charted for this installation. "The future projects to modernize NAS Kingsville will make it the most updated base in the Navy," he said.

He stated his one main goal is to leave NAS Kingsville "better than I found it," and he plans to energize "Team Kingsville" with his undivided attention and leadership in or-



der to provide NAS Kingsville personnel, including all tenant activities, with the best reliable and sustainable shore infrastructure and services to enable and support the fleet, fighter and family.

"Fostering and expanding relationships

with our surrounding communities will be high on my priority list," McLaughlin added. "And, the next three years are shaping up to be the most memorable moments in my Navy career."

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McLaughlin takes command *Continued from page 6*

McLaughlin's military career has included assignments on both coasts. He earned his commission through the Navy ROTC program at Texas A&M University in December 1986. Following primary flight training in NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla., he reported to NAS Beeville, Texas, for undergraduate jet/strike training, earning his coveted Wings of Gold in April 1989. Selected to fly the A-6E "Intruder," he then moved on to NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., for his first fleet assignment.

McLaughlin and his family came back to Texas in 2003 for his command tour with VT-22 and he admits he and his family have claimed South Texas as their home ever since.

"My two daughters, Hilary and Kendall, finished school in Calallen and my son Jack has known no other school district except Calallen," McLaughlin said. "My wife Kristin, who is a high school English teacher, and I are alums of Texas A&M University and are proud that Hilary also graduated from Texas A&M last month.

"We are Texans. Our roots are in Texas and Texas is home," he added. "To command such a wonderful air station in my home state, well, it's awesome!"

McLaughlin's sea duty assignments began with initial A-6E training in NAS Whidbey Island, Wash. From 1991 to 1997, Capt. McLaughlin completed three Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf deployments aboard the USS Ranger (CV 61) and USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), flying missions in Operations Desert Storm, Southern Watch and Desert Strike in Iraq, and Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. In 1997, he transitioned to the EA-6B Prowler and completed a fourth deployment with Electronic

Attack Squadron 139 embarked aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in 1998.

Shore duty assignments include a tour from February 1993 to March 1995, as an instructor pilot in the A-6E Fleet Replacement Squadron in NAS Whidbey Island, and a May 2000 to May 2003 joint-duty assignment with the National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC) in Offutt AFB, Omaha, Neb.

McLaughlin was then selected to command VT-22 at NAS Kingsville, Texas. During his June 2003 to November 2005 command tour, VT-22 flew in excess of 40,000 flight hours in the T-45 Goshawk and winged more than 120 Naval Aviators.

McLaughlin completed an overseas tour assigned as the Air Operations Officer and Deputy Operations Officer to Commander, Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) in Bahrain in 2006. During this one-year tour he provided operational support to commanders conducting combat missions in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, the evacuation of Lebanon, and Maritime Security and Anti-Piracy operations in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

McLaughlin has accumulated more than 3,500 flight hours, 761 carrier landings and 87 combat missions during a 23-year aviation career. In addition to various campaign and service decorations, Capt. McLaughlin has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy Meritorious Service Medals, and four strike flight Air Medals.

In addition to his Bachelor's Degree from Texas A&M University, McLaughlin holds a Master of Aeronautical Science Degree with specialties in human factors and aviation operations from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Navy League golf tourney set for July 30

The 2010 Navy League Navy Ball Golf Tournament is July 30, at L.E. Ramey Golf Course in Kingsville. Competition will be 4-player team scramble format. \$40 entry fee includes lunch following the tournament and eligibility for door prize drawings. Also, there will be special prizes for longest drive and closet-to-the-pin on all four par 3 holes.

The tournament is open to military, civilian and contract personnel, as well as teams from the local community. All teams will compete head-to-head in a scramble format, with the top three teams winning awards. Also, "Special" prizes for other teams are planned.

Entry fee is \$40 per player, which includes green fees, lunch, and door prize eligibility. The tournament is limited to 22 teams / 88 players. Times set are 8 a.m.

show/registration and 9 a.m. shotgun start.

Once again, Command teams may compete in the blind Skins Game for the Captain's Cup. (Start hole determined by blind draw AFTER the round).

Teams already entered in the tournament include Mayor Sam Fugate's team (last year's winners), NAS Kingsville, and TAMUK. In order to compete, all four team players must hold command or business leadership positions.

This event is sponsored by the Kingsville Navy League in support of the NAS Kingsville 2010 Navy Ball.

Deadline to enter is July 26.

Entry forms can be dropped off at the NAS Kingsville Fitness Center, Attn: Chief Tienda, or the NASK Public Affairs Office. (Fax to 361-516-6875).



After assuming command of Naval Air Station Kingsville, Capt. Mark McLaughlin gives his first order, telling the executive officer to carry out the Plan of the Day.



During the reception at the K-Bar following the ceremony, Capt. Mark McLaughlin, left, and Capt. Phil Waddingham cut a ceremonial cake marking the occasion of the change of helm.

Energy Conservation: NAS Kingsville moving forward, seeing results

NAS Kingsville is going “green” and the results are already paying dividends. According to NASK Utilities and Energy Manager Isauro Garcia the progress began in April when base commands and activities focused on Earth Day to recycle old appliances.

“Items turned in were all non-Energy Star appliances,” Garcia said, “like refrigerators, old television sets, and microwave ovens.” These types of appliances, Garcia added, cost more money to operate than Energy Star-rated appliances.

The Earth Day initiative was the “brain child” of FISC Jacksonville site manager Lt. Brent Simmons and Asst. Public Works Officer Lt. j.g. Clayton Beame. The success of this program has created interest in conducting similar events throughout the year.

“The program to recycle non-compliant

appliances will continue,” Garcia said, “and items can still be turned in at the NAS Kingsville Recycling Center.”

Navy Region Southeast commander Rear Adm. Tim Alexander is taking an aggressive approach to energy conservation for the 17 military installations that fall under his purview. His “Three-E’s” approach to facility management includes Encroachment, Energy Conservation, and Excess Footprint.

“Our goal is to be leaders in green initiatives,” Alexander said recently during a stop at NAS Kingsville. “We have to look at programs that will protect our ability to operate and conduct our missions, reduce our energy footprint, and improve our environment,” he said.

More than \$10 million in energy savings projects have been identified for NAS Kingsville, according to Rex White, Resource Ef-

iciency Manager.

Approximately \$8 million in projects will fall under the UESC with Nueces Electric Cooperative, Inc., with about half of that contract being awarded by the end of this year. The project scopes included under the contract are for lighting, HVAC and controls (DDC) that have a payback period of 15 years or less.

Fiscal year 2009 energy figures indicate that the base load averaged about 3400 KW and increased as the work day began to about 3900. The average daily “spike period” would occur at about 3:30 p.m. with a registered peak of 6770 KW.

The current rate structure with the contractor does not penalize the air station for kilowatt peaks. However, the total kilowatt hours are affected by the base load totals.

White says that less loads on the line

will decrease the overall profile and result in lower total dollars being spent for energy.

“The new energy conservation measures we are taking here will impact our usage, and as projects get implemented in the next calendar year, our totals for energy dollars should decrease, as long as our rates remain at current levels.

White added that the Fiscal Year 2010 (FY-10) trend shows consumption at about 7.77 percent over the FY-09 rate.

Building Energy Managers (BEM’s) play an important role in conserving energy on board the base, through daily awareness of energy issues in the work space, and observation of building energy consumption.

Because of their daily activities, BEM’s are the front line defense in the fight to cut back on energy usage.

Energy Conservation: A Team Effort.

Commander, Naval Air Forces, holds change of command ceremony

From Naval Air Forces Public Affairs

Commander, Naval Air Forces (CNAF) held a change of command ceremony, July 1, aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70).

Vice Adm. Allen G. Myers relieved Vice Adm. Thomas J. Kilcline as commander.

Kilcline assumed command of CNAF in June 2007. As the Navy’s “air boss,” he ensured that the Naval Air Force provided ready assets that were immediately employable and continuously forward deployed, and led the Naval Aviation Enterprise, a partnership among all the Navy and Marine Corps organizations involved in providing aviation assets in the defense of America.

Guest speaker, Adm. J.C. Harvey Jr., commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, credited Kilcline with the success of the naval aviation.

“Whatever the mission, wherever the need, Vice Adm. Tom Kilcline has led naval aviation to great success in combat operations,” said Harvey.

Kilcline, who retires after a 37-year naval aviation career, thanked the Sailors and Marines he’d served with in his farewell message to the force.

“I am proud to have been a part of this great team of battle-hardened warriors. I can only ask that you continue to strive to be a competent, professional

force which has no equal; that you lead Sailors with compassion, that you excel in the air, and that most of all, you make a difference,” Kilcline said. “It has been my distinct honor and great privilege to have served with you.”

During the ceremony, Kilcline was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his “extraordinary strategic vision, analytical insight and inspirational leadership,” which led Naval Air Forces to new levels of operational availability, aviation safety and esprit de corps.

Upon assuming command, Myers spoke of the proud legacy of naval aviation and his focus on four fundamentals.

“We are in the business of delivering credible combat power anywhere in the world when our nation demands it, and that is what we will continue to do through a dedicated focus on four fundamentals: alignment, respect, readiness, and our warfighting ethos,” said Myers.

Myers is a 1978 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and a northern Virginia native. He recently completed a Pentagon tour as the director of Warfare Integration (OPNAV N8F) and the director of the Air Warfare Division (OPNAV N88). His command tours include Strike Fighter Squadron (VF) 32, USS Sacramento (AOE 1), USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), and Carrier Strike Group 8, where he led Expeditionary Strike Force 5th Fleet, Combined Task Force 50, Com-



SAN DIEGO--Vice Adm. Allen G. Myers, right, relieves Vice Adm. Thomas J. Kilcline Jr. as commander of Naval Air Forces during a change of command ceremony aboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). Kilcline retired after 37 years of service as a Naval aviator. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Adrian T. White)

bined Task Force 152 and the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group.

As a naval aviator, Myers has accumulated more than 3,600 flight hours and completed more than 900 successful arrested landings.

CNAF heads a force that includes 11 aircraft carriers, 10 carrier air wings and seven type wing commands, more than 3,600 aircraft, 168 active and Reserve squadrons, and more than 100,000 personnel.

All enlisted military medical training roads now start at METC Personally Procured Move Process improves

By Steve Elliott, Ft. Sam Houston Public Affairs

FT. SAM HOUSTON, Texas – The future of enlisted military medical training arrived at Fort Sam Houston in a big way June 30 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the opening of the sprawling Medical Education Training Campus here.

The METC, part of the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) initiative, is an integrated campus under a single university-style administration with more than 100 courses being taught.

Rear Adm. William R. Kiser is the METC's first commandant, with Army Col. Larry Hanson as deputy commandant and dean. Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Lambing is the senior enlisted adviser.

"Today marks a significant milestone in the ongoing story of military medicine," Kiser said. "Everywhere our nation sends our finest to serve, our graduates will be there with them serving as a force for good because of the work done here."

Making history as the world's largest military medical and training institution, METC entered into its initial operating capability with the ceremony. The first course, Radiography Specialist, actually began in April. Other courses will be phased in during the summer and fall.

"METC will serve as the birthplace for joint interoperability for corpsman, medics and technicians," Lambing said in his remarks. "In five years, every medic and corpsman under the grade of E-5 will have been educated here."

The campus will have more than 24,500 students annually with an average daily student load of approximately 8,000. By service, student breakdown includes approximately 45 percent Army, 31 percent Navy and 24 percent Air Force.

"Today is truly about new beginnings," said Rear Adm. Eleanor Valentin, Navy Medicine Support Command commander, and METC Flag Officers' Steering Committee chair. "METC's mission is to produce the



Medical Education and Training Center Commandant Rear Adm. William R. Kiser (right) celebrates opening the center, with Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Charles Green, U.S. Air Force Surgeon General (center) and Rear Adm. Eleanor Valentin, director, Medical Service Corps and commander, Navy Medicine Support Command.

world's best military healthcare personnel to support the nation, and the vision is to be the nation's leader in military medical education and training. This mission and vision guided us to ensure METC provides curriculum and education that preserve each service's identity while creating an environment where our enlisted professionals can learn from their counterparts in their sister services."

Consolidated basic and specialty enlisted training from five separate service medical learning centers have already moved or are in the process of moving to San Antonio. Navy commands are the Naval School of Health Sciences at Portsmouth, Va.; the Naval School of Health Sciences in San Diego; and the Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Ill.

METC's footprint covers more than 2-million square feet on Fort Sam Houston and will cost more than \$1.2 billion to build and equip. Each of its three current dormitories will house 1,200 Airmen and Sailors. Two other dorms will be built nearby for Army students, with one housing 1,200 Soldiers and the other 600 Army students.

"I want you to see not just the bricks and stones and mortar and glass," Kiser said. "I want you to see the people whose lives will be made better by what transpires in these buildings. These buildings are an investment in the health and safety of the men and women who go into harm's way. They are an investment for what we in military medicine stand for."

(Courtesy Navy NewsStand)

Kingsville corpsmen *Continued from page 5*

splinting limbs at station three, noted, "the most challenging part was... the teams carrying the loaded stretcher for such a great distance and then trying to treat the casualties while they were out of breath."

Lt. Cmdr. Jimmy R. Cook, Nurse Corps, exacted TCC questions at station four. Teams were required to give five correct answers before he gave them the green light to proceed to the next station. The clock kept on ticking!

HM2 (FMF) Carlos Morgado observed intravenous therapy (IV) methods at station

five. He saw several bloody arms as team members stuck partners – a tricky maneuver because out-of-breath members were graded on how well they prepared the site, used proper technique and established an IV line.

HMC(FMF) Kelly Miller, an Independent Duty Corpsman, ensured that the teams followed the format, guidelines, and procedures for calling in a NINE-Line MEDEVAC at station six.

"We had fun and did our real corpsman thing," stated McKinley.

Team Four led by the more senior "Docs" placed first, completing the entire course in 23:06 minutes, a feat that seemed to surprise McKinley.

"Intellectually I knew that they would do well, but physically, they're a little bit older. I was impressed because they were sharp and they still knew their stuff and yet they are physically able to do it."

McKinley articulated equal satisfaction with the clinic's corpsman that has not attended FMSS.

Personally Procured Move Process improves

By Henry Bailey, Director
FISC Jacksonville Household Goods

After extensive testing and evaluation, the military has added to the Defense Personal Property System (DPS) an improved system to better compensate service members who use the Personally Procured Move (PPM) process for their household goods when on permanent change of station orders.

This new web based system replaces the former system known as SMARTWEB-MOVE, or DITY (Do-It-Yourself Move) move. The new PPM tool may be accessed via the DPS online at: www.move.mil

All services began using the new system on April 15. The PPM give service members a choice. They may elect to personally move some or even all of their personal property and receive an incentive for doing so. The system calculates for reimbursement using a "best value" method. Most moves will fall into one of three scenarios:

(1) Service members will receive 95 percent of the "best value" the government would pay to move the goods as an incentive for a PPM; or (2) Actual Cost Reimbursement (ACR) will pay service members actual cost not to exceed the "best value" of the move and is used for pre-approved special handling such as assembly and disassembly and packing fragile items; or (3) When a government-furnished moving service is not available, ACR pays the actual cost for the entire move subject to service headquarters pre-approval.

Some moves will not qualify for the new system, so it is important to access the DPS Smart Book at www.move.mil for the rules.

Questions about any of the DPS programs may be directed to (800) 762-4221, option #2; or by sending an email to: HHG_southeast@navy.mil.

"HM3 Megan Jones, a dental tech, was in that last group," he pointed out. "She chipped in, she hasn't been to Field Med, and she [still] went in there and took care of business. That's a positive reflection on leadership."

McKinley, who will transfer in April 2011, met the clinic's new OIC last week.

"If there's anything about the Hospital Corps Birthday you need to keep," McKinley recommended to the prospective OIC, "it's this sir. It gets bigger and better every year."

Naval Aviation Enterprise leaders plan for the year ahead

By MCI Sandra M. Palumbo

Navy Public Affairs Support Element, West

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- The core leadership of the Naval Aviation Enterprise (NAE) met to discuss future challenges and current demands at its annual Executive Committee meeting in May as they charted the NAE's course for the coming year.

"Every time we do this meeting, we find that there is continuing relevance and there is a continuing reason for the Naval Aviation Enterprise," said Vice Adm. Thomas J. Kilcline, Jr., commander, Naval Air Forces.

"The NAE is maturing, and every year over the last six years, we have taken a really good hard look at what we are doing and how we can improve. This year, as in the past, we questioned the assumptions that underline what we do and why we do it."

During the meeting the NAE Executive Committee members discussed current and future Naval Aviation issues while setting the agenda for a larger NAE Extended Air Board meeting that will take place in August.

"The NAE is relevant, if not more relevant today, in championing the processes that deliver a warfighting capability. The

purpose of this meeting is to bring together a core group of leaders that have an impact on naval aviation," said James Beebe, executive director for Commander, Naval Air Forces. "It is all about communication and understanding the equities that we all have in supporting naval aviation requirements."

For the duration of two days, NAE Executive Board members, including about a dozen flag officers and Senior Executive Service (SES) civilians from across the naval aviation community discussed the future of the NAE. The board reviewed not only the NAE's structure and processes but also the impact on naval aviation of the current high op-tempo demand combined with constrained budgets. Also discussed was whether or not the Enterprise was using the right indicators to properly measure the many complex processes that produce the current naval aviation combat readiness.

"There are challenges in regards to funding, to readiness and aircraft that we need to get our arms around. We need to create more up aircraft and more operational capability to overcome those funding challenges," Kilcline said. "The Naval Aviation Enterprise has to focus on the processes that help manage the dollars we are given and then focus on how best to deliver more aircraft. We have to sustain

those capabilities and then allow the Navy and Marine Corps to move forward in the future with enough dollars to do so."

The NAE consists of three cross-functional teams: current readiness, total force and future readiness. Working across traditional command boundaries, these teams use transparency, metrics-based decisions, and accountability to efficiently synchronize naval aviation's readiness delivery processes and help naval aviation leadership to make smarter risk-balanced decisions.

"The Naval Aviation Enterprise has helped Marine Corps Aviation perform far better than we could on our own and is our main mechanism to exchange information and to ensure that there is transparency among all the stakeholders who contribute to our complex enterprise," said Marine Corps Lt. Gen. George J. Trautman III, deputy commandant for aviation. "Navy and Marine Corps aviation are inextricably linked inside naval aviation. We contribute something that is very valuable to our nation."

Naval Aviation today includes more than 180,000 Sailors and Marines, 3,800 aircraft, 11 aircraft carriers and executes a budget in excess of \$40 billion annually.

The NAE's mission is to support naval aviation readiness requirements with transparent, cross-functional processes, which inform risk-balanced decisions.

"Today things are moving forward at a rapid pace. We have challenges associated with combat operations and transitioning to new types of aircraft, and it is absolutely imperative we communicate and talk with those who contribute to our success," Trautman said. "You can not be successful on your own, you must interact with others, and share your perspectives with them. This is what the NAE has done and will continue to do in the future."

At the conclusion of the meeting, NAE leadership had identified focus areas for the coming year. They included approving a strategic direction for Fiscal Year 2011, refining the NAE's measurements and key thresholds, assessing successes and challenges, reviewing the relationship to other enterprises and setting the course for the Extended Air Board meeting.

For more information about the Naval Aviation Enterprise, visit <http://www.cnaf.navy.mil/nae>. For more news from Naval Aviation Enterprise, visit <http://www.navy.mil/local/nae/>

VT-22 first NAS Kingsville command to unveil Centennial of Naval Aviation paint scheme

Training Squadron 22 (VT-22) became the first command from Training Air Wing TWO to unveil their T-45 paint scheme July 3. The aircraft is one of three planes that will feature new paint schemes in support of the Centennial of Naval Aviation which will be celebrated throughout 2011. Aircraft 322 will be flown by VT-22 commanding officer Lt. Col. Terrence Latorre.

VT-22's paint scheme includes a large eagle on the back portion of each side, symbolizing the squadron's "Golden Eagles" nickname. The eagle outlines and the tail are painted in red, with a blue shield on the top of the tail with seven white stars.

VT-21 will be the next to unveil their squadron aircraft, but a date for the arrival has not been announced. Training Air Wing TWO will be the last NAS Kingsville command to reveal their centennial aircraft paint scheme.

Right, Training Air Wing TWO staff members pose for a photo upon the arrival of aircraft 322. From left are Lt. Cmdr. Scott Gunderson, Capt. Mark Brooks, Lt. Col. Terrence Latorre, Lt. Cmdr. Shawn Inman, and CWO Chris Chandler. (Photos by Lt. Cmdr. Gabe Pincelli, TW-2)





MWR Event Calendar

Pool hours:

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

Water Aerobics:

Monday and Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.

Inner Tube Water Polo:

Thursdays, 6 p.m. Call 516-6113, for more information.

Library Events

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

Movie Tavern

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

K-Bar at the Captain's Club

Movie Tavern First Tuesday of Each Month, show time is 7 p.m. Free Movie. K-Bar is open.

Trivia On Tap

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

Bowling Center

Free lunch time bowling weekdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with Purchase of meal.

Youth Activities Calendar

July 17: Splashtown - San Antonio. Cost: \$25. 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Take a break from the heat and cool off at the water park!

July 23-24: Overnight Camp Out - NAS Corpus Christi. Cost: \$10. 7 p.m. July 23 to 10 a.m. July 24. Sleep under the stars and make s'mores by the campfire!

Aug. 7: Houston Texans Training Camp - Houston. 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.. Are you ready for some Houston Texans football? (Cost: Free to the first 25 registered youth/teen, \$25 for food and souvenirs)



Missoula Children's Theater group presents "King Arthur's Quest" at Captain's Club

The latest installment of the Missoula Children's Theater Production group came to NAS Kingsville June 25 for an evening performance at the Captain's Club. Sixteen children from NAS Kingsville participated in the "King Arthur's Quest" production.

"We had such a great time the last time we hosted Missoula here that we wanted to do it again," said NAS Kingsville Youth Activities Director Brett Edwards. "It's a lot of fun for the children because they get to dress up in character, get some professional acting guidance, and perform on stage in front of an audience."

The Missoula Theater team arrived on board NAS Kingsville June 21 and set up auditions for the children, which required each of them to audition "in character." Once the cast selections were made, the children were provided their scripts and began rehearsing their roles.

"Within a week, the entire cast had the script memorized," Edwards said. "By the time the performance date arrived they were all excited. The play included jokes, dragons, giants, swords and musical performances, and everybody did a great job."

Edwards said the performance was well-received by those who turned out to watch, and "all that attended left knowing what King Arthur's true quest actually was - and it wasn't the dancing dragon. The children all gained the 'life skills' of responsibility, leadership, and creativity. This all through the week long commitment they made to Missoula Children's Theater."

The NAS Kingsville Youth Center plans to continue the relationship with the Missoula Theater Group and look forward to their next production.



Steer clear of low water crossings

by Ángel Zúñiga, Safety Specialist

A recent news story about two elderly San Patricio County residents that drowned after their vehicle stalled in high water and were swept downstream after getting out of their vehicle exposes the dangers of rising fast moving water.

With more rain coming our way, take the time to remind your folks about Low Water Crossings (LWC).

A Low Water Crossing is flooding at roadway dips, bridges and low areas.

LWCs are not unique only to rural county roads, but also city streets and highways.

Here are some of the more well known LWCs for this area:

-Chapman Ranch Road (State Highway 286) just north of the Post Office

-Farm Road 665 east of Driscoll

In Kingsville:

-14th Street at King, Caesar and other intersections

-Santa Gertrudis as it crosses Tranquitas Creek (west of 14th)

-Trant Road between Brahma Blvd and 6th Street

-J K Northway at the bend by old Dodge Used Car dealership.

Keep in mind that as the rains continue, other LWCs may develop.

Here are some of the hidden dangers of LWCs:

Even the largest of vehicles will float.

As little as six inches may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

Two feet of water will carry most vehicles away.

Do not drive through flowing water.

A hidden danger awaits motorists where a road without a bridge crosses a creek bed.

Motorists develop a false sense of confidence when they normally or frequently pass through dry LWCs.

Scoured or washed away roadbeds during flooding create unsafe driving conditions.

Those people that who repeatedly drive through flooded LWCs do not recognize the dangers of a small increase in water level.

Driving too fast through low water will cause the vehicle to hydroplane and lose contact with the road surface.

Visibility is limited at night increasing the vulnerability of the driver to any hidden dangers.

Some of the things you can do:

Heed all flood and flash flood watches and warnings.

Turn around when confronting LWCs.

Keep abreast of road conditions through the news media.



SHOW OFF: Lt. Brent Simmons hits a tee shot off a can right down the middle of the fairway.

**Let the “Big Dog” Hunt ... at the Navy Ball Golf Tournament
Sponsored by the Kingsville Navy League
Friday, July 30 at L.E. Ramey Golf Course**

Limited to 22 teams. Open to military and civilian personnel. Sign up no later than July 26. Get entry forms at the NAS Kingsville Fitness Center or the Public Affairs Office, Rm. 214, Command Headquarters Bldg.

Green fees, lunch, door prize drawings, hole-in-one chances, and more!

Help the Kingsville Navy League support the 2010 Navy Ball.

\$40 per player, \$160 team -- Includes green fees, cart, barbecue lunch, ditty bag. 9 a.m. shotgun start / scramble format. Prizes: Plaques and team prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams. Plus, Longest Drive, and 4 closest-to-the pin awards. Plus you could win a new car!

Registration limited to 22 teams / 88 players



WRONG WAY MIKE: Lefty Mike Crisman looks to be in the hunt again this year - if he can get some help from his teammates.