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December 30, 2011

A Year in Review

NASK's 2011 accomplishments set the course for the new year

Celebrated achievements, ground breakings, comings and goings, the Centennial of Naval Aviation, and a push toward alternative energy highlighted the year that was 2011 for NAS Kingsville and tenant activities.

From the first days of the New Year to the holiday season in December, mission accomplishment and a total "Team Kingsville" attitude helped deliver the mission-mandated product of the very best Navy and Marine Corps Naval Aviators to the fleet.

When Capt. Mark McLaughlin assumed command of the air station in June 2010, he pledged to focus on three areas: "taking care of ourselves, being concerned about our shipmates, and leaving the ranch better than we found it." In 2011, NAS Kingsville met those goals and more.

"I'd have to say that 2011 was a highly successful year for NAS Kingsville and tenant commands," McLaughlin said recently. "As a whole, we made remarkable progress. Our operations totals are up at both NAS

Kingsville and NALF Orange Grove. Training Air Wing TWO pushed forward despite two aircraft accidents and still surpassed their goal of producing more than 100 Navy and Marine Corps aviators for the fleet. And for the naval air station as a whole, 2011 was a year of progress and accomplishment."

NAS Kingsville focused on energy conservation in 2011, taking the lead throughout Navy Region Southeast (NRSE). In February, NAS Kingsville became the first NRSE command to install smart meters on buildings aboard the base. The meters help the command track energy use and identify energy trends and create cost savings through energy management. In total, 141 smart meters were installed throughout the base.

Energy conservation efforts also included the installation of new lighting for the Hangar 3, Bldg. 3757. The \$274,000 project included replacing all overhead lighting inside and outside the hangar, which has
see Review on page 4



ACC(AW/SW) Curtis Malone, left, and AC3 Robert Chamberlain discuss clearance delivery position inside approach control radar. The Wing neared the half-million mark of air traffic control operations by year's end, which required a total "team effort" from base activities.

Training Air Wing TWO successfully completes carrier qualifications

More than 40 student pilots and instructors headed to the West Coast in November to conduct Carrier Qualifications off the coast of San Diego. After landing at NAS North Island, the detachment conducted three days of training and flight ops aboard the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76).

Training Squadron 22 (VT-22) served as the detachment OIC for Training Air Wing TWO (TW-2) for the detach-

ment. In total, 14 student naval aviators (SNAs) and three instructors-under-training (IUTs) completed and qualified aboard the carrier. In addition, 24 instructor pilots (including 4 Landing Signal Officers) participated.

TW-2 personnel flew 83 sorties and logged 127 flight hours during the detachment, and logged 226 arrested landings. The top hook for the detachment was Lt. j.g. Candice Nunley of VT-21.

"Earning 'top hook' is a significant accomplishment for a student," said Cmdr. Quino Alonzo, commanding officer of VT-21. "It means that the student was the best in both grade point average for landing grades and boarding rate, a percentage of successful attempts to catch a wire, out of all the students, from both Kingsville and Meridian, who qualified on that

boat.

"Lt.j.g. Nunley achieved 'top hook' honors from among more than 30 students. She is also the fourth student from VT-21 to win this award this year."

Nunley is from Athens, Tenn., where she says her grandfather founded the Swift Museum Foundation, which is a vintage aircraft organization.

"I grew up living behind the Swift Museum on our local airport," Nunley said. "I always intended for aviation to be a very large part of my life just as I always planned to join the military. But it was not until college that I realized I could combine the two."

Nunley added that she knew the Navy trained the best pilots and landed on carriers, so her choice was simple. She also realizes that there are very few women in the program, "So it is of interest for a woman to receive top hook."

"I am proud to have earned this recognition, but see my achievement as no different than any other student's," Nunley said. "I have set the bar high for myself and will have the rest of my career to keep it there."

TW-2 will be conducting their next Carrier Qualifications off the West Coast next month.

A T-45C Goshawk from TW-2 is about to launch from the carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Ronald Reagan is conducting operations supporting Naval Air Training Command carrier qualifications. (U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Terry Godette)



From the Bridge



Capt. Mark McLaughlin
Commanding Officer



Greetings Team Kingsville!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas and I wish you all a Happy New Year!

I suppose it's that time for New Year's resolutions. Not going to make any public for you, but I'll go so far as to say that next year is shaping up to be a great year for NAS Kingsville in part because we will be opening some new facilities.

Construction on the gym and athletic complex is proceeding very well, mainly due to the cooperative weather. Progress is such that the gym may be open as early as late February or early March. Then, demolition of the old gym facility will begin.

Likewise, the new Navy Gateway Inns and Suites is on pace to be handed over to our Public Works department in February and then we'll complete the outfitting of the rooms with a grand opening in April/May.

Our Public Works department is drafting proposals for a base landscaping and beautification plan. We are looking at landscaping options to replace the palms along Nimitz Avenue due to their age and deterioration. Also, the Branch Medical Clinic has nearly completed their landscaping project for that area, and it is fantastic!

Lastly, sometime in the very near future, I should be able to publish the plans and timeline for relocating the bowling center to the area between the Club and the new gym. Once this plan comes to fruition, we will have full-time food service back in the Club for all to enjoy.

Be safe during your New Year's celebrations and I look forward to everyone's return next week.

Until next time, ~Skipper Mac

NAS Kingsville Religious Services Offered

Sunday

at McFall Memorial Chapel

10:30 a.m. - Family Bible Services

12:30 p.m. - Catholic Mass

Tuesday

11:30 a.m. - Bible Study, in Bldg. 2741

Wednesday

7 p.m. - Officer Christian Fellowship

Thursday

4:30 p.m. - Catholic Choir Practice

5:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting



Holiday wishes

Happy holidays South Texas from the command staff, from left, Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff; Cmdr. Scott Wilmot, executive officer; Janie Ramos, CO/XO secretary; and Capt. Mark McLaughlin, commanding officer, Naval Air Station Kingsville. (Photo by Jon Gagné)

Deckplate Leadership



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



Team Kingsville,

I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and were able to spend some time with family and friends. Now it is time for us to celebrate the New Year. I hope all of you have a great time ringing in 2012! I also hope all of you celebrate safely and responsibly.

The tradition of New Year's goes back to early Rome. In fact, the month of January is named after Janus, a two-headed mythical king in early Rome. Janus had two heads that allowed him to look back on past events while simultaneously looking forward to the future. As we prepare to ring in the New Year, I think it is a good thing for us to do exactly what Janus did. It is a good time to look back on last year's successes and failures, while simultaneously looking forward to next year's challenges.

I imagine most of us can look back and see things that we did really well in 2011 -- goals that we accomplished and challenges that we overcame. But I'm sure we can also see areas where we may have fell short -- goals that we didn't quite accomplish and challenges that we didn't quite overcome.

I realize that because we are human every goal won't be met and every challenge won't be overcome. But I also firmly believe that if we set challenging goals, prepare ourselves to achieve those goals, and then dedicate ourselves 100 percent to accomplishing those goals, we will succeed far more times than we will fail.

With that being said, I challenge each of you to set challenging personal and professional goals for yourselves for 2012. More importantly, I challenge each of you to accomplish those goals you set.

Begin by actually writing your goals out on paper. Then prepare yourself to achieve them by writing out a detailed plan of action that will get you to successful goal accomplishment. And now for the most important part of accomplishing your goals -- you must commit yourself completely.

If your goal is to advance to the next pay grade, you must dedicate regular study time and stick with the plan no matter what. Don't allow yourself to take a day off from studying here and there. If you do, the days off will soon outnumber your study days. You must also commit yourself to being a model Sailor. You must be the Sailor who is ahead on his professional qualifications. You must be the Sailor who can be counted on to get the hard jobs done ahead of schedule and without supervision.

If your goal is to obtain your degree, then enroll today and commit yourself to a regular study plan that will ensure good grades. Commit yourself to sticking with your education plan. Don't allow yourself to take a semester off because summer is coming and you want to enjoy the outdoors. Develop a schedule that will allow you to spend time outdoors with friends while still getting your studies done.

In closing, I wish all of you a Happy New Year! I also wish all of you success in achieving the goals you set for yourselves in 2012. Remember to develop plans of action that will ensure you achieve your goals, and then commit yourself completely to goal accomplishment. Don't let anything or anyone stand in your way!

V/R
CMC

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This paper is published for people like Detroit native David Boston, who is the quality assurance specialist and radiation safety officer for Chief of Naval Air Training Detachment. Boston is a Navy veteran who was an aviation structural mechanic. He has been working on board NAS Kingsville since 1991.

Review from page 1

resulted in annual electricity cost savings of \$85,000 per year.

A ground breaking took place in March for a \$3.1 million solar array plant on 3.3 acres of land at South Field. The project, which took six months to complete, is expected to generate 663,000 kilowatt hours of electric power each year for the air station's power grid.

"This solar plant is a great investment for the future," said Public Works Officer Cmdr. Troy Hamilton. "We expect this plant to effectively reduce the air station's consumption of purchased energy by 2.5 percent annually – and it brings NAS Kingsville in line with the Secretary of the Navy goal for commands, of providing 50 percent of its energy from non-fossil fuel sources by 2015."

In 2010, the command began a push for energy awareness throughout the air station

by establishing a basewide Energy Council and individual Building Energy Monitors (BEMs) who would lead the charge to promote conservation and awareness. BEMs were tasked to promote a culture of energy awareness and ensure that the more than 40 buildings and hundreds of personnel who work in them are incorporating energy efficient measures.

Construction

Construction efforts during the year included a modernization of Hangar 3, Bldg. 760. The revamped facility now serves as home to the U.S. Army Reserve 11th Aviation Command's Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) squadron, which arrived in the spring with two HH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. At full strength, the squadron will have six Black Hawks operating out of the

air station to conduct their training here before deploying overseas.

Work on the new Armed Forces Reserve Center finally came to an end in June as the new \$13.9 million facility was officially turned over to the air station. Once fully operational and staffed, the facility will serve as a home for Army and National Guard Reservists from throughout South Texas.

Additional ribbon-cutting ceremonies during the year included the re-opening of the Branch Health Clinic, Bldg. 3775, after an 18-month rehab project. The clinic staff moved back into facility the end of January, and a ribbon-cutting was held the first week of February.

Meanwhile, construction continues on the \$11.5 million Fitness Center and the Navy Gateway Inns & Suites, Bldg. 3755. Both facilities are targeted for a spring 2012 opening.

Leadership Changes

NAS Kingsville's major tenant command saw a change in leadership in mid-July. Capt. Joseph H. Evans assumed duties as Commander, Training Air Wing TWO, during an official change of command ceremony. Evans relieved Capt. Mark Brooks, who had led the Wing since 2009.

"There are three pillars to my command philosophy," Evans said during the ceremony. "Family is the cornerstone to our society and our economy. Commitment is like a ship – we all serve together. And finally, we



Solar energy panels were installed on the roofs of five NAS Kingsville buildings in an effort to meet the Secretary of the Navy's Energy Goal. NAS Kingsville focused on energy conservation in 2011, taking the lead throughout Navy Region Southeast.

will fly, instruct and lead."

Evans thanked Brooks for handing over to him a capable air wing and staff, and pledged to those assembled that he would lead "with the utmost integrity" training the *see Review on page 4*



The first two helicopters assigned to F Company, 7-158th Aviation Regiment, an Army Reserve medical evacuation unit, arrived in June, as the unit prepares to stand up aboard Naval Air Station Kingsville. When the unit is fully operational, there will be six Black Hawk and 40 support personnel stationed aboard the air station.

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In the Break



Capt. Joe Evans
Commander
Training Air Wing TWO



Happy New Year NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO,

Now is the time of year that we celebrate the triumphs as well as lament the losses of the old year, while looking forward with hope and anticipation for the New Year. I for one am excited about both the challenges and the opportunities that await us in the coming 12 months of 2012.

This year will start off with a bang, as we send a weapons detachment to El Centro, Calif. The weapons detachment will depart the day after our return from the holidays and stay in southern California through Jan. 27. Mid-way through that detachment, we will commence field-carrier landing practice at our outlying field in Orange Grove, in preparation for a Carrier Qualification detachment to Key West, Fla., that is sched-

uled to be "hook down" on Feb. 6. The pace will be fast and furious out of the blocks in 2012.

Of course we shouldn't forget that it isn't all about us here in Kingsville. The last I looked earlier this month, some 53 percent of our Navy's ships were underway including six Carrier Strike Groups and five large-deck amphibious ships. Somewhat fewer are actually deployed but none-the-less the numbers at sea are significant. Let's all be thankful for those that continue to "stand the watch" for the rest of us back in quiet home-port Kingsville.

So, please enjoy the well-deserved break over the holidays. You all have earned it. But, come back in 2012 ready to go. The Wing will be having "Back in the Saddle" safety stand-downs the morning of Jan. 3, but by mid-day we will be launching jets.

In closing this year of 2011, I wish you all the very best in the coming year. Have a safe and fun-filled Christmas and New Year's holiday. I look forward to seeing everyone back here safe and ready to go in January.

Regards,
Commodore Evans

Review from page 3

world's best tactical Naval Aviators."

"At Training Air Wing TWO," Evans added, "we will fly hard, instruct with precision, and lead with integrity. We will be second to none."

Evans and his wife Stephanie wasted little time getting involved in the command and local community, volunteering their efforts at numerous community outreach events and basewide programs throughout the year, including Pilot For a Day evolutions, the annual King Ranch "Ranch Hand Breakfast," the basewide 4th of July and Halloween carnivals, and more.

Squadron leadership also changed during the year. In June, Cmdr. Quino Alonzo Jr. took the helm of VT- 21 from Cmdr. John Kelsey, during a traditional ceremony held aboard USS Lexington Museum on the Bay in Corpus Christi. Cmdr. Brian Beck reported aboard as the squadron's new executive officer.

Alonzo and his wife Joy became active in the command and community immediately, leading squadron personnel to also play an active role in the community. Their efforts included volunteer home improvement projects in Corpus Christi, participation in events throughout Kingsville and Kleberg County, and special family days with Redhawks family members.

Training Squadron 22 (VT-22) conducted a change of command in October, also with a ceremony held aboard USS Lexington Museum on the Bay in Corpus Christi. Lt. Col. Terrence H. Latorre, USMC, turned over command of the "Golden Eagles" to Cmdr. Darren B. Guenther, USN. Marine Lt. Col. Scott Schoemann reported as the



Capt. Joseph Evans, right, relieved Capt. D. Mark Brooks as commodore of Training Air Wing TWO during a traditional change of command ceremony held July 15.

squadron's new executive officer.

On the Reserve side, Cmdr. Neyland Springer relieved Capt. Lowen Loftin, of the Training Wing TWO Reserve Component helm Jan. 14, while command of Reserve Training Squadron 22 (VTR-22) changed hands in May with Lt. Col. Barry Dowell relieving Cmdr. Daryl Foster.

Regional leadership also changed during the year. In August, Rear Adm. John C. "Jack" Scorby Jr. relieved Rear Adm. Townsend G. "Tim" Alexander as the region's commander. Shortly after assuming command, Scorby began a series of orienta-

see Review on page 8



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Bravo Zulu

NASK recognizes personnel

Bravo Zulu to the following people who were recognized recently at a Naval Air Station Kingsville All Hands Call:

AC1(AW/SW) Michael Tredway received a gold star in lieu of his third Navy Achievement Medal for his superior performance of his duties while serving as facility watch supervisor and tower branch chief at NAS Kingsville from October 2010 to October 2011, which led to him being selected as Sailor of the Year.

As facility watch supervisor, Tredway led a 24-person watch team in all facets of air traffic control and was charged with the safe movement of military and civilian air traffic throughout 36,000 square miles of airspace. As tower branch chief, he managed \$11.5 million in equipment and supervised 52 Sailors who provided control tower services for more than 251,000 aircraft operations.

Tredway also served as air operations department career counselor and volunteered countless off-duty hours on community service projects.

AC1(AW/SW) Kevin Kahler was selected as Chief of Naval Air Training "Safety Pro of the Week" in October. Kahler's swift and decisive actions in de-conflicting two T-45 aircraft during flight operations in July prevented a mishap. According to a Flag Letter from Rear Adm. William Sizemore, CNATRA, Kahler saved lives and the loss of vital assets were prevented.

"You have my personal thanks for a job well done," wrote Sizemore.

ABH3 Lance Carter Jr. was frocked to his current rank by Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer.

Joshua Huston was recognized for 10 years of service to the government.

David Ramirez was recognized for 25 years of service to the government.

Antonio Guerrero Jr. was recognized for 25 years of service to the government.

Viola Glasgow was recognized for 25 years of service to the government.

Fernando Medrono was recognized for 30 years of service to the government.

James J. Harper was recognized for 36 years of service as he retires from civil service.

Monette Walker, emergency manager, was awarded Sr. Civilian of the Year for 2011.

Joseph Cordero, firefighter, was awarded Civilian of the Year for 2011.

CS2(AW) Erick Soliz was awarded a gold star in lieu of his fourth Navy Achievement Medal for his superior performance while servicing as bachelor housing department complex manager aboard NAS Kingsville from January 2009 to December 2011.

Soliz coordinated and managed seven comprehensive self help projects at the Navy Gateway Inns and Suites and the



Carter



Glasgow



Guerrero



Kahler



Soliz



Tredway



Walker

enlisted barracks that saved more than \$40,000 in excess labor costs while improving the quality of both facilities. As the only military member of the city of Kingsville's Keep Kingsville Beautiful board, he led numerous beautification projects that improved the image of the local community.

Soliz also dedicated more than 200 hours to the Wounded Warrior program and the Kingsville elementary school reading program.

PW recognizes personnel

Public Works recognized the following personnel recently:

Russell Messer was selected as Supervisor of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.

Jack Kopatz was selected as Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.

Russell Messer was also selected as Supervisor of the Quarter.

Derek Sorensen was selected as Employee of the Year.

David Cirilo was recognized for 20 years of service to the government

see *Bravo Zulu* on page 8



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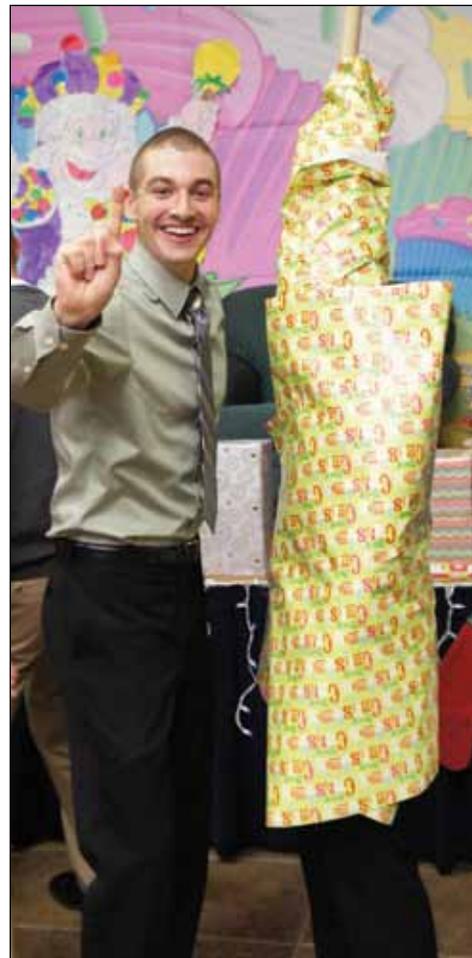
Above, Nidia Desiderio and Frances Baker, both of the Security Department, enjoyed the holiday party held at the Captain's Club on Dec. 2. Right, a T-45 makes a landing on one of the doors decorated at TW-2.



Santa with his sleigh pulled by two red-nosed T-45s, prepares to land in the TW-2 hallway. TW-2 held a door decorating contest which spread holiday cheer throughout the building.



Lt. Cmdr. Robert Rosales, TW-2 standardization officer, shows off one of the TW-2 doors that was judged in the Wing's holiday door decorating contest.



All wrapped up -- Part of the festivities of the NAS Kingsville Holiday Party held earlier this month included wrapping "presents." From left, Lt. Cmdr. Russell Braden, officer in charge of Branch Health Clinic Kingsville, wraps his wife Liz in gold paper. Center,

Ens. Thomas Stock, of Public Works, wraps his date Katie Hertrampf from head to toe. Capt. Joe Evans, Commander, TW-2, tops off his "package" with a bow. His wife Stephanie and all the other "presents" were good sports throughout the wrapping contest.



Above and left, Training Air Wing TWO held a door decorating contest as part of the holiday festivities. Third place went to Rudy Cantu, second to Bill Brown, and first to Darin Baker, Linda Boulware, Precilla Ramirez, Maria Bullock and Delia Gorena, of TW-2 Admin. Congratulations to all the winners.



Spirit of Giving — ET3 Jessica Korenek, far left, helps out in “Santa’s Workshop” checking bags of toys for distribution during the annual Toys for Tots campaign. Above, Maj. Josh Germann, of F Company, 7-158th Aviation Regiment, aboard NAS Kingsville, and his daughter Allie provide utensils to guests during the annual Feast of Sharing held Christmas Eve at the American Bank Center. Germann and dozens of other NAS Kingsville volunteers helped serve thousands of hungry people a holiday meal of ham, tamales, mashed potatoes and vegetables at the annual event. Left, volunteers also prepared the plates that were distributed at the Feast of Sharing. Among the volunteers pictured left are Capt. Joe Evans, commander, TW-2, his son Tucker, and Maryann Shramko.

Wings of Gold —

Fourteen student pilots received their wings of gold during a winging ceremony held Dec. 16, at the Captain’s Club. From bottom left: Cmdr. Quino Alonzo, VT-21 commanding officer; Cmdr. Darren Guenther, VT-22 commanding officer; Lt. Erik Halvorson; Lt. j.g. Tyler Shaver; 1st Lt. Vincent Berardino; 1st Lt. James Wilson, IV; 1st Lt. Christopher Curry; Lt. j.g. David Worst; Col. Marshall Denney III, MATSG 22 commanding officer; Cmdr. Rey Molina, chief staff officer, TW-2; Cmdr. Jem Jose, Indian liaison officer; (top row) Maj. Wesley Deaver, Sr. Marine VT-22; Cmdr. Brian Beck, VT-21 executive officer; 1st Lt. Felemay Ogbasion; Capt. Justin Archibald; Lt. j.g. Matthew O’Donnell; Lt. Nishant Singh; Lt. j.g. Anthony Tovado; 1st Lt. Daniel Bono; 1st Lt. Joshua Griffin; 1st Lt. James Frederick; Maj. Chris Reinhart, Sr. Marine VT-21; Lt. Col. Scott Schoeman, VT-22 executive officer. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs)



Review from page 4

tion visits to the 18 installations that make up the Region. Scoby visited NAS Kingsville in October.

Operations

While the air station focused on infrastructure improvements during the past year, Training Air Wing TWO pushed to meet operational commitments. The Wing neared the half-million mark of air traffic control operations by year's end with more than 200,000 operations at NALF Orange Grove and nearly 300,000 at the home field.

Reaching these goals required a total "team effort" from base activities. In addition to flight and instructors and student aviators from TW-2, Navy air traffic controllers, ground electronics technicians, flight support personnel, crash and rescue teams, and major contract employers like L-3 Vertex, Rolls-Royce and Fidelity Technologies pulled together to keep the Wing "on track."

At year's end, TW-2 had produced 115 Navy, Marine Corps and allied forces naval aviators, providing the fleet with the world's best tactical jet/strike aviators.

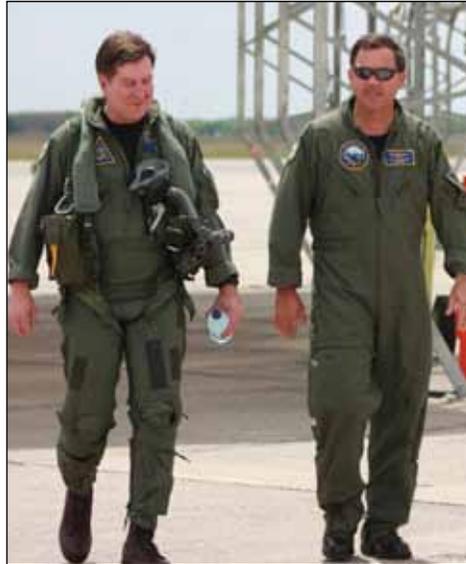
Special Visits

The Navy's Air Boss paid a visit to NAS Kingsville April 13. The stop in Kingsville was part of a three-day visit to South Texas Navy commands for Vice Adm. Allen Myers, Commander, Naval Air Forces.

While aboard NAS Kingsville, Myers received a windshield tour of the flight line and the squadron hangar followed by a flight brief and orientation flight in the T-45A Goshawk over the air station's training airspace.

Myers also held an all hands call and focused his remarks on the elements vital to success in a career in Naval Aviation, including Standards of Conduct, character and integrity, and pride and professionalism on and off-duty.

At the end of July, the station was visited by Chief of Naval Operations' deputy director for energy and environmental readiness to see first-hand mission sustainment concerns. John P. Quinn visited South Texas July 20 and 21, to discuss environmental



The Navy's Air Boss Vice Adm. Allen Myers, Commander, Naval Air Forces, paid a visit to NAS Kingsville April 13. Above, Myers and Rear Adm. William Sizemore, chief of Naval Air Training, walk across the NAS Kingsville tarmac after deplaning.

readiness, community growth, and issues related to flight operations, including compatible siting cooperation on wind farm development.

McLaughlin also hosted a number of local civic leaders and potential wind farm developers throughout the year, providing his concerns of how wind farm development within short distances from NAS Kingsville might impact flight operations.

McLaughlin and base Community Planning and Liaison Officer Glenn Jones extended invitations to potential builders, city, regional and state leadership, and Navy and DoD policy makers to come together to discuss those concerns and develop reasonable solutions to potential issues. While McLaughlin stated that this process will continue to be fine-tuned in coming months, he noted the meetings had proved to be successful in bringing both sides together.

Saluting Our Personnel

In January, the Kingsville Council of the U.S. Navy League recognizing Navy personnel for their volunteer efforts in the local community for 2010. Lt. j.g. Danielle Thriot, of VT-21, was recognized as Junior Officer Volunteer of the Year, HM2 Steven McKinley II, of Branch Health Clinic Kingsville, was named Enlisted Volunteer of the Year; and Melissa Brooks, wife of Capt. Mark Brooks, Commander, TW-2, was recognized as Military Spouse Volunteer of the Year.

In September, NAS Kingsville, along with the rest of the Navy, recognized the achievements of command ombudsmen. NAS Kingsville's ombudsmen -- Brie Watson and Laurie Harrison -- were honored for their service and an annual dinner held jointly with other commands from throughout South Texas. Congressman Blake Farenthold, 27th District, served as guest speaker for the event, which was coordinated by the



The command training team took part in four major training evolutions designed to test command first responders and security personnel including this one where personnel responded to a suspicious vehicle attempting to gain access to the base.

NAS Kingsville Fleet and Family Support Center.

In November, the Kingsville Navy League once again paid tribute to NAS Kingsville personnel with their annual Combined Services luncheon to highlight volunteer efforts of NAS Kingsville personnel for 2011. Recognized were Lt. Michael Galdieri, an instructor pilot from VT-21 as Jr. Officer Volunteer of the Year and

Joy Alonzo, wife of Cmdr. Quino Alonzo, commanding officer of VT-21, as Military Spouse of the Year. IC1(SW) Bernardino Martinez, of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department, was awarded Enlisted Volunteer of the Year honors. Susan Combs, Texas comptroller of public accounts was the keynote speaker for the luncheon.

see Review on next page

Bravo Zulu from page 5

Sal Salinas was recognized for 20 years of service to the government.

Oscar Guerra was recognized for 10 years of service to the government.

Public Works recognized several personnel for their contributions to the work site.

Great Place to Work awardees are: **Leticia Knerr, Becky Wilson, Mahvash Naraghi-Arani, Dana Villareal, Neal Miles, Albert Ortega, Richard Silvas, Felipe Chavez and Andy Camarillo.**

Fair winds and following seas to the following Public Works employees who are retiring this month: **Becky Burgard, Oscar Guerra and Libby Kopatz.**

TW-2 recognizes personnel

Training Air Wing TWO recently held a hail and farewell gathering.

Welcomed aboard were **Ken Granville**, working at Ground Training as the Chief of Naval Air Training curriculum training content liaison; and **Precilla Ramirez** and **Maria Bullock**, office automation clerks.

The Wing said farewell to **Cmdr. Matt Gevo**. He was presented with a Meritorious Service Medal and a plaque from the TW-2 wardroom.

Length of service awards were given to several employees.

Tom Ormrod was recognized for 20



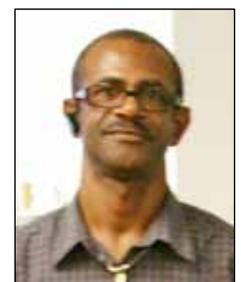
Burton



Cantu



Gevo



Granville



Ormrod



AC1 James Rosa and AC2 Israel Cansino work in approach control. The Wing neared the half-million mark of air traffic control operations by year's end, which required a total "team effort" from base activities.

years of government service.

Patty Burton was recognized for 25 years of service.

And, **Rudy Cantu** was recognized for 30 years of service.

Review from previous page

Homecomings & Arrivals

A number of homecomings and new arrivals highlighted 2011. In January, ET1 (SW) John Fuller returned from a 15-month Individual Augmentee assignment to Iraq. Fuller was welcomed by shipmates, patriotic community members, and his wife and new daughter at the Corpus Christi International Airport.

Several key NAS Kingsville leadership personnel reported aboard in 2011. Among them were David Taylor, NAS Kingsville's new security officer; Sheri Fox, command environmental director; and new MWR Liberty Program special events coordinator Earl Olsen, who transferred recently from NAS Corpus Christi. On the contractor side, former NAS Kingsville and VT-22 commanding officer retired Capt. James Crabbe took over the position as site manager for L-3 Vertex, the largest contract employer on board the air station.

NAS Kingsville welcomed six Wounded Warriors from Brooke Army Medical Center the end of February to the Escondido Ranch. These young men enjoyed a weekend of hunting and camaraderie during a weekend trip that they will never forget.

February also brought a special visit by the U.S. Navy Blue Angel's C-130 "Fat Albert" team to Navy Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) Orange Grove for two weeks of air show training. NAS Kingsville took advantage of the visit inviting local land owners from Jim Wells County to the air field for an orientation barbecue along with Fat Albert team members.

Community Outreach

In April, Capt. McLaughlin, Dick Messbarger, Kingsville Economic Development Council director, and Kingsville Commissioner Stan Laskowski Jr., cut a cake on April 1, marking 60 consecutive years of flight training on board the air station since the base reopened on April 1, 1951.

The ceremony was held at the Captain's Club, and although designed to be low-key event, it marked a significant achievement for the air station and its tenant activities.

Throughout the year, NAS Kingsville and TW-2 welcomed seven youngsters from throughout South Texas as Pilots For a Day. The children were all patients at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, battling oncology issues. They visited the air

February brought a special visit by the U.S. Navy Blue Angel's C-130 "Fat Albert" team to Navy Auxiliary Landing Field Orange Grove for two weeks of air show training. NAS Kingsville took advantage of the visit inviting local land owners from Jim Wells County to the air field for an orientation barbecue along with Fat Albert team members.



The air station's hurricane preparedness efforts were tested in July as NAS Kingsville and South Texas watched Tropical Storm Don head toward the Gulf Coast. It was the first tropical storm of the hurricane season to travel through the Gulf of Mexico.

station with family members and enjoyed their "pilot" experience, which included getting suited up and visiting Air Operations, Ground Training and the paraloft, and then eating a pizza-lunch at the Captain's Club followed by cake with the station's firefighters at the base fire house.

Air station personnel also participated in a number of community outreach programs throughout the year, including judging science fairs at local schools; mentoring students; assisting in community clean-up and beautification projects; marking special events and holidays by participating in parades and carnivals; and much more.

Exercises and Special Events

In February, a severe winter storm that passed over Texas that dropped temperatures into the teens in some cities with snow and freezing rain across most of North Texas including Dallas, Austin and San Antonio.

The storm came on the heels of a three-day arctic front that had dropped temperatures in the 20s all the way to the Texas-Mexico border. Expecting freezing rain, Naval Air Station Kingsville released all non-essential personnel at noon on Feb. 3, and closed the base to all but essential personnel on Feb. 4, in order to keep personnel off the roadways and out of harm's way.

The command also prepared for an active hurricane season during the June to No-

vember timeframe. Command Emergency Management Director Monette Walker worked closely with the Corpus Christi regional office of the National Weather Service and civilian emergency management counterparts throughout Kleberg and Nueces to coordinate efforts and communication.

Those efforts were tested in July as NAS Kingsville and South Texas watched Tropical Storm Don head toward the Gulf Coast. It was the first tropical storm of the hurricane season to travel through the Gulf of Mexico.

Most people hoped that "Don" would bring much-needed rain to the area, yet avoid hitting South Texas head-on. NAS Kingsville promptly made preparations to ensure safety of personnel, resources and property. As it turned out, Tropical Storm Don was a no-show; but everyone's concerted efforts showed that all parties aboard NAS Kingsville were prepared.

Preparation through Training

Hurricane safety awareness was not the only training conducted during the year. The command training team, under the direction of training officer Jim Lawrence, took part in four major training evolutions designed to test command first responders and security personnel. The first was the annual Navy-wide Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield exercise, which is designed to enhance the readiness of security personnel and first responders.

NAS Kingsville Force Protection Officer at the time, Lt. Ricardo Cerna, who coordinated the security department's efforts, stressed the importance of the training.

"These types of training evolutions present a perfect time to prepare and learn how to adapt to diverse and fast-moving situations," Cerna said. "The more opportunities we have to train in this mode, the more proficient we'll be in dealing with real-world events."

The following week, NAS Kingsville first responders took part in a training exercise to test emergency response to a simu-

lated fuel spill at the air station's fuel farm. The exercise was one of four Navy Region Southeast-mandated training evolutions that are required to be conducted each year to ensure NRSE commands have a proven and effective plan for responding to emergency situations.

In June, NAS Kingsville and TW-2 teamed up with Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kleberg County and the city of Kingsville for a joint exercise that tested emergency first responders. The event was a table top exercise of a simulated aircraft crash on the university campus. Another exercise was held at the beginning of September. A "Displaced Families Exercise" tested the Fleet and Family Support Center staff's response to persons affected by a natural disaster. FFSC personnel, the Chaplain and Branch Health Clinic Kingsville personnel partnered with the Corpus Christi FFSC to provide support to the displaced people in the exercise that had a scenario of a post Category IV hurricane that hit Baffin Bay south of Corpus Christi.

The final mandatory training evolution focused on the joint efforts of security, fire and environmental personnel responding to a suspicious vehicle attempting to gain



access to the base. All training evolutions were graded exercises and NAS Kingsville received high marks from regional inspectors for their efforts.

First responder training proved vital in June and November. On June 15, a T-45 Goshawk from TW-2 crashed in a remote area near George West County, Texas, during a routine training flight. The aircraft was piloted by a student aviator who safely ejected from the aircraft and received only minor injuries. The T-45 crashed on a remote portion of a local ranch but damages to the property were "minimal." The investigation into the cause of the crash is ongoing.

In November, TW-2 lost another training jet – this time in a wooded area just south of the NAS Kingsville runways. The pilots, an instructor and student, safely ejected and sustained only minor injuries. The pilots were conducting a routine training flight at the time of the accident, and NAS Kingsville first responders from the Fire & Emer-

see *Review on next page*

Review from previous page

gency Services Department, Branch Health Clinic, and Security Department were on scene immediately. The quick response enabled fire fighters to extinguish the fire from the crash within minutes and allowed the site to be turned over to the Aircraft Mishap Board the next day. An investigation into the cause of this crash continues, as well.

Special Events

The NAS Kingsville Diversity Committee conducted a number of ceremonies during the year to highlight our diverse workforce. Events were planned around African American History, Hispanic Heritage, and Asian-Pacific American Heritage, to name just a few. The Diversity Committee consists of personnel from every command and tenant activity on board the air station and their efforts have made a huge difference in supporting morale and celebrating diversity.

Kleberg County and the city of Kingsville paid tribute to veterans past and present May 30, during a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Kleberg County War Memorial. Capt. McLaughlin was the keynote speaker for the event that more than 200 people attended. A week later, NAS Kingsville and local veterans of World War II held a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, which is considered to be a pivotal moment in the war in the Pacific.

By the end of August, the NASK Chaplain's Department had collected hundreds of pounds of food for the national Feds Feed Families food drive. Foods collected locally replenished the Samaritan Pantry in Kingsville. NAS Kingsville and tenant command personnel donated nearly 1,000 pounds of nonperishable goods and contributed more than \$1,000 in donations.

On Aug. 5, a record 22 teams competed in the annual Navy Ball golf tournament, hosted by the Kingsville Navy League. The annual event, played at L.E. Ramey Golf Course in Kingsville, serves as the Navy League's premier fundraising event for the annual Navy Ball held each October to celebrate the Navy's birthday.

Scores were low, and all teams had fun. The City of Kingsville walked away with this year's Captain's Challenge Cup, as Mayor Sam Fugate's team beat Capt. McLaughlin's squad in a blind skins game. It was the second win in three years for Team Fugate.

In September, nearly 50 people gathered at the Headquarters Building flagpole on for the annual Freedom Walk held in honor of the victims of 9/11. The walk ended at McFall Memorial Chapel where a 10th anniversary ceremony for 9/11 was held.

On Oct. 12, a ceremony was held at Santa Gertrude Memorial Cemetery in Kingsville in honor of Petty Officer 3rd Class Ronchester M. Santiago. Santiago, a native of Kingsville, was killed while serving on board USS Cole (DDG 67) during a terrorist attack on Oct. 12, 2000.

Later in the month, the NAS Kingsville

community celebrated the U.S. Navy's 236th birthday with shipmates, friends and family members at a ball held at the Captain's Club. Nearly 300 people attended the event which featured the theme, "Answering the call for 236 years."

Wrapping up the year

NAS Kingsville personnel ended the year the same way they began it, with service to the community. Personnel judged science fairs, supported the annual local Toys for Tots campaign and donated non-perishable food items and gift cards during Operation Shipmate, a program of Sailors helping Sailors, coordinated by the NAS Kingsville Chaplain's Office.

In mid-November, more than 50 personnel from the air station volunteered for the 21st annual "Ranch Hand Breakfast" held at the legendary King Ranch. Volunteers helped manage traffic, cook breakfast, and serve food to more than 4,000 visitors. The event serves as the major fundraiser for the city of Kingsville's annual La Posada Holiday Festival and Parade of Lights, which was held Dec. 3. NAS Kingsville participated in the parade with three floats – one from NAS, one from the Chiefs' Mess and one from VT-21. Additionally, NAS Kingsville's ground electronics personnel provided the sound system and support for the judges.

Also in November, the Child Development Center's refurbished playground was reopened with a ribbon-cutting. The CNIC-funded project took about 90 days to complete from start to finish. According to MWR director David Haigh, the project



At year's end, TW-2 had produced 115 Navy, Marine Corps and allied forces naval aviators, providing the fleet with the world's best tactical jet/strike aviators.

contained a "couple of major goals for the CDC including providing a more efficient operational layout and adding a toddler outdoor activity area that was subdivided into nine activity zones."

Looking Forward

The New Year will mark the completion and opening of two new facilities on board the air station. First, the new \$11.5 million Fitness Center and sports complex will open next to the Captain's Club. Shortly after the Fitness

Center is completed, the air station will gain control of the new Navy Gateway Inns & Suites complex.

In April, the air station will open its gate to host its bi-annual "Wings Over South Texas" air show, and the base and local community are going all out to make this our best air show ever. The Blue Angels and world aerobatic champion Rob Holland will headline the list of performing acts, while Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Kleberg County's J.K. Northway Convention Center will host special air show events for the community prior to the air show.

Major construction projects on the base include an overhaul of the air station's water, sewer and drainage systems. This project will replace water and sewer lines throughout the base, removing and replacing old, decaying 1940s-era plumbing. The project is already underway and is expected to be completed by the end of 2012.

These projects, just as those noted from the past year, are just the tip of the iceberg



About 50 personnel from NAS Kingsville volunteered at the annual King Ranch "Ranch Hand Breakfast." The breakfast was one of many community outreach events that personnel volunteered for throughout 2011.

that is maintaining an active airfield for training today's jet/strike aviators.

"There are nearly 2,000 people who work here," McLaughlin stated at a recent all hands quarters and awards ceremony. "Your collective efforts have been tremendous this year. Our flight operations are up from last year, the base is getting much needed improvements in a number of areas, and the MWR department has offered us more this past year than ever before."

In summarizing the success of 2011, McLaughlin added, "we have been asked to do more with less, cut back on our spending, look for alternative energy sources while reducing energy use, plan for success and remain focused on the future. In every challenge, you have all responded with success."

"NAS Kingsville is fortunate to have a community that really supports its operations and its legacy. Together we make a great team, and I think the year ahead will continue to build on that relationship, and then some."

Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Bowling Leagues

In the Doghouse League Standings as of Dec. 13

Place	Team	Won	Lost
1	Alley Cats	41	19
2	Three J's	35.5	24.5
3	3 Minds/Gutter	31.5	28.5
4	Lane Breakers	31	29
5	The Guys	29	31
6	The Dusters	27	33
7	DNA	25	35
8	Spare Tires	20	40

High Score Game-Men: John Zapalac, 234; JD Monroe, 223.

High Score Series-Men: John Zapalac, 640; Lindy Conner, 599.

High Game Over Average-Men: Hardy Robertson, 245; Clinton Howell, 264; Jerry Brooks, 277.

Most Improved-Men: Hardy Robertson, 19.86; Joe Soliz, 18.47; Joey Soliz, 14.42.

Wednesday Nite Mixed

Standings as of Dec. 14

Place	Team	Won	Lost
1	Petes Angels	35	21
2	IBowlers	35	21
3	Big K Rollers	30.5	25.5
4	Bad Azz	28.5	27.5
5	DUH's	25	31
6	I Can't Believe	25	31
7	Rat'Lers	23	33
8	Laugh Out Loud	22	34

High Score Game-Men: Clinton Howell, 276; JD Monroe, 275; Rodney Malin, 269.

High Score Series-Men: John Zapalac, 724; Clinton Howell, 704; Rodney Malin, 288.

High Score Game-Women: Tilde Hyndyman, 201; Mary Gonzales, 201; Lee Peters, 192.

High Score Series-Women: Lucy Clarkson, 522; Delia Monroe, 518; Shirlye Duffy, 518.

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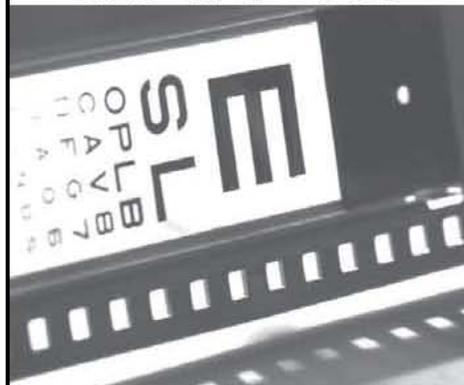


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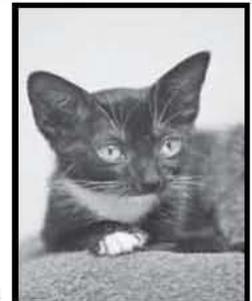
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My name is Maybelle, 1 year and 6 months. I was born at The Cattery. My mom and siblings were all siamese kitties and they were all adopted months ago. Even though I am black and white, I am told every day how beautiful I am, so I don't know why no one has picked me yet! I have a Cattery family, but I want a family to call my own. I'm very sweet and fun to be with. I'm very loveable and will want to spend lots of time with you.



My name is Finn! I came to the shelter as a tiny baby. My eye is a little messed up - the vet says I probably didn't have enough blood flow to it when I was developing. Other than that one little flaw (who doesn't have flaws?) I'm a great kitty and want to go to my forever home! I'm sweet and love to be petted and am playful too!



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