



Flying K

*They'll be here
in less than
a week ...
... the Blues!*

Vol. 70, No. 7

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

www.cnicy.navy.mil/kingsville

April 6, 2012

Jets and bombers and jumpers ... oh my!

NAS Kingsville ready to take flight with Wings Over South Texas air show next weekend

A lot is going on behind the scenes as preparations are being finalized for the 2012 Wings Over South Texas air show, scheduled for April 14-15. Air show committee members are firming up the line-up, determining arrangement of static displays on the flight line, and solidifying all the pre-show and weekend activities being planned.

"Putting together the air show is a large team effort," said Lt. Cmdr. Dave Anderson, 2012 air show coordinator. "We've got a great team! Everyone is working hard to make this a tremendously successful air show with more visitors than ever before."

Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas A&M University-Kingsville and the Kingsville Navy League will actually help kick-off the air show with three special events.

On Thursday, April 12, the Navy League will host a fish fry for members of the Blue Angels and other performers at the Kingsville skeet range adjacent to L.E. Ramey Golf Course. This is not an "official" air show event, however, and is 'optional' for all performers and their support teams.

On Friday morning, April 13, Texas A&M University will welcome school children from throughout South Texas to a



One of the aerial acts will be Randy Ball and his MiG-17.

pre-show "Pep Rally" at Javelina Stadium. The event, coordinated by NAS Kingsville School Liaison Officer Jeanie Alexander and the TAMUK athletic department, will bring more than 5,000 children to the school for the 90-minute show. Blue Angels pilots and enlisted personnel will speak to the children about the importance of staying

in school, earning a diploma and post high school opportunities – both in the civilian sector and the military.

The event will also include a team parachute jump into the stadium by the US Navy "Leap Frogs" parachute team, and a flyover by a number of air show performers.

Friday afternoon, NAS Kingsville will



The Wings Over South Texas air show will feature the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels.

hold an air show practice for all performers, giving each team an opportunity to adapt to the air field layout. This event is not open to the general public.

Friday evening, the focus shifts to the J.K. Northway Expo and Convention Center in Kingsville as the Kleberg County Parks and Recreation department and the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce host a "Meet the Blues" social. This free event will serve as an introduction to the show – and the performers, and allow adults and children to personally meet and mingle with the performers, take photos, get autographs and get reved up for the weekend show.

At 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning, the gates will open for Wings Over South Texas 2012. Free admission and free parking for all, and the air show will feature the Blue Angels, the Navy's premier flight demonstration team. They will also arrive with the Fat Albert crew and their C-130 'Hercules' aircraft.

Another military act the air show will feature comes from the "Flying Eagles" Tactical Demonstration Team of VFA 122, based out of NAS Lemoore, Calif. The "Tac Demo" team flies the single-seat F/A-18E and two-seat F/A-18F as close to the "edge of the envelope" as safety and prudence al-

see Air Show on page 6

Easy access to free show with something for everyone

They're coming! ... and quicker than you can say "Wings Over South Texas" they will be here – the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels headlining the air show at NAS Kingsville.

The April 14-15 air show is free to the general public and will have something for everyone!

Admission is free and so is the ample convenient parking close to the flightline. There's easy access onto the base with gates opening at 9 a.m.

We plan to have nearly 40 static displays along the flightline, as well as food and drink booths and other vendors selling everything from aviation pins, to T-shirts, ball caps and more. There will also be a KidZone with activities for the youngsters open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a minimal cost.

And, witness thrills like never before from a variety of top military and civilian acts throughout the day and a free mid-show concert by Texas country artist Aaron Watson!

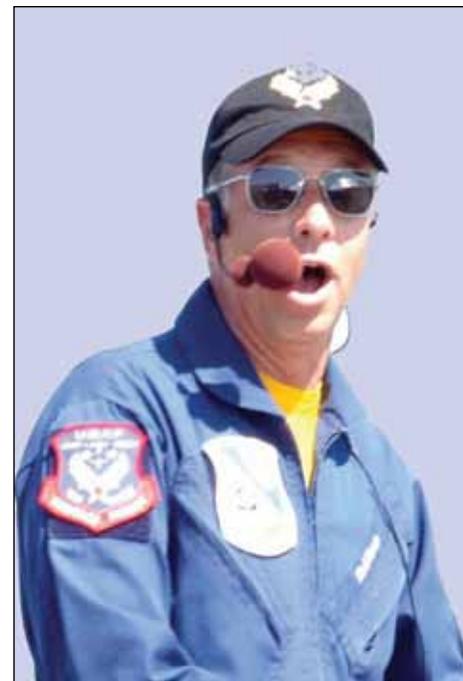
The air show will start at 10:30 a.m. with the U.S. Navy Leap Frogs soaring onto the

tarmac with the national ensign. Other acts in the line-up will include a B-1 bomber, Rob Holland, Jan Colmer, Paul Fiala, a U.S. Navy F/A-18E TAC Demo, The Disabled American Veterans' B-25 bomber, stunt pilot Kent Pietsch, The Horsemen Flight Team, Randy Ball and his Russian-made MiG-17 aircraft, the Indy Boys' jet-powered school bus, and more all wrapped up nicely by veteran air show announcer Rob Reider. And, of course, the grand finale of the air show will be the Navy's flight demonstration team, the Blue Angels.

There's priority seating and folding chairs available for purchase, but you can also bring portable lawn chairs. You can also bring small fanny packs and purses, cameras and camcorders, umbrellas, wheelchairs, and baby bags and strollers if attending with small children.

You cannot bring ice chests or coolers, large bags, duffel bags, briefcases, large camera bags, backpacks, glass contain-

see Admission on page 5



Award-winning air show announcer Rob Reider will call the shots from air show central throughout the April 14-15 weekend.

Deckplate Leadership



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



Team Kingsville,

I can't believe that today I'm actually writing my final column for the *Flying K*. It's even harder to believe that in three weeks I will be retiring with 30 years of Naval service. How the heck did this happen and where the heck did the last 30 years go?

The past 12 years, I have served as a Command Master Chief (CMC) at six commands including two Naval hospitals, one aviation squadron, one surface warship, a beachmaster unit, and finally a Naval Air Station. During this time, I have worked with many Sailors in whom I recognized tremendous potential. Sailors who I just knew were going to do great things in their careers. And I did my best to challenge each of these Sailors to succeed.

From my first CMC tour at Naval Hospital Roosevelt Roads, there was HMCS now Master Chief (Retired) Michelle Jennejohn; and HM1 now Command Master Chief Kelly McNulty, who served as my Career Counselor and is currently serving as the Command Master Chief, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, Camp Lejeune, N.C. There was HM1, now Master Chief Terry Anthony, who is currently serving as the Command Master Chief, Naval Health Clinic, Charleston, S.C. And there was HM2 now Senior Chief Graham Luby who is currently serv-

ing with the Marine Corps.

From my second CMC tour at Naval Hospital, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C., there was HM3 now Senior Chief Lee Thomason and there was HM1 now HMC (Retired) Lori Varner. From my third CMC tour at Sea Control Squadron THREE FIVE, there was HM2 now HMC Elizabeth Hines, who is currently on her first Independent Duty Corpsman assignment.

From USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53), there was GMC now Command Master Chief Mitch Sepulveda; HMC now Master Chief Tim Newman; GSMC now Lt. Scotie DuBose; OS1 now Senior Chief John White; CTC now Senior Chief Andy Anderson; STGC now STGCS(Retired) Jim Balcomb; and BMC now BMCS(Retired) Mike Bose.

And from Beachmaster Unit ONE, there was GMC now Senior Chief Carlos Muniz; and HM2 now HMC Phillip Woods. And yes, from NAS Kingsville, there have been many Sailors I have seen so much potential in. However, I'm not going to name names, as I am sure I would accidentally leave someone out and feelings would be hurt.

I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the many Sailors I have served with throughout the years, but I am humbled by them as well when I see where their careers have taken them. You see, when I look at them I realize that each of them did so many things better than I did. So, I am very humble by their achievements. And humility is one of the first things you are taught as a Chief Petty Officer selectee. You are taught that humility is a good thing -- something that will not harm you but will strengthen you. And indeed I was strengthened as a leader

from having known the outstanding Sailors I've served with throughout my career.

I have talked briefly about seeing potential in the Sailors I have worked with but I would be remiss without mentioning someone who must have seen potential in me. That someone had more influence on my career than any other person I've known. That person is Chief Petty Officer (Retired) Gary Nickelson. Gary must have seen potential in me because he challenged me to work hard and succeed. And his leadership and mentorship are the reasons I will retire as a Master Chief Petty Officer. Thank you to my friend and mentor Chief Nickelson!

In closing, I'd like to thank the Sailors and civilian employees of NAS Kingsville and all of the tenant commands. I sincerely appreciate the support you have provided me over the past three years. And finally, thank you to the Chief Petty Officers of NAS Kingsville. On April 20, I will retire from 30 years of active duty service. For 20 of those years I was fortunate enough to have been a part of the finest leadership organization in the world -- the United States Navy Chief Petty Officers' Mess. As I move to the retired list, I encourage each of you to continue to provide strong leadership to your Sailors and challenge them to succeed. I say this because every command and every leader who is successful is surrounded by successful Sailors.

Happy 119th Birthday Navy Chiefs, and farewell shipmates and friends. I hope to see you at my retirement ceremony at 1 p.m. on April 20, at the Captain's Club.

V/R,

CMDCM(AW/SW/FMF) Charlie Ratliff

Ratliff has always led Sailors, challenging, motivating them

By Fifi Kieschnick
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Leaders almost never need to exercise power. They lead in ways that creates a vision and motivates people.

That defines Naval Air Station Kingsville's Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff.

Ratliff has been the senior enlisted leader of NAS Kingsville for the past 3 years and is retiring from the Navy on April 20. He spent 20 years as a corpsman, five of which were spent as an HMCM serving as a command master chief at two hospitals, prior to entering the command master chief program. He entered the program because he wanted a new challenge and the opportunity to return to sea "as the senior enlisted person on a Navy warship."

He says he's realized his achievements -- including becoming an independent duty corpsman, achieving the rank of master chief, and earning bachelors and masters degrees -- because of the advice he received while a junior enlisted corpsman. One piece of advice was from his leading chief petty officer with the 3rd Medical Battalion in Okinawa, Japan, HMC Gary Nicholson, when Ratliff was a second class petty officer. "He challenged his Sailors and he challenged me to outpace my peers, so to speak," Ratliff said.

Another piece of advice that he credits with his success was from his officer in charge while on a deployment to Korea. "Lt. Gary Waters convinced me to become an independent duty corpsman because he had been one," Ratliff said. "That was the best move of my career."

The Fort Worth, Texas, native adds that throughout his 30 years



CMDCM(AW/SW/FMF) Charlie Ratliff challenges a chief petty officer selectee. Ratliff has always led Sailors, challenging and motivating them. (Courtesy photo)

U.S. Navy service he tried to choose assignments that "made him uncomfortable," that challenged him, in billets that most people wouldn't want to be assigned to. And, he makes that recommendation to his Sailors looking for a rewarding career.

Ratliff adds that the characteristics of a good command master

see *Master Chief* on page 8

Flying K

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This paper is published for people like Lt. Aubrey Hall. The Houston native has been the clinic manager of Branch Health Clinic Kingsville for the past year and has 5 years service in the U.S. Navy.

Navy, NAS Kingsville concludes Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield 2012 exercise

The Navy wrapped up its largest annual security exercise a few weeks ago after a week of training designed to test the service's ability to respond to nationwide threats to its installations, units, personnel and families. The exercise, known as Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2012, was led by Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces and Commander, Navy Installations Command and began March 19.

"Our intent was to accurately simulate real-world conditions and to assess how our forces operate in that environment," said Adm. John C. Harvey Jr., commander of USFF. "Overall, it was a resounding success and a large part of that can be attributed to the lessons we've learned from previous years."

Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer, told personnel gathered at an all-hands call last week that personnel did a really great job. "This was the first year Fleet Forces Command dictated the pulse of what was going to happen."

"We learned a lot from the exercise," McLaughlin said, "especially how important it is how we respond."

One of the takeaways from last year's exercise was that sudden increases in security could have a major impact on traffic caused by personnel entering and exiting local bases under increased scrutiny.

"Whenever you have Sailors and other

citizens in a gridlocked situation outside of a Navy base, they're in an environment where they're vulnerable," said Rear Adm. Phil Davidson, USFF's director for operations and intelligence. "We opened our lines of communication and worked with state and local officials to ensure everyone – both service members and local residents – understood how base access could be affected and the potential for delays on highways and roads near naval installations. We also took many important steps to reduce the likelihood of gridlock."

"I am impressed with the professionalism and support our Navy received from our civil partners around the country during this exercise," Harvey said. "We began reaching out to state and local officials weeks ago to make sure everyone that might be affected by the exercise understood our intentions and make them aware of how we could work together to avoid problems. They really came through and did a super job."

Twelve nursing students from Coastal Bend College assisted NAS Kingsville with the active shooter exercise. They were the shooter's victims. "Their assistance was invaluable," said Jim Lawrence. "Because of the training they are receiving in college, their immediate feedback to our EMTs was invaluable. They also saw what happens at any scene from a first responder level and learned about being the injured on the



Branch Health Clinic Kingsville's HM2 Jeremy Stack, center, stabilizes a simulated victim's cervical spine as HM2 Osei Bonsu and HM2 Richard Armour prepare the patient for transportation during an active shooter drill held aboard NAS Kingsville for Exercise Solid Curtain and Citadel Shield 2012. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)

ceiving end of care."

The two exercises, each with a distinct focus, occurred simultaneously and trained and tested security force personnel through a number of force-protection scenarios.

These scenarios ranged from identifying surveillance to large-scale, multifaceted threats. Security and first responders were assessed on their response to the emerging threats.

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In the Break



Capt. Joe Evans
Commander
Training Air Wing TWO



Greetings NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO.

Last week my staff and many other friends and family celebrated the retirement of Charlie Michalk, upon the completion of 39 years of honorable and exemplary service to country. When a person of Charlie's caliber moves on it is always a bitter-sweet event. Charlie started his service as an active duty U.S. Marine Corps pilot in the 70s and early 80s before transitioning to the Texas Army National Guard and life as a federal civil servant within the Department of Defense, specifically with the Chief of Naval Aviation Training here in South Texas. We all know Charlie as the man in charge of TW-2's ground training, the go-to-man for flight simulators and the course curriculum, but Charlie was just as engaged in the community serving on a local school board, actively participating within the Navy League, teaching Sunday School,

and officiating local football league games. Charlie has also been known for his annual, "not-to-miss," corn picking party, an event that my family and I have marked on our calendar for this spring. Charlie, throughout your service you were the cornerstone to our mission of training young aviators as well as to the community itself and your family. We'll miss you when you move, but our loss will be your grandchildren's gain. Fair winds and following seas.

Now for a quick shout out to our very own NAS Kingsville Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department. My boys and I attended the 4th Annual Easter Bunny Bowl held last Saturday at the Pavilion behind the gym. It was twice the production with double the crowd of last year and the children all had a great time. Even the Easter Bunny showed up. Our MWR really is second to none.

I also wish to acknowledge a few folks in TW-2. First off, Lt. Cmdr. "Chet" Smith, attached to the Training Squadron (VT) 21 Squadron Augment Unit (SAU), was selected last week by the Reserve Aviation Command Screen Board to command a VT SAU unit. We also qualified 20 Student Naval Aviators the week before last on USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77). Congrats to our newest SAU Commander Selectee and

tailhookers: Lt.j.g. Drew Schnabel; 1st Lt. Brian Kimmins; Lt.j.g. Cory Stickley; Lt.j.g. Stephen Elliott; Lt. Alexander Bock; Ensign Christopher Dooley; Ensign Kyle Gillette; Ensign Nicholas Zachman; Ensign Shawn Haugen; Lt.j.g. Justin Jones; Ensign Justin Strausser; 2nd Lt. Derek Geyer; Ensign William Case; Ensign Brad Tribbley; Ensign Benjamin Dunn; Ensign Nicholas Bernard; Ensign Andrew Moore; Ensign Kirt McKay; Ensign John O'Hagan; and 1st Lt. Joshua Moore.

On a final note, it is a great honor to congratulate Training Air Wing TWO's newest class of Naval Aviators: 1st Lt. Randy Brazile, who selected AV-8B Harriers at MCAS Cherry Point; Lt.j.g. Justin Brown, who selected EA-18G Growlers at NAS Whidbey Island; Lt.j.g. Stephen Elliott, who selected Super Hornets at NAS Lemoore; 1st Lt. Brian Kimmins, who selected AV-8B Harriers at MCAS Cherry Point; Lt.j.g. Drew Schnabel, who was retained to be a SERGRAD with VT-21 flying the T-45 Super Goshawk; Lt.j.g. Cory Stickley, who selected Super Hornets at NAS Oceana; 1st Lt. Christopher Bush, who selected AV-8B Harriers at MCAS Cherry Point; Lt.j.g. Chandler Jones, who selected EA-18G Growlers at NAS Whidbey Island; Lt.j.g. Michael Kapanka, who selected Su-

per Hornets at NAS Lemoore; Lt.j.g. Jeffrey Martin, who selected Super Hornets at NAS Oceana; Lt.j.g. Clark Ross, who selected Super Hornets at NAS Oceana; 1st Lt. Sean Stephenson, who selected AV-8B Harriers at MCAS Cherry Point; Lt.j.g. Casey Smith, who selected Super Hornets at NAS Oceana; Lt.j.g. Michael Webb, who selected Hornets at NAS Oceana; and Lt.j.g. Austin Wilkinson, who selected EA-18G Growlers at NAS Whidbey Island. These young aviators were winged during a ceremony held in the NASK Captain's Club on Friday, March 30.

Over the next couple of weeks, other than for the air show, it may seem a bit deserted here at NAS Kingsville. On April 9, we send a very large detachment of students, instructor pilots, jets and maintainers to El Centro, Calif., for a Weapons Detachment. They will be gone all month, and our next Carrier Qualification class will kick off shortly thereafter. Between the detachments and the upcoming air show it will be quite a busy month!

Fly hard but keep it safe, and please keep an eye on our squadron mates and neighbors as the pace is fast and furious.

v/r

"Joe Bags" Evans

Charlie Michalk's military and civilian career spans 39 years in aviation

by Jon Gagné

NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Training Air Wing Two held a retirement luncheon March 26, at the Armed Forces Reserve Center on board NAS Kingsville, to celebrate 39 years of service for Ground Training Officer Charlie Michalk. Michalk's federal service includes 11 years on active duty in the Marine Corps, 20 years in the Texas Air National Guard, and 28 years of civil service.

"I really consider myself fortunate," Michalk said. "Most people who retire after 30-plus years will say they bounced around a little bit. Tours in aviation might be followed by shore duty assignments somewhere else; but all 39 years of my service was in aviation."

Michalk, a native of Mathis, Texas, graduated from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. He met and married his wife Mary Lynn in July 1971. Mary Lynn, a native of Rosebud, Texas, also graduated from Southwest Texas State -- a year earlier than Charlie -- but the two never met on the campus.

Two years later, Michalk accepted a commission in the Marine Corps. After attending Officer Candidate School and The Basic School in Quantico, Va., he reported to NAS Pensacola, Fla., for aviation pre-flight training. Upon his selection to fly helicopters, he moved to NAS Whiting Field

in nearby Milton, Fla., to complete his helicopter training. He earned his Wings of Gold in March 1976.

Following earning his wings, Michalk's transfer to his next command was help up for a while due to the birth of their first child, daughter Misty. Shortly after the birth, the Michalk family packed their belongings and headed west, finally settling down at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where Charlie was assigned to Marine Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 (HMA-169). Michalk would fly the AH-1J Sea Cobra.

In 1980, Michalk moved to NAS Corpus Christi, accepting orders to the Chief of Naval Air Training Command (CNATRA) as a Pilot Training/Curriculum Officer. In this role, Michalk would fly back to Whiting Field on a regular basis, the part of his job that he most enjoyed.

In 1980, Michalk left the Marine Corps in order for him and his wife to concentrate on growing their family. Their son Charles R. "C-R" was born in 1980. In 1984, Michalk accepted a civilian job with the Naval Air Training Command in Corpus Christi. But by 1985, Charlie was missing his time in the cockpit. So, with a yearning to fly again, he decided to join the Texas Air National Guard in addition to his civilian job, accepting orders to the 149th Attack Helicopter Battalion in San Antonio.

Five years later he changed Reserve squadrons -- reporting to Troop D, 1-124th



Capt. Joe Evans, commander, Training Air Wing TWO, presents Charlie Michalk with a certificate in recognition of his career as he retires from serving his country for 39 years. (Courtesy photo)

Calvary out of Austin, Texas, where he would stay for the next 12 years. In March, 2002, Michalk accepted his last set of orders with the Guard, taking an assignment to the Operational Support Airlift Com-

mand (OSACOM) in Austin.

While he continued to juggle his civilian job at CNATRA with his Guard assignments, he was able to stay in Texas -- and in

see *Michalk on page 8*

March celebrated women's history

In March, we celebrated Women's History Month. The celebration originated in March 1978, when Sonoma County, Calif., initiated Women's History Week to coincide with International Women's Day. Three years later, Congress passed a joint resolution proclaiming a women's History Week. In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the celebration to the entire month of March.

Women have served in and with the Navy since the American Revolution and became an official part of the Navy with the establishment of the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908. As a result of the Women's Armed Services Act on June 12, 1948, women gained permanent status in the armed services. In 1978, women were assigned to selected non-combatant ships for the first time. In 1994, women began serving in combatants and piloting combat aircraft following the repeal of the Combat Exclusion Law. In April 2010, the Navy changed its policy allowing women to serve on submarines. In November 2011, after completing naval nuclear prototype, Naval Nuclear Power School at Charleston, S.C., and the Submarine Officer Basic Course in Groton, Conn., the first women reported on board ballistic-missile submarines and guided-missile submarines in Kings Bay, Ga., and Bangor, Wash.

More than 54,000 active duty women and more than 10,000 female Reservists are serving in the Navy, comprising 17.1 percent of the Navy Total Force. The Navy currently has 35 active and Reserve female flag officers and 59 female command master chiefs.

Admission from page 1 _____

ers, bicycles, roller skates, roller blades or skateboards, pets unless they are service animals, alcohol, contraband or weapons of any type.

We want to ensure you not only have an enjoyable visit to the air station, but also a safe one. Smoking is not permitted on the flightline, and in the vicinity of the aircraft, vendors or tented areas. All unattended bags and packages found on the flightline will be removed from the premises. Neither strollers nor wheelchairs will be available for rent. Sun protection, including hats, long-sleeved shirts, long pants and sunscreen are recommended.

Remember, when entering the base, your vehicle may be searched, and you need to have a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance with you, and when entering other security checkpoints, all individuals are subject to search.

The men and women of NAS Kingsville pledge to do everything possible to make sure your visit to South Texas' only jet training base is safe and enjoyable. And, we are making every attempt to lessen delays while entering or leaving the air station.

For more information about the air show, visit www.wingsoversouthtexas.org.

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Wings of Gold -- Congratulations to the 15 Student Naval Aviators who received their Wings of Gold during a winging ceremony held March 30 at the Captain's Club. The Navy's newest aviators are pictured with Training Air Wing TWO and squadron staff. From left are: (bottom row) Lt. Col. Scott Schoeman, executive officer, Training Squadron 22; Cmdr. Quino Alonzo, commanding officer, VT-21; Capt. Joe Evans, commander, TW-2; Lt.j.g. Casey Smith; Lt.j.g. Jeffrey Martin; Lt.j.g. Chandler Jones;

Cmdr. Brian Beck, executive officer, VT-21; Cmdr. Darren Guenther, CO, VT-22; (middle row) Maj. Derek Bibby, TW-2 senior Marine; 1st Lt. Brian Kimmons; Lt.j.g. Justin Brown; Lt.j.g. Michael Kapanka; Capt. Jason Leshikar, VT-21 senior Marine; (back row) Cmdr. Rey Molina, TW-2 chief staff officer; 1st Lt. Christopher Bush; Lt.j.g. Drew Sch-nabel; Lt.j.g. Clark Ross; 1st Lt. Sean Stephenson; Lt.j.g. Cory Stickley; 1st Lt. Randy Brazile; Lt.j.g. Stephen Elliott; and Lt.j.g. Austin Wilkinson. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs)

Air Show from page 1

low. The routine highlights the "Rhino's" maneuverability and slow-speed handling characteristics and has been very well received around the country.

The U.S. Air Force Heritage Flight demonstration team is also on the card. The Heritage Flight program presents the evolution of USAF air power by flying today's state-of-the-art fighter aircraft in close formation with vintage fighter aircraft. A Heritage Flight performance involves a current USAF fighter piloted by an Air Combat Command trained military Heritage Flight pilot and flown with a historical warbird piloted by a trained and certified civilian Heritage Flight pilot.

The Heritage Flight formations of modern fighters flying with World War II, Korean, and Vietnam era fighters such as the P-51 Mustang and F-86 Sabre, dramatically display the U.S. Air Force air power history and proudly support the Air Force's recruiting and retention efforts. In 2010, the Air Force Heritage Flight Foundation (AFHFF) was formed to keep this popular program flying.

The Heritage Flight team will feature the A-10 Thunderbolt II at the Wings Over South Texas show. The Thunderbolt has excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitude, and is an highly accurate weapons-delivery platform. The aircraft can loiter near battle areas for extended periods of time and operate under 1,000-foot ceilings (303.3 meters) with 1.5-mile (2.4 kilometers) visibility. The wide combat radius and short takeoff and landing capability permit operations in and out of locations near front lines. Using night vision goggles, A-10 pilots can conduct their missions during darkness.

The U.S. Air Force will also provide a B-1B Lancer fly-by during the show. The B-1B Lancer is a four-engine variable-sweep wing strategic bomber. The B-1 was developed primarily as a low-level penetrator with

see *Air Show* on next page

Free Mid-Show Concert Each Day with Recording Artist Aaron Watson



& the Orphans of the Brazos Band



Air Show from previous page

long range and supersonic speed capability at high altitude.

Opening the show each day will be by the U.S. Navy "Leap Frogs" parachute team. This precision performance team features 14 jumpers leaping out of an aircraft at an altitude of about 12,500 feet onto the NAS Kingsville flightline. The team is composed of parachuting experts from the Naval Special Warfare community.

There are also a host of civilian acts that will be performing April 14 and 15. Rob Holland, the 2008 World Aerobatic Champion, has been flying air shows professionally since 2002, making him one of the youngest professional air show pilots on the circuit today.

Joining Holland in the line-up of civilian performers is well-known air show veteran Jan Collmer of Dallas, flying the FINA EXTRA 300L, and Corpus Christi native and King Ranch pilot Paul Fiala. Paul began flying at the age of 15, while attending high school. He received his commercial pilot's license and began his professional career, while still in school. He also served as a carter pilot and flight instructor, prior to turning to corporate flying in 1962.

The Disabled American Veterans Flight Team is another new act to the Wings Over

South Texas line-up. The DAV Flight Team flies the B-25 Mitchell Bomber, an historic World War II aircraft that gained fame during the Doolittle raids over Japan.

There will also be two comedy acts that air show fans of all ages will enjoy. The Indy Boys will bring motor sports entertainment at its most extreme. Paul Stender, vehicle builder and driver, will be bringing both his jet-powered school bus dubbed "School Time" and a jet-powered outhouse. Stunt pilot Ken Pietsch, flying his 1942 Interstate Cadet, will perform extreme maneuvers, such as his aileron falling off in mid air, and display his modified-RV that features a runway on the roof that Kent actually lands on.

Another new act for Kingsville is the Horsemen Flight Team, the world's only P-51 Mustang aerobatic team composed of three warbird pilots who have a passion for showcasing the P-51 Mustang. The Horsemen also fly other platforms in their show including the P-38 Lightning. Texas native Randy Ball is also on the card. Ball flies a high-subsonic Russian-made MiG-17 fighter.

We'll also see the Budweiser Clydesdales on the flight line, and both days will feature free concerts by Abilene, Texas-based country singer and songwriter Aaron

Watson mid-show.

Wrapping everything up in a nice package is Rob Reider, who will serve as the air show announcer. Reider is an entertainer, pilot, performer, writer and Emmy-award winner who puts all his experience into bringing the excitement of air shows "up close and personal" to audiences all over the country.

Some of the 30-plus static displays include military aircraft from all the branches of the armed services, including U.S. Marine Corps MH-53E Sea Stallion, U.S. Army HH-60M Black Hawk, U.S. Navy E-6B Mercury and U.S. Air Force T-6.

The U.S. Marine Corps MH-53E Sea Stallion is a heavy-lift helicopter with a primary mission to move cargo and equipment. It has a secondary role of transferring troops ashore in an amphibious assault. The aircraft has a fuselage 73 feet long and an overall length of 99 feet. Empty, it weighs more than 33,000 pounds. Its maximum speed at sea level is 196 mph and cruises at 173 mph.

The E6-B Mercury has a crew of 22 and is a communications relay for fleet ballistic missile submarines or an airborne command post for U.S. strategic forces. It is more than 150 feet in length and 42 feet in height

with a wingspan of more than 148 feet. Its airspeed is up to 600 mph with a range of 6,600 nautical miles.

A T-6 Texan will also be a static display on the NAS Kingsville flightline. The Beechcraft T-6 Texan is a single-engine turboprop aircraft used by the U.S. Air Force for basic pilot training and by the U.S. Navy for primary and intermediate joint Naval Flight Officer and Air Force Combat Systems Officer training. Stepped-tandem seating in the single cockpit places one crew member in front of the other, with the student and instructor positions being interchangeable. A pilot may also fly the aircraft alone from the front seat. Pilots enter the T-6A cockpit through a side-opening, one-piece canopy that has demonstrated resistance to bird strikes at speeds up to 270 knots.

The NAS Kingsville flight line will also include a Kids Zone and Tennis Challenge for children, and food and merchandise booths will line the Midway for fans of all ages, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To stay up-to-date on acts that will be performing, view show schedules or obtain information on what you can and cannot bring with you to the air show, visit the air show website at www.wingsoversouthtexas.org/wost.



One of the aerial acts featured during the Wings Over South Texas air show will be Randy Ball and his MiG-17.

Master Chief from page 2

chief are being approachable, trustworthy and, number one, committed to the success of his Sailors. The chief petty officers and Sailors who work for him agree that describes Ratliff.

ETCS(SW/AW/EXW) Kirk Hurst says that if you were to ask any Sailor on this base to describe the CMC the consistent answer would be “respected” or words to that effect. “We all know everyone respects the command master chief,” Hurst says, “but Master Chief Ratliff has the kind of respect throughout the command that does not come from simply putting on two stars and the cookie.

“The Sailors at NAS Kingsville know that he is consistent, fair and truly cares about their success,” Hurst adds.

“I know of many occasions he has put aside important issues and dealt with last minute administrative issues that were critical to a Sailor’s career. On countless occasions he has immediately cleared his schedule just to listen to a Sailor’s personal concerns.”

Hurst says that he has also seen Ratliff when a Sailor has failed to meet the standard. “Now one might think these are common actions for a command master chief, but there is a critical variable – it’s the ‘care factor.’ It gets discussed on the deckplates, around in scuttlebutt and on the smoke deck. CMDCM Ratliff has a reputation in these areas, he is known as a common-sense approachable Sailor with high standards that happens to be the command master chief. That kind of respect is hard to come by and is only earned by firm, fair, consistent leadership and an honest concern for Sailors.”

NCC(AW/SW) Minerva Verley, command career counselor, echoes what Hurst has to say, adding, “He lets us run our programs. Yet, we know we can always talk to him when something does come up. He’s easy to talk to and really does care about the Sailors and their success.”

Ratliff adds that the job of a command master chief entails representing the crew to the commanding officer on all issues, as well as affecting the morale, welfare and Sailor

performance, growth and development.

HMCS(SW/FMF) Lee Thomason is one Sailor who has been shaped so much so by Ratliff that he also wants to become a command master chief and be able to have the same impact on Sailors that Ratliff had on him.

“I can still remember the first time we met,” Thomason said. “I had just returned from deployment, was walking down the passageway near his (Ratliff’s) office and I heard him say, ‘Hey Thomason, come here for a minute.’ He proceeded to ask me what my future plans were relative to my Navy career.

“I told him I loved the Navy and hoped to make a career of it, and he told me to continue to work hard and that he would help me get orders to a destination of my choice when it was time to transfer.

“From that day forward, he challenged me every time our paths crossed. He was always asking me what I was studying, or what classes I had completed. If my answers weren’t what they needed to be, he would quickly provide me with course-correcting advice and direction.

“He is in a league of his own when it comes to inspiring Sailors to reach their maximum potential,” Thomason added. “Not only is he approachable, he makes it his business to seek out ways to talk with Sailors and help them in any way that he can.”

Ratliff’s wife of 26 years, Pam, agrees that he has always cared about his Sailors.

“He challenges them to be the best that they can be,” Pam said. “So many Sailors have come up to me over the years and told me what a great person Charlie is, how he has helped them, spent time with them, and inspired them to be the best Sailors they can be.

“I remember one day a Sailor told me master chief had made her cry. I said ‘oh no,’ and asked what happened. She said that he had told her he was disappointed in her and that was something she never wanted to hear, and she would make sure he never had to say that to her again.

“That shows the respect his Sailors have



Charlie and Pamala Ratliff and their daughters Amy, left, and Sally. (Courtesy photo)

for him,” Pam said.

Ratliff met Pam when he was a corpsman assigned to Branch Health Clinic Kingsville in the mid 1980s and she worked as a secretary of the Officers’ Club. “We met at a Christmas party,” Pam said. “Since then we have been on a big adventure with the Navy!”

She adds that they have always tried to instill in their daughters the same values -- “about being approachable, that we are here for them. About being trustworthy, that if they make a mistake that is okay, but they must be honest with us and we will help and support them. About being committed to success, we’ve always been involved in their education. We feel that a good education will help them succeed and we have encouraged them to study hard and attend college,” Pam said.

Master Chief says, “The best part of my job is seeing Sailors succeed. You know they have it in them and then you see them

achieve it.”

Leaders determine the effectiveness of the organization. The character and skills that leaders bring determine the way problems are solved and tasks are accomplished and CMDCM Ratliff brings what it takes to develop Sailors into leaders, challenging them to fulfill their potential.

As he retires, Ratliff says what he’ll miss the most is talking to the crew, like his tour aboard USS John Paul Jones (DDG 32) as command master chief when he would talk to crew members who were waiting in the chow line while the ship was underway, or asking Sailors about their future plans for success, or tasking Sailors to reach for higher goals.

That’s the guidance he has given to the Navy for the past 30 years. As he retires from active duty, thousands of Sailors will remember his concern for them and how he has inspired them to reach their maximum potential.

Michalk from page 4

the cockpit. He found joy with this wife – his best friend -- watching their children grow. Life was good for the Michalk family, until the bad news came.

“My wife was diagnosed with cancer in 1994 and died in 1995. It was a huge loss for all of us. She wrote a poem once, called “I’m a Marine Wife,” that we were both very proud of. A few years after Mary Lynn passed I saw that poem again with someone else’s [byline] and it frustrated me.”

Michalk quickly pointed out the error on the poem and got it corrected. Every now and then he’ll look for the poem on the Web to make sure her name is still on it.

He was 24 when they married and they were together for 24 years. Their children are grown now. Daughter Misty lives in Rosebud with her three children, and son C-R, 30, is following his father’s footsteps as a helicopter pilot in the Marine Corps. C-R started as an infantry officer but he was one of only three field officers selected

to make the transition to helicopter pilot. Today, he’s stationed with Charlie’s first squadron at Camp Pendleton.

“You know,” Charlie said with a grin, “He’s just doing the same things I did. How good is that?”

Charlie spent his last 16 years of civil service here at NAS Kingsville – completely away from helicopters. He took the assistant Ground Training Officer job in 1996 and was promoted to Ground Training Officer in 1999. He’s been a key figure in the training of student Navy and Marine Corps jet pilots throughout his time in Kingsville, and he has, no doubt, left his mark of thousands of flight students.

“I know I’m going to miss the military – especially the family aspect of it,” Charlie said as tears formed in his eyes. “But it’s time for me to move back home and watch my grandchildren grow. I know it’s going to be tough to say goodbye. But I’m looking forward to the change.”



Capt. Robert D. Harris Jr., commander, Training Air Wing FIVE, presents 1st Lt. Charlie Michalk with his Wings of Gold in May 1976, as Michalk’s wife Mary Lynn looks on. (Courtesy photo)

Bravo Zulu

NASK personnel recognized

Bravo zulu to the following NAS Kingsville personnel who were recently recognized for their achievements.

ABH3 Kevin Mitchell was awarded Outstanding Room of the Month for February. ET3 Calvin Gee received Outstanding Room of the Month for March.

ET2(SW) Lauren Hosey received her third Navy Achievement Medal for serving as the Air Operations supply petty officer in addition to her duties as an electronics technician from September 2011 to January 2012. Hosey volunteered to serve as the supply petty officer following an unplanned loss at the position. Without prior training or qualifications, she rapidly mastered the documentation, policies and procedures and then successfully managed a \$430,000 budget for six divisions that supported operations at three facilities. She processed and tracked more than 300 requisitions, \$88,000 in mission-essential CASREP requisitions and processed more than 300 obsolete items for government disposal. She also continued to perform her duties as one of three precision approach radar technicians, Ground Electronics Division training petty officer and auxiliary security force member.



Hosey

AO2(AW) Kyle Blevins received his second Navy Achievement Medal for serving as aviation ordnance branch quality assurance safety observer while assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 11 from December 2005 to December 2001. Blevins demonstrated extraordinary leadership as day-shift supervisor, expertly leading 9 junior personnel through numerous operational shipboard and shore-based detachments, including a combat development on board USS Enterprise (CVN 65) in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. He was also instrumental in the safe loading of 679,000 pounds of air-to-ground and air-to-air ordnance during his tenure. Finally, his mentoring contributed directly to the training and qualification of 12 ordnance team members and 4 quality assurance safety observers.



Blevins

AC2 Elias Mogollon received an Army Commendation Medal for his service while serving as a detainment facility sergeant

of the guard in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

FC2 John Sessions received the Joint Service Commendation Medal for his achievements as a detention facility floor noncommissioned officer for a joint task force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Jan. 17 to Oct. 5, 2011. Sessions was responsible for the care, custody and control of detained enemy personnel. He played an essential role in many ground and aerial transported throughout the area of responsibility in direct support of the task force objectives. His judgment, focus on mission success and dedicated teamwork were vital in directly assisting in the collection of actionable intelligence against terrorist elements.



Mogollon



Sessions

Lt. Cmdr. Chad Webster received his second Navy Commendation Medal for service while serving as NATOPS officer and C-12 pilot, Naval Base Coronado from December 2009 to November 2011. Webster executed more than 1,150 flight hours while transporting 1,000 passengers and 50,000 pounds of cargo. Additionally, he planned and organized Naval Base Coronado's 14th annual Coronado Speed Festival, which was instrumental in the showcase of numerous classes of aerial assets, static displays, including a raceway for 200 drivers. As the Centennial of Naval Aviation open house action officer, he orchestrated the installation's inaugural kickoff event celebration, which included an aerial review and open house for more than 70,000 spectators including more than 135 aircraft and 80 static displays. As a result of his efforts, Naval Base Coronado sustained optimal levels of operational superiority and executed every C-12 mission with outstanding results.



Webster



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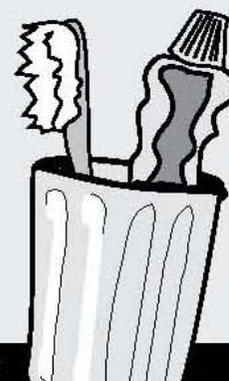
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Month of the Military Child -- Pre-schoolers from the Child Development Center hold the proclamation signed by Capt. Mark McLaughlin, commanding officer, NAS Kingsville, announcing that April is Month of the Military Child. The month recognizes military children for their character, courage, sacrifices and continued resilience. McLaughlin signed the proclamation during an all hands call last week. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)

Morale, Welfare & Recreation

MWR Event Calendar

Tuesdays
 Ping Pong Tournament
 Liberty Center at 6 p.m.

Fridays
 Dominos Tournament
 6 p.m. at Liberty center

Thursdays
 Trivia on Tap
 at K-Bar at 7 p.m.

April 13 & 27
 "Last Buck" Pizza at the Barracks

April 16
 Softball league begins.
 Call 516-6494 for info.

April 24
 5v5 Dodgeball league begins.

Bowling Leagues

In the Doghouse League Standings as of March 27

Place	Team	Won	Lost
1	Alley Cats	74	38
2	Lane Breakers	72	40
3	Three J's	65.5	47.5
4	The Guys	55	57
5	3 Minds/Gutter	51.5	60.5
6	The Dusters	50	62
7	DNA	48	64
8	Spare Tires	32	80

High Score Game-Men: Lindy Conner, 279; Jerry Brooks, 277; Clinton Howell, 264.

High Score Series-Men: Lindy Conner, 759; John Zapalac, 705; Jerry Brooks, 682.

Wednesday Nite Mixed Standings as of March 28

Place	Team	Won	Lost
1	Big K Rollers	64	44
2	IBowlers	62	46
3	Rat'Lers	56	52
4	Pets Angels	51	57
5	DUH's	51	57
6	I Can't Believe	51	57
7	Bad Azz	49	59
8	Laugh Out Loud	48	60

High Score Game-Men: Rodney Malin, 279; Darrell Beal, 278; Clinton Howell, 276.

High Score Series-Men: John Zapalac, 724; Clinton Howell, 704; Frank Goff, 700.

High Score Game-Women: Lucy Clarkson, 231; Amelia Goff, 212; Carmen Arevalo, 206.

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



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~ Dalai Lama

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Sunday
 at McFall Memorial Chapel
 10:30 a.m. - Family Bible Worship
 12:30 p.m. - Catholic Mass

Wednesday
 7 p.m. - Officer Christian Fellowship at Hunter's Cove Community Center

Thursday
 11:30 - Luncheon Bible Study in the Chapel
 4:30 p.m. - Catholic Choir Practice
 5:30 p.m. - Protestant Music/Prayer
 6 p.m. - Dinner Fellowship with Bible Study

April 6
 12 noon - Good Friday Service

April 8
 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Service
 12:30 p.m. Catholic Easter Mass

Navywide April focuses on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

"This is my problem and this is your problem. Sexual assault is unacceptable and its roots need to stop at all levels; I can't tolerate it and you shouldn't either. It undermines our Navy Core Values and Ethos, and it undercuts safety and readiness. We need to address it for what it is - a real danger."

- Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations

Sexual Assault Prevention is an important element of the readiness area of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative which consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Department. The Department of the Navy (DoN) is working aggressively to prevent sexual assaults, to support sexual assault victims, and to hold offenders accountable.

The Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military reports there were 611 sexual assaults in the Navy in FY10. Forty nine percent of unrestricted reports were aggravated sexual assaults. The largest victim and known offender demographic is E1-E4, 20-24 years old. Alcohol is involved in 46% of sexual assaults (FY10).

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and presents an opportunity for commands around the world to dedicate focused attention and training on the importance of eliminating this crime. The Department of Defense (DOD) SAAM theme is: "Hurts one. Affects all. Preventing sexual assault is everyone's duty."

Navy Personnel Command's Sexual Assault and Prevention Response website has awareness, training and other resources available to support your command's activities throughout this important month. The Navy will focus its SAAM initiatives on awareness and prevention of sexual violence through the use of command-level education and special events.

All commands must make Sailors aware of the scope of the problem, the resources available to victims, the detrimental affect sexual assault has on readiness, and that the Navy will not tolerate the victimization of our Shipmates. Fostering a command climate in which reporting sexual assault is embraced starts with strong deck-plate leaders.



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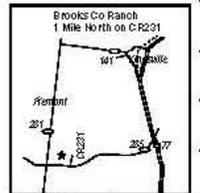
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