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August 12, 2011

Tropical Storm Don ...

Teamwork makes for smooth preps

By Fifi Kieschnick
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

As Tropical Storm Don headed toward the Gulf Coast July 28, all eyes tracked its progress.

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, but not hit South Texas head-on. Everyone aboard Naval Air Station Kingsville promptly made preparations to ensure safety of personnel, resources and property.

Monette Walker, NAS Kingsville's emergency manager, was the base liaison with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Service, setting up the daily weather briefings and sending out base-wide alerts for the changes in storm conditions, once leadership set the course.

Cmdr. Scott Wilmot, NAS Kingsville executive officer, set the base in modified Condition Three on Thursday, July 28, after the morning's weather brief from the National Weather Service. The forecast for Tropical Storm Don was for it to move on a north-northwesterly track through the Gulf of Mexico over the next 24 hours, with a potential landfall on the

see *Don* on page 6



L-3 personnel hangar a T-45 "Goshawk" in preparation of Tropical Storm Don hitting South Texas. The storm was forecast to move on a north-northwesterly track through the Gulf of Mexico

with potential landfall on the Texas Gulf Coast. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)

Four NASK Sailors selected to join CPO ranks

By MCC (SW) Maria Yager
NPC Public Affairs

More than 3,500 Sailors were selected to join the chief petty officer ranks when the Navy announced the results of the fiscal 2012 active duty chief petty officer selection board Aug. 1. Four Sailors currently stationed at NAS Kingsville, and one who recently transferred, were among those selected.

"NAS Kingsville did extremely well this year with five selections overall," said Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff. "Competition for advancement at the CPO level is always tough because we're

see *CPOs* on page 3



CMDRCM(SW/AW/FMF) Charlie Ratliff, NAS Kingsville command master chief (far left) addresses gathered chief petty officers at the meet-and-greet for NAS Kingsville CPO selectees (standing from left) MA1 (SW/AW) Timothy Knight, AC1(AW/SW) Curtis Malone, AM1(AW/SW) Stanley Pendergrass, and AC1 (AW/SW) Jarred Lee. (Photo by Jon Gagné)

Energy Usage 1st and 2nd Qtrs CY-2011

MONTH MEGAWATT HRS

JANUARY	2354
FEBRUARY	2100
MARCH	2291
APRIL	2694
MAY	3141
JUNE	3285

June through August is traditionally the peak season for electrical use. Please do your part to conserve!



From the Bridge



Capt. Mark McLaughlin
Commanding Officer



Greetings Team Kingsville,

I wish to extend my thanks to the Navy Ball Committee and the Kingsville Navy League for an outstanding Navy Ball Golf Tournament held last Friday at the L.E. Ramey Golf Course in Kingsville. Their efforts culminated in a completely full event.

The support of the sponsors for this year's tournament was record-setting. Without their tremendous generosity and sponsorships, we wouldn't be able to hold such a wonderful Navy Ball each year that has a quality meal and yet still affordable to the Sailors that run the base.

I don't believe I can say that I have ever seen -- in my entire Navy career -- such a close-knit and superb relationship between a base and the local community.

Again, well done to our sponsors and we will have an upcoming event to recognize your efforts.

Last week, NAS Kingsville received some wonderful news. Four of our very talented first class petty officers were selected by the Navy to be in this year's crop of new chief petty officers. Congratulations to ACC(AW) (Sel) Jarred Lee, ACC(AW/SW) (Sel) Curtis Malone, MAC(SW/AW) (Sel) Timothy Knight and AMC(AW/SW) (Sel) Stanley Pendergrass.

You have heard it before that the Chiefs run the Navy. Nowhere is that more prevalent than NAS Kingsville. With an officer corps assigned to running the base numbering less than 10, it is the khaki leadership of the chief petty officer ranks that fill the many billets making this base operate.

From Air Traffic Control to Ground Electronics, from Morale, Welfare and Recreation to the Navy Gateway Inns and Suites, from the Career Counselor for our Sailors to the Command Master Chief, I am proud to say that NAS Kingsville has the best "Goat Locker" in the Navy and it is outstanding that we will be adding these four new chief petty officers to the ranks. Well done!

In closing, next week marks the beginning of a new school year. Please be careful when driving in the school zones.

As a reminder, if you have any questions about any school district in the Coastal Bend area, please give our School Liaison Officer, Jeannie Alexander, a call.

Until Next Time~Skipper Mac

Beat the Heat
Hydrate!

Out, then in again

Lt. Sean Duncan, ground electronics maintenance officer, discharges LS2(SW) Jason Sigler from the U.S. Navy, prior to Sigler reenlisting for two more years with orders to Diego Garcia. Sigler, who grew up in Yokohama, Japan, reported to NAS Kingsville in October 2008. Pat Paddock, pictured in the background, served as the reenlisting officer.



Deckplate Leadership



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



Team Kingsville,

I would like to congratulate MAC(SW/AW) (Sel) Timothy Knight, ACC(AW) (Sel) Jarred Lee, ACC(AW/SW) (Sel) Curtis Malone, and AMC(AW) (Sel) Stanley Pendergrass on their recent selection to Chief Petty Officer. Well done shipmates! I'd also like to congratulate ETC(SW/AW) (Sel) Jason Vaught, who is serving on independent duty in Australia on his selection to Chief. Chief Select Vaught was stationed with ETC(SW) Eric Smith, our Escondido Ranch Manager, and requested to go through the Chief Petty Officer Induction process here at NAS Kingsville with Chief Smith as his Sponsor. He arrived in town Monday and is ready to begin training.

Many of you may be wondering exactly what selection boards are looking for when they are making the decision on who to promote to chief petty officer. You may not be sure what things are important to boards and what things are not so important.

The single most important factor for selection to chief petty officer will always be strong performance in a leadership position. And of course it is even more important if that leadership position is at sea. It is also helps to be ranked in a competitive environment. That means that the Sailor serving on independent duty and is a 1-of-1 EP may not be as competitive as a Sailor who is an MP ranked number 9 in a peer group of 34. Especially if the Sailor serving on independent duty isn't supervising anyone and the MP Sailor is supervising 25 people.

Another important factor that selection boards look at is qualifications. It's a given that warfare qualifications are enhancers.

And conversely, if a Sailor served at a command that offers a warfare qualification and he/she didn't get that qualification that will be counted against the Sailor. Just as important are watch station and collateral qualifications at sea. Sure, Sailors are expected to obtain the qualifications required to do their job but what about the Sailor who goes above and beyond? The BM1 who earns his OOD underway will get significant credit for earning a very challenging qualification that is clearly not required to do his/her job.

Another thing selection boards look at is duty assignments. What type of assignment is the Sailor taking when he/she transfers from sea duty to shore duty. The Sailor who takes the hard shore duty assignments such as instructor duty or recruit training will be looked upon very favorably by a selection board.

Finally, remember that selection boards look at what a Sailor is doing above and beyond his/her duty assignment. Is the Sailor taking on command collateral duties? Is the Sailor completing correspondence courses? Is the Sailors taking college courses? What about volunteerism? Is the Sailor involved in COMREL projects that benefit the local community and its residents? All of these things are looked upon favorably by selection boards.

In summary, the Navy selection board process is a tried and true method of selecting those most deserving for advancement. The important thing for Sailors to do is to ensure they have done everything in their power to make themselves competitive for the board.

It is always a good idea to get advice from someone who has been selected. With that said, talk with your Leading Chief or your Senior Chief. Feel free to contact me for advice as well. Each of us are standing by to provide you with advice and guidance on career development. Oh, and by the way, the best time to start readying yourself for your next advancement is TODAY!

V/R
CMC

Flying K

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This paper is published for people like AC2(AW/SW) Brian Collins, a native of Garland, Texas. He has served in the U.S. Navy since September 2006, transferring to Naval Air Station Kingsville in June 2010.

Leaders offer condolences in wake of helicopter crash *CPOs from page 1*

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

Senior U.S. leaders extended condolences Aug. 6 to the families of American and Afghan forces lost in an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) helicopter crash in eastern Afghanistan.

Thirty ISAF service members, a civilian interpreter and seven Afghan commandos were killed when a coalition CH-47 Chinook crashed earlier today, ISAF Joint Command officials said in a news release. All of the ISAF service members on board were from the United States.

The incident, officials said, represents the highest number of U.S. forces killed during a single event in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. An investigation is under way to determine the exact cause of the crash, officials added, noting that additional details will be provided as they become available.

In the wake of the crash, senior leaders issued statements to offer their condolences to the service members' loved ones.

"My thoughts and prayers go out to the families and loved ones of the Americans who were lost earlier today in Afghanistan," President Barack Obama said. "Their deaths are a reminder of the extraordinary sacrifices made by the men and women of our military and their families, including all who have served in Afghanistan.

"We also mourn the Afghans who died alongside our troops in pursuit of a more peaceful and hopeful future for their country," the president added.

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta also expressed his sorrow for the loss.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of many outstanding Americans in uniform and of their Afghan counterparts earlier today in Afghanistan," he said. "Their courage was exemplary, as was their determination to make this a safer world for their countries and for their fellow citizens.

"We will stay the course to complete that mission, for which they and all who have served and lost their lives in Afghanistan have made the ultimate sacrifice," he continued. "They and their families are in my thoughts, in my prayers and in my heart."

Marine Corps Gen. John R. Allen, ISAF commander, added his condolences.

"No words describe the sorrow we feel in the wake of this tragic loss," the general said. "All of those killed in this operation were true heroes who had already given so much in the defense of freedom. Their sacrifice will not be forgotten.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who are now waiting for their loved ones to return home," he continued. "We will do everything in our power to support them in this time of need.

"We also mourn the loss of our heroic Afghan partners who fight with us shoulder to shoulder, every day," Allen added.

The United States will draw inspiration from the lives of those who were lost, Obama said, and continue the work of securing the country and standing up for the values they embodied.

"At this difficult hour," the president added, "all Americans are united in support of our men and women in uniform who serve so that we can live in freedom and security."

dealing with seasoned petty officers who have proven that they are ready to accept more responsibility."

NAS Kingsville selectees include AC1 (AW) Jarred Lee, AC1(AW/SW) Curtis Malone, AM1 (AW/SW) Stanley Pendergrass, MA1 (SW/AW) Timothy Knight, and former NASK Sailor ET1 (SW/AW) Heath Britt.

Another Sailor who will be going through the CPO Induction season here, ET1 (SW/AW) Jason Vaught, is currently serving on independent duty at the Defense Attache Office in Canberra, Australia. A native Texan, Vaught's command agreed to send him to Kingsville on a temporary duty (TAD) assignment to complete his CPO training, since they did not have the means of conducting the training there. The request was submitted to NAS Kingsville, and approved by command leadership. Vaught suggested NAS Kingsville because he had previously served with ETC(SW) Eric Smith, Escondido Ranch manager, and they remain close friends.

Now that the selection board has hit the streets, those selected are now beginning their transition into the CPO ranks.

"The announcement (of the selection board results) is just the beginning for those selected, starting a new journey in their military career," said Navy Personnel Command Force Master Chief (AW/SW/NAC) Jon Port. "Much more will be expected of these Sailors as they step into a role of greater responsibility."

The board convened June 20, to review the records of 19,588 selection board-eligible candidates. The board was charged with reviewing pertinent sections from candidates' official military personnel file, including performance evaluations, awards and qualifications, and education.

A precept instructs selection-board members to seek the best and fully qualified candidates, and directs board members on which factors they may consider and which factors they may not consider when evaluating candidates.

"The most important selection criteria item is sustained superior performance in difficult and challenging leadership positions throughout their career but especially over the last five years," Port said citing the precept. "That is the biggest item which determines selection."

see CPOs on page 5

Local school supply drive successful

CYP, SLO help military families with back-to-school season

By MC1 (SW/AW) Monique K. Hilley
CNIC Public Affairs

Navy Child and Youth Programs assist military families with the many preparations involved for the coming school year.

Preparations include gathering school supplies, seeking information on new schools, daycare availability and researching information on programs to help children succeed. There are many resources available to help parents make these preparations including Navy programs for youth.

Naval Air Station Kingsville's Child and Youth Program personnel assisted the School Liaison Officer Jeanie Alexander in collecting school supplies for military families in need.

"The Navy's Child and Youth Program (CYP) provides top-quality programs for children and youth that are affiliated with NAS Kingsville. Qualified staff provide appropriate age-level activities for the youth that take into account their interests and abilities. The Youth Center welcomes youth to attend the programs that are provided on base," said Melanie Gartner, youth director.

Gartner and Alexander placed collection boxes, decorated by CYP youth, around the base last month at various locations, such as the Rolls Royce offices, Security build-

ing, Commissary, Navy Gateway Inns and Suites, Army medical evacuation unit office spaces, Air Operations, Training Squadrons 21 and 22 ready rooms, and on the quarterdeck of the NAS Kingsville command building, just to name a few. Also, Alexander also collected school supplies at the base's front gate as she greeted Kingsville personnel driving to work several mornings at the end of July.

Basewide, hundreds of items from pencils to paper, and binders to backpacks, were collected from donations throughout the month of July. School supplies were then distributed last week.

"We handed out school supplies to 38 students," Alexander said. "Participants really picked up the momentum this year, picking up donations quickly. Hopefully it's due to the parents' understanding that (NAS Kingsville Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Child and Youth Program) is here to help support the children."

The Navy offers quality programs to equip children and families for success in the Navy mobile lifestyle. The first stop for every Navy family for all matters related to child education is the school liaison officer (SLO). The SLO works with parents, commands and local school communities to facilitate the best education possible for



Jeanie Alexander, NASK school liaison officer, distributed boxes around the base to collect school supplies. Above, Alexander provides Lt. Cmdr. Dave Anderson, air operations officer, a box for his quarterdeck. The boxes were decorated by local CYP youth. Photo by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)

the military child. CYP through Child and Youth Education Services provides school transition support, deployment support, special education system assistance, home school support, college and technical education preparation and more. SLOs provide the most accurate and current information available about local school districts so that

parents can make the best educational decisions for their child.

For more information about Navy CYP including the SLO program, and to request before-and-after school care, visit <https://qol.navaims.net/cypweb/web/home/home> or visit the NAS Kingsville CYP and SLO office located in Bldg. 2740.



Serving the community

Kingsville's Man of Purpose (MOP) Committee presented a community service award to CMDCM(SW/AW/FMF) Charlie Ratliff during an awards ceremony held last month. From left are Tamos Williams, Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff, Reverend Al Lewis, Ed Williams, and Reverend Idotha Battle.

Red Cross changes emergency communications phone number

To better serve the military community, the American Red Cross announced that it will move to a single telephone number for its emergency communication services. Already effective, all military members and their families can use one number- 877-272-7337 (U.S. Toll Free) to send an urgent message to a service member. The change means that all military members and their families can use this single number to initiate an emergency communication, regardless of where they live.

For those stationed overseas, the three options for calling will remain the same:

calling 877-272-7337 direct, accessing the number through a military operator, or calling the local Red Cross station.

The Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces program provides assistance to more than 2 million service members and many of the nation's 24 million veterans. The Red Cross provides emergency communications linking service members with their families during time of crisis; comfort and care in military and veterans medical facilities; access to financial assistance in partnership with the military aid societies; information and referral and assistance to veterans.

Morale, Welfare & Recreation

MWR Event Calendar

Bowling Center

Free bowling weekdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with purchase of a meal.

Mondays

12 noon – Lunchtime volleyball
12 noon – Yoga at the Fitness Center
5:45 p.m. - Zumba Fitness at the Fitness Center.
Call 516-4386, for more info.

Tuesdays

6 p.m. – Water aerobics

Wednesdays

12 noon – Lunchtime volleyball
12 noon – Yoga at the Fitness Center
5:45 p.m. - Zumba Fitness at the Fitness Center.
Call 516-4386, for more info.
7 p.m. – Free movies at the ITT Liberty Lounge

Bowling Note: In the Doghouse League will be restarting on Tuesday night, Aug. 30. There will be an organizational meeting followed by bowling.

Thursdays

6 p.m. – Water aerobics
7 p.m. – Trivia Night at the K-Bar. Teams of four compete by answering trivia questions. Great K-Bar prizes. Call 516-6371, for more information.

Fridays

12 noon – Yoga at the Fitness Center

Saturdays

2 p.m. -- children's movies are shown free of charge at the ITT Liberty Lounge.

K-Rock Coffee Shop

Buy 10 Cups get one free!!

Join MWR Text Program to receive notifications of events, and enter to win weekly prizes!
Just Text
"KingMWR" to 30364!

In the Break



Capt. Joe Evans
Commander
Training Air Wing TWO

Greetings,

Hello Naval Air Station Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO. As I pen this article, I am sitting in my nearly vacant house wondering why my household goods shipment isn't going to arrive tomorrow as previously scheduled. Through some mix up, my shipment is being delayed by one week. Perhaps some of the junior officers reading this article will find solace in that I, too, feel their "PCS pain" and not merely be discouraged in that PCSs don't get any easier despite what rank you might wear on your shoulder. All told though, I can't complain as my family has finally arrived, and all that I am missing is simply "stuff." Besides, this is a "winging week!"

For some of our student pilots, the end of this week marks the day for which they have been waiting for nearly two years (hopefully somewhat less than that) -- this is a "winging" week. On Friday, we will have

six Navy officers, seven Marines and one Brazilian navy officer receive their "wings of gold" at a ceremony in the Captain's Club ballroom. If you have never been to a winging ceremony, I urge you to come this Friday afternoon.

While to date I have only had the honor of attending two wingings here at NAS Kingsville, each has been very meaningful and quite moving. Winging ceremonies bring clarity to what we all do regardless of what our occupation might be here on base. Whether you are an instructor pilot or a support contractor, a winging is not only the culmination of a student's training, but also a validation of our mission here at NAS Kingsville. It is truly an emotional moment to witness the wings being pinned on our newest naval aviators by his or her justifiably proud parents, spouse or friend.

So, as I sit here in my empty house, I am thankful rather than discouraged. I am grateful that it is merely my household goods that are late in arriving and not my family, and I am appreciative that all of you, through professionally doing your jobs day in and day out, have contributed to the training and ultimate winging of 14 more naval aviators this Friday. Well done!

See you on the flight line.

Commodore Evans

VT-21 volunteers reach out into the community

Personnel from Training Squadron 21 (VT-21) participated in a community outreach event Saturday, July 2, 3, in Corpus Christi.

Volunteers cleaned, painted and helped renovate rental apartments during those two days at Cliff Maus Village, a low income housing area.

"We were able to work on three apartments during the day," said Joy Alonzo, VT-21 Spouse Association president. "Through this effort, we helped make ready six apartments to be available for rent to low income families in the Coastal Bend Area."

Several area Corpus Christi churches



VT-21's Ens. Drew Schnabel touches up the floorboards.

also pledged to participate in the project by renovating 26 apartments, so that they could be rented to families who need affordable housing, Alonzo added.

Of the 260 occupants currently living at the Cliff Maus complex, more than half are children who are registered with public assistance. Because of very limited resources, the cleaning/renovation effort is being completed by an all volunteer force.

Following the work day, VT-21 volunteers were treated to pizza and beverages at the home of VT-21 Skipper, Cmdr. Quino Alonzo. Participating in the event were: Cmdr. Quino Alonzo, Joy Alonzo, Ens. Scott Chuda, Ens. Stephen Elliott, 1st Lt. Brian Kimmin, Lt. Thomas Murray, Ens. Kale Nichols, Lt.j.g. Geoffrey Reeg, Ens. Drew Schnabel, Ens. Calvin Stark, Eric Alonzo, Caroline Alonzo, John Alonzo, Emily, and Danna Star.



VT-21 volunteers cleaned, painted and refurbished rental apartments in a low income housing area last month, including 1st Lt. Brian Kimmin, left, and Ens. Calvin Stark. (Photos courtesy of Joy Alonzo).

Wills will help distribute your assets when you pass

By Lt. William R. LaFleur II, USNR,
Juris Doctorate Candidate, 2013

The Navy Legal Service Office will be offering appointments at NAS Kingsville to draft wills on Wednesday, Sept. 14.

To schedule an appointment, call 516-6426 or e-mail christie.mills@navy.mil.

Having a will is important because it helps distribute your assets when you pass. If you do not have a will, your property will pass through intestacy, so your property may not be distributed as you intend it to.

Intestacy

When an individual dies without a valid will, that person is said to have died "intestate." Without the guidance of a valid will, a local court will distribute the assets of the deceased according to the state's "Intestacy Statutes." These laws govern the passing of real and personal property to the deceased individual's "heirs-at-law" (heirs) regardless of what their wishes may have been.

State laws do not take into consideration the nature and quality of the relationship between the deceased and his or her heirs. For instance, in Texas stepchildren will not inherit from a stepparent who dies without a will because they are not legally related.

Leaving the distribution of a person's estate to the state can be time consuming, expensive, and can lead to undesired results. To avoid these headaches, it is recommended that servicemembers, veterans, and their dependents have a formal will drafted by a local JAG office.

Wills

A will is used to distribute the assets of a deceased individual after they have passed. In Texas, in order for a will to be valid, the Testator (the individual to whom the will belongs) must at the time of execution, satisfy the following conditions:

- * Be at least 18 years of age, married, or serving in the armed forces
- * Be of sound mind;
- * Not be forced or deceived to make the will; and
- * Have the intent to distribute his or her property at death

In Texas, a valid will can be given (a) By word of mouth (for personal property of less than \$30 in value made during the final illness of the deceased), (b) Via a handwritten document also known as a holographic will (must be entirely in the handwriting of the deceased and signed by him or her), or (c) Via a typewritten document commonly referred to as a "formal" will, which can be obtained at your local JAG Office.

Benefits of a Will

By taking the time to have a formal will drafted by your local JAG office, you will save your loved ones time, money, and unnecessary stress after your passing. A will allows the testator to tell the court how to distribute his or her remaining assets know as the "estate." A person's estate includes all of the personal and real property left behind by the deceased.

"Real" property is either land or anything permanently attached to land (including houses, barns, or condominiums). "Personal" property includes everything other than real property, including cash, bank accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, retirement accounts clothes, jewelry, automobiles, boats, and insurance policies.

A will can also provide for the creation of a trust for minor children, ensuring that the amounts inherited are used toward their essential needs until they have reached maturity.

Irrespective of your state of residence, your local JAG office is able to draft a valid, formal will. Visit your local JAG office to make sure that your family will be taken care of according to your wishes and not to those of the state.

Get help from your local legal assistance office. For NAS Kingsville and NAS Corpus Christi call (361) 961-3765; and JRB Fort Worth call (817) 782-6007. This article is not intended to substitute for the personal advice of a licensed attorney.

CPOs from page 3

Other factors the board considered include:

- * Educational, personal and professional development,
- * Competency and skill information,
- * Anti-terrorism and force protection,
- * Language, regional and cultural experience,
- * Naval Special Warfare and Navy Expeditionary Force experience,
- * Special duty assignments,
- * Collateral duties, and
- * Overseas and arduous duty.

Additionally, the selection board was directed to give consideration to candidates who have displayed superior performance while serving in Individual Augmentee (IA), Global War on Terrorism support assignments or overseas contingency operations assignments.

Once the selection board reviews the records of all eligible candidates and selects the best and most-fully-qualified Sailors based on the precept, their results are forwarded to the chief of naval personnel for

final approval.

"Selection to chief petty officer is a significant milestone that begins early in a Sailor's career," Port added. "Junior Sailors on the deckplates can look at the factors for selection as a guide; study, achieve excellence personally and professionally, diversify your assignments and seek additional duties that will broaden your experiences and contribution to the Navy and your shipmates."

The precept is a written order signed by the chief of naval personnel, providing general and specific guidance to the selection board. It may be reviewed in its entirety in the enlisted selection board section at www.npc.navy.mil.

The active duty chief petty officer board is the largest selection board conducted in the Navy and typically lasts four weeks. Those selected for advancement to Chief will be officially welcomed into the Chief's Mess Sept. 16, after completing CPO induction training.



From left, MA1(SW/AW) Timothy Knight, AC1(AW/SW) Curtis Malone, AM1(AW/SW) Stanley Pendergrass, and AC1 (AW/SW) Jarred Lee stand by at a meet-and-greet of chief petty officers. These four Sailors were selected by the Navy in this year's crop of new chief petty officers. (Photo by Jon Gagné)

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

Don from page 1

Texas Gulf Coast the next evening.

Late Friday morning, Wilmot set the base in modified Condition Two as the air station completed its pre-storm preparations. South Texas was expecting the storm to continue its track through the Gulf with potential landfall on the coast that evening, with the bulk of the storm landing Saturday morning.

“The teamwork and communication of the base and tenant activities was terrific in ensuring we were ‘hurricane ready,’” said Wilmot.

Part of the preparations taken ensured the T-45 Goshawk aircraft were moved into hangars, to protect them from the storm.

“Jets were placed in the hangar as a precautionary measure,” said Lt. Cmdr. Brian Merritt, safety officer, Training Air Wing TWO. “The NAS Kingsville and TW-2 team watched the storm closely throughout the week.

“With the threat of hurricane force winds, the obvious course of action was to protect the aircraft and aircrew. Although this meant canceling the flight schedule earlier than planned, it was the safe decision.”

Cmdr. Rey Molina, chief staff officer, TW-2, reiterated that hurricane preparedness is a critical aspect of mission readiness for TW-2. “The actions and planning taken before a tropical cyclone strikes to mitigate damage and injury goes a long way in preserving precious human and material resources required to train the world’s best aviators,” Molina said. “At the end of the day, it’s easier to defend why the Training Air Wing missed-out on a half day of production for hangaring jets due to predicted hazardous weather than it is to explain losing millions of dollars worth in damages and possible life due to lack of preparedness.”

“Our (foul weather) instructions follow the Navy’s hurricane instructions and we

‘speak the same language’ when conditions of readiness change,” said Jim Crabbe, site manager for L-3, the company that maintains the T-45s.

“We do have timelines to follow before leading weather approaches,” Crabbe added. “Besides tying down aircraft or securing them inside a hangar, we conduct an integrity check up and down the flight line, for

FOD (foreign object damage) prevention.

“L-3, the base and the Wing (Training Air Wing TWO) have a good relationship,” Crabbe added, “so there is good communication between the three entities. We were able to quickly respond to how the base set conditions of readiness.”

Though Tropical Storm Don was a no-show, everyone’s concerted effort showed

that all parties aboard NAS Kingsville are prepared should another storm travel through the Gulf of Mexico.

“I applaud the dedicated efforts and teamwork of the men and women of TW-2, NASK and tenant commands on being proactive and prepared before a disaster occurred,” Molina summarized. “Better safe than sorry!”



Juan Soliz pushes the aircraft as Felipe Rodriguez, inside the cockpit, serves as the brake rider. They were two of many L-3 employees who hangared the T-45s to ensure they were safe from the impending storm.

Top, L-3 employees hangar some T-45s in Bldg. 760, as Naval Air Station Kingsville prepares for Tropical Storm Don to make landfall. Below, it’s a team effort to hangar the aircraft. L-3 employees ensure the T-45s are hangared safely with no personal or property damages. (Photos by Fifi Kieschnick)



Ens. Thomas Stock blasts a drive down the fairway as Cmdr. Troy Hamilton waits for his turn on the tee box. The two were part of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) team (Public Works). (Photos by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth, Fifi Kieschnick and Jon Gagné)



Members of the Celanese team study their putt on the 17th hole as volunteer AC3 William Wilder holds the pin. The hole offered a new car courtesy of Neessen Automotive of Kingsville for a hole-in-one, but no one was able to drive home a winner.



Kingsville EDC director Dick Messbarger fishes an errant shot from the water while his teammates hope to keep pace with the leaders in the scramble-format event.



Capt. Mark McLaughlin, right, presents the Leadership Challenge Cup to members of the City of Kingsville team following their win over NASK leadership in the annual blind draw skins game. Accepting the cup are Ken Kelly, left, and Mark Dominguez. Not available for the photo were Dick Messbarger and Kingsville Mayor Sam Fugate.



HM1 (SW) Gerald Randolph checks out how close his team's shot came to the closest-to-the-pin marker on hole number 5.



IC1(SW/AW) Bernardino Martinez, left, and EN2(SW) Shaun Hernandez place a sponsor sign on one of the tee boxes prior to the start of the tournament.

Everyone had a ball

Low scores highlight golf tournament

By Jon Gagne
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

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

"I'd like to thank all of our sponsors who made this tournament possible," said NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Mark McLaughlin. "But most importantly, I'd like to thank the Kingsville Navy League for taking ownership of this tournament to help NAS Kingsville put on what I believe to be one of the best Navy Birthday Balls throughout the Navy."

Low scores highlighted the annual tournament, with the tournament champions, Acme Truck Lines of Corpus Christi, coming in at 21-under par. Acme Truck Lines also won the tournament in 2009 and finished in second place last year.

Last year's winning team, Team "Papi Chulo," came in second this time around, finishing at 19-under, followed the City of Kingsville Leadership team, captained by Kingsville Mayor Sam Fugate, at 18-under par. The NAS Kingsville leadership team, led by McLaughlin and NAS Kingsville Executive Officer Cmdr. Scott Wilmot and Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff, finished fourth at 15-under.

Prizes were awarded for the top three teams, longest drive, and closest-to-the-pin on all par 3 holes. There were also more than 40 door prizes distributed.

"The Navy League did a great job finding sponsors for the tournament," said ADC(AW) Johnny Tienda, tournament coordinator. "And I can't thank the local businesses enough for their sponsorship. Without them, this tournament wouldn't be possible."

More than 30 sponsors supported the Navy League event.

In addition to teams competing head-to-head for the championship, the NAS Kingsville team squared off against the City of Kingsville leadership team in the annual blind draw Challenge Cup Skins Game. Mayor Fugate's team walked away with the title this year, taking home a lop-sided victory. The win was the second for the City of Kingsville over the last three years.



Volunteers Cathy Powlas, left, and HM2 (SW) Jordan Saffell-Randolph ride on the back of the beverage cart.



AC1 (AW/SW) Jarred Haynes blasts a tee shot down the fairway on the par-5 fourth hole. Haynes won the longest drive competition on hole number 12 with tee shot of more than 320 yards.