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June 17, 2011

First Army helos arrive as medical evacuation unit begins to 'move in'

By Fifi Kieschnick
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The first two helicopters assigned to F Company, 7-158 Aviation Regiment, an Army Reserve medical evacuation unit, arrived last week as the unit prepares to stand up aboard Naval Air Station Kingsville.

When the unit is fully operational there will be six Black Hawks and 40 support personnel stationed aboard the air station, according to Maj. Joshua Germann, commanding officer of the unit.

"We are preparing to begin our aviation operations," Germann said. "We are still building our maintenance support and we are looking for training areas."

The helo supports their Company's medical evacuation mission and is designed to hold six patients. The HH-60Ms are state-of-the-art with only about 700 flying hours on them. Their cockpits are digital with fully automated flight control systems.

"They have tactical internet and moving maps, which provides for more intel than radio communication systems in the older model aircraft," Germann added.



Sgt. First Class Melinda Gates talks to Captain Anthony Phillips and Firefighter John Davis about the HH-60M Black Hawk's capabilities. Members of the Army Reserve medical evacuation unit, F Company, 7-158 Aviation Regiment, familiarized the Naval Air Station firefighters with the Black Hawk's medical evacuation mission and the helo's capabilities. The helo is one of six that will be stationed here. Pictured left, one of the Army Reserves' HH-60M Black Hawks sits on the Naval Air Station Kingsville flightline. (Photos by Fifi Kieschnick)

Energy Conservation 1ST QTR FY 2011

Electricity Usage

MONTH	MW Hrs
JAN 11	2,354
FEB 11	2,100
MAR 11	2,291

Water Usage

MONTH	KGALs
JAN 11	4,310
FEB 11	3,842
MAR 11	3,592

Alonzo relieves Kelsey, assumes command of 'Fighting Redhawks'

By Jon Gagné
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Training Squadron 21 (VT-21) held a change of command ceremony aboard the historic USS Lexington Friday, June 10, as Cmdr. John "Chip" Kelsey turned over command of the Fighting Redhawks to Cmdr. Quino "Gonzo" Alonzo Jr.

Training Air Wing TWO Commander Capt. Mark Brooks presided over the ceremony.

More than 200 people attended the ceremony in the hangar bay of the legendary "Blue Ghost." Special guests included Rear Adm. Bill Sizemore, Chief of Naval Air Training, and Texas Congressman Blake Farenthold.

The guest speaker was Capt. Sterling G. Gilliam Jr., a native of Henderson, N.C., current commanding officer of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps contingent at George Washington University.

"(Cmdr. Kelsey) needless to say is competitive," Gilliam said during his remarks. "John Kelsey is constantly a team player, and VT-21 shows that. (Cmdr. Alonzo), you're following greatness, there's no doubt about that."

The ceremony marked the end of a highly successful two-year tour of duty at NAS Kingsville for Kelsey, who reported to VT-21 as executive officer in June, 2009, and assumed command of the squadron a year



Cmdr. John Kelsey, left, is relieved of command of VT-21 by Cmdr. Quino Alonzo Jr., during a traditional ceremony held aboard USS Lexington Museum on the Bay on June 10. Capt. Mark Brooks, right, commander, Training Air Wing TWO, presided over the ceremony. Seated, Capt. Sterling Gilliam, Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps, George Washington Univ., was the keynote speaker. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs)

see VT-21 on page 4

Suicide prevention resources available

The Navy released NAVADMIN 178/11 June 9, reminding Sailors about the importance of suicide prevention and the resources available for commands as well as Sailors and their families.

Suicide prevention resources are more readily available than ever, according to Lt. Cmdr. Bonnie Chavez, Navy Behavioral Health Program director.

Every Navy homepage now has a direct Lifeline link to a live chat staffed by Veterans Affairs professionals. The national suicide prevention Lifeline number is 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) and Sailors are urged to add this number to their phones and their family members' phones for quick access.

"Just like fire extinguishers and flotation devices, these phone and internet chat links can be life-saving tools if they are readily available when expert help may not be physically or emotionally within reach, or you need expert support to better help a shipmate in need," said Chavez.

A new Commander's Toolkit for Suicide Prevention is available for download at www.suicide.navy.mil. It contains a collection of guidance, checklists, and templates to assist commands in assessing and directing unit efforts to save lives and support those affected by a tragedy.

"So far this year, nearly 700 troubled Sailors were reached by a shipmate, family member or leader who remembered to ACT," Chavez said.

ACT is an acronym used in suicide prevention to help people remember to: A – Ask the question, C – Care and help the person find T – Treatment.

While many have received help this year, 24 Sailors have been lost to suicide in the first four months of 2011.

"Our collective sympathy goes out to those who are personally grieving the loss of a friend and colleague to suicide," Chavez said.

For more information, go to www.suicide.navy.mil or www.navynavstress.com. (Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs)



Warning signs of suicide are not always this obvious...

ACT.

ASK - CARE - TREAT

ASK if someone is thinking about suicide.

Let them know you CARE.

Get them assistance (TREATment) as soon as possible.

Life counts.

www.suicide.navy.mil



Reenlisting -- ET1(SW) John Fuller, right, reenlisted recently in a ceremony held aboard USS Lexington Museum on the Bay. Pictured above, Lt. Cmdr. Dave Anderson, Air Operations Officer who served as the reenlisting officer, presents certificates of appreciation to Fuller's wife Drennan and daughter Rafaela. Fuller, who has been in the Navy for eight years, reenlisted for six more years of service. (Photo by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs)

Deckplate Leadership




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

Team Kingsville,

Wow what a great Asian Pacific Islander celebration we had last week!

We had a huge crowd turn out for what proved to be an exceptional event. It would have probably been much more enjoyable for everyone in attendance if Lucy Clarkson hadn't "made me" do the Filipino tinkling dance that requires you to dance in and out of the two moving poles.

I'm sure most of you were less than excited watching me trip over my own feet for three minutes. I'm just glad that dance ended when it did. I was exhausted! I just don't understand it - when I watch Lucy do that dance, it looks so easy. But when I try to do it, I end up falling all over the place.

Oh well, better luck next year.

Seriously, the celebration was outstanding. Diana Lozano, the Assistant Director of International Students at Texas A & M Kingsville, and Rennie Penitusi, with Navy

Gateway Inns & Suites, were great guest speakers.

And the trip through the Pacific that Petty Officer Sii took us on was superb. All of you who performed during the event did a great job.

And of course, we had volunteers make us some fruit salad again this year. ABE2 Negrón, from Field Support, you proved - in the fruit salad mixer - that you may have a future on "Dancing With the Stars." But Skipper, I would recommend you keep your day job, Sir. I don't expect the "Dancing With the Stars" casting folks to be in contact with you anytime soon.

Following all of the performances, we enjoyed a great Asian Pacific meal complete with lumpia and pancit.

Thanks to all of you who prepared food for this special event-- you did an excellent job.

I'd like to close by thanking the members of the NAS Kingsville Diversity Committee. You consistently put on great shows in support of every command diversity celebration.

I know I speak for everyone on board the air station when I say, "Thanks for what you do shipmates!"

V/R
 CMC

Flying K

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This paper is published for people like HA Anthony Lagpagan who has been working at Branch Health Clinic Kingsville since March. Lagpagan is a native of San Diego, Calif., and has been in the Navy for 13 months.

Due to increased retention, aviation officer bonus rates to be restructured

In response to increased retention of pilots and naval flight officers (NFOs) at the department head and command levels, the Navy announced May 18 in NAVADMINS 168/11 and 169/11 that it has restructured the Aviation Career Continuation Pay (ACCP) program for fiscal year 2011.

Changes were announced in NAVADMINS 168/11 for active duty aviators and in NAVADMIN 169/11 for full-time support (FTS) aviators.

"Providing appropriate incentives to retain skilled personnel for critical naval aviation billets is essential to maintaining combat readiness," said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, the director of military plans and policy for Chief of Naval Personnel. "Through a balanced bonus program, the Navy is able to retain a sufficient number of eligible pilots and naval flight officers through department head and command milestones."

To ensure an efficient use of funds, the fiscal year 2011 bonus program includes a general reduction in bonus amounts, as well as the alignment of available bonuses for department heads by aircraft type, model and series.

For fiscal year 2011, department head bonus amounts are as follows:

- *All helicopter pilots, \$10,000 per year
- *EA-18G and EA-6B electronic air attack (VAQ) pilots, \$15,000 per year; VAQ NFOs, \$20,000 per year
- *E-2C carrier airborne early warn-

ing (VAW) and C-2 fleet logistics support (VRC) pilots, \$5,000 per year; VAW NFOs, \$5,000 per year

*FA-18 strike fighter (VFA) pilots, \$25,000 per year; VFA NFOs, \$10,000 per year

*P-3C patrol (VP) pilots, \$10,000 per year; VP NFOs, \$10,000 per year

*EP-3 air reconnaissance (VQ) pilots, \$10,000 per year; VQ NFOs, \$10,000 per year

*E-6A airborne communications (VQ [T]) pilots, \$5,000 per year; VQ (T) NFOs, \$5,000 per year.

Previous bonuses were \$25,000 per year for all pilots and \$15,000 per year for all NFOs, regardless of airframe.

The department head bonus will no longer be offered with a lump-sum option. Ad-

ditionally, the payment schedule has been adjusted and these officers will receive a reduced amount until they are department head screened.

The fiscal year 2011 ACCP program also makes bonuses available for lieutenant commanders and commanders who are serving at sea, but not on a long-term contract.

Two-year contracts for non-command tours at sea have been reduced to \$5,000 per year in fiscal year 2011 from \$10,000 in fiscal year 2010.

At-sea command bonus levels remain unchanged for fiscal year 2011. Three-year contracts for at-sea operational or operational training command tours will pay \$12,000 per year.

As in fiscal year 2010, O-6 aviators will not be eligible for ACCP bonuses.

FTS aviators will be eligible for bonuses of \$10,000 per year in department head and officer-in-charge categories, with contracts for command tours offered only for operational or operational training squadrons at \$12,000 per year.

An aviation officer has two opportunities to sign an ACCP contract – the first in the year prior to expiration of his or her minimum service requirement and the second in the year the MSR will expire.

Fiscal year 2011 ACCP applications must be received by Sept. 23 for active duty aviators and Sept. 24 for FTS aviators.

To read the NAVADMINS, visit <http://www.npc.navy.mil/channels>.> For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/. (*Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs*)

Pilots reach milestone during Centennial of Naval Aviation

By Penny Randall
NAS Meridian Public Affairs

Two Naval Air Station NAS Meridian, Miss., pilots celebrated a career milestone when they both achieved 3,000 flight hours in the T-45 Goshawk, May 26.

Lt. Cmdr. Terry Pankhurst and retired Lt. Cmdr. Greg Kashouty are two of only three pilots who have reached this accomplishment.

"Three thousand hours kind of snuck up on me," said Pankhurst who is an instructor pilot with Training Squadron Seven. "I've

loved every minute of this job. I don't really give much thought to how long I've been at it. One day, it seemed, I just turned around and discovered time had passed and how many hours had accumulated."

As a student, Pankhurst flew the T-34C Mentor, the T-2C Buckeye and the T-45A. In the fleet he flew the S-3B Viking out of Jacksonville, Fla. He has been flying and teaching in the T-45A and T-45C since February 2000, at NAS Kingsville and NAS Meridian. Pankhurst has been an instructor in all of the T-45 Advanced Squadrons -- VT-21, VT-22, VT-9 and VT-7.

"Never forget how lucky we are to be doing this job," Pankhurst. "When you get tired or frustrated, think back to high school or earlier when you sat and dreamed about doing just this type of thing. How many others have dreamed of it and will never know what it's like?"

Pankhurst lists his most memorable experience in the Navy as his first trap on a carrier.

"It was March 1994, in a T-2C on the USS Eisenhower (CVN 69); it's something you just don't forget."

Kashouty retired from the Navy in June 2008, from VT-22 in Kingsville. He trained student pilots at NAS Meridian from 2003 to 2008 for VT-7 and Training Air Wing ONE. He is currently a contract pilot working for M-1 Support Systems on board NAS Meridian. His job is to fly functional check flights, ferry flights and rescue flights.

Training Squadron 9 welcomes new commanding officer

The helm of Training Squadron NINE changed during an official change of command ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss., June 2.

Military and civilian personnel along with members of the community bid farewell to Cmdr. William Sheehan, and welcomed Cmdr. Craig Snyder as the squadron's new leader.

Capt. Keith Taylor, commodore of Training Air Wing ONE, was the guest speaker.

"Changes of command ... serve as the official transition of managerial leadership and gives us all the opportunity to honor and recognize the achievements of the outgoing skipper. Most times we hear statistics of how well the squadron performed. Today is

Kashouty reflected on his accomplishment of reaching 3,000 flight hours.

"It's a lot of hard work and long hours for many years," said Kashouty. "Most of the missions are less than one hour each time that you fly, so it means there are a lot of man-ups, putting flight gear on and walking out to the plane and starting it - lots of takeoffs and landings. I have more than 2,800 sorties to accomplish this."

Kashouty has trained hundreds of students who have successful careers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

"I have a lot of old students who are now commanders," Kashouty said. "I have students who have taught students, who have taught students... three to four generations since I started flying the T-45 in 1996."

During his career Kashouty flew nine different types of aircraft including T-34, T-2, A-4, S-3A/B, C-9/DC-9, T-45A and T-45C.

Kashouty has advice for all the pilots in training.

"You have to want it very bad," he said. "Never stop studying, and listen to the 'old timers,' because most really 'have been there and done that.' You can learn a lot from other people's mistakes."

As for celebrating their 3,000th flight hour, both officers are very modest.

"I suppose I'll dwell on it for a few minutes and then get back to work," said Pankhurst.

no different because they tell a story of VT-9; a story of success," Taylor said.

Taylor described the squadron's performance during the past year.

"This squadron flies over 100 sorties a day, many times almost triple sided -- that's a lot of flying. They do it professionally... they do it safely," Taylor said. "It is also recognition of the organization that conducts the high risk mission with extremely high altitude in a safe and professional manner."

During Sheehan's tour, the squadron trained 95 Navy, Marine and international pilots, completed 11 OJT students, amassed more than 17,477 sorties and over 22,223

see VT-9 on page 4



Staying Navy -- Cmdr. Dave Anderson, Air Operations Officer, reenlists AO2(AW/SW) Joel Ramirez, of the Weapons Department, for six more years of U.S. Navy service. Ramirez is a San Antonio native and has been in the Navy for eight years. (Photo by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs)

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



Bravo Zulu -- Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer presented CS1 Holly Clow with the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and a Navy Achievement Medal recently (above) prior to transfer to USS McFaul (DDG 74) in Norfolk, Va. Clow served aboard NAS for 4 years.



Frocked -- Two of NAS Kingsville's Sailors who were recently selected for advancement were frocked last week -- AC3 David Case, of Air Operations, and DC2(SW) Mara Martinez, of Morale, Welfare and Recreation. (Photos by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)

Blue Angels continue air show season

The Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, will resume all previously scheduled performances for the 2011 season beginning with the Quad City Air Show in Davenport, Iowa, this weekend, June 18 and 19.

During the past two weeks, the Blue Angels completed rigorous training and air show demonstration practice to integrate Capt. Greg McWherter, the new commanding officer and flight leader, back into the flight demonstration team. McWherter last served with the Blue Angels as their commanding officer during the 2010 season.



The Blue Angels will be headlining the NAS Kingsville "Wings Over South Texas" air show in 2012, scheduled for April 14 and 15. (Courtesy, U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron Public Affairs)

Moving this summer? Contact Personal Property

If you are planning a summer-time move, contact the Personal Property Processing Office (PPPO) located aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. Staff will assist service members as they arrange their moves.

All service members must access the Defense Personal Property System (DPS) at www.move.mil and complete their application online.

Customers who have not made arrangements for their local or long distance move estimates should do so immediately - especially if they expect to move before the second week of July.

Service within the entire household goods moving industry is going to be extremely strained this year - particularly during the peak period, which began in the

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training flight hours in the T-45C Goshawk. "What a great ride it has been," said Sheehan who transfers to Corpus Christi to work for the Chief of Naval Air Training. "Thirteen years as a Goshawk instructor, (then) CO of VT-9 -- it's all been an honor and privilege."

Snyder, a 1993 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, earned his wings in 1995 at NAS Meridian. He reported as executive officer of VT-9 in March 2010.

Snyder has more than 3,300 flight hours and over 500 traps.

"It's good to remember what makes an

organization great. It's not the CO who does it... it's the officers, Sailors and Marines that you see standing here -- they are the ones who make this squadron great. It's a top notch organization with top notch instructors." Snyder said.

"I couldn't ask for anything better. I am going to set the tone for the next 15 months with a single one liner I learned from an old CO of mine. He said 'Set the bar high and get the hell out of the way.' I look forward to being your CO." (NAS Meridian Public Affairs)

middle of May and will run through the middle of July. It is advisable to allow three weeks lead-time for processing your shipment -- from the time the personal property office receives the service member's signed DD1299, DD1797 and orders. If you need to move in less than eight working days from the time you receive orders to departure, you are highly encouraged to put in an application for a Personally Procured Move (PPM, formerly known as "Do-It-Yourself-Move" or DITY). You will be compensated 95 percent of what the government would pay a mover to perform the move.

For more information, contact the Personal Property Processing Office (PPPO) at (361)961-3742/2601/3729/3728.

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In the Break



Cmdr. Quino Alonzo Jr.
Commanding Officer
VT-21



Hello, Kingsville!

I am writing to you as the new Commanding Officer of the Fighting Redhawks. It is certainly a thrill and a privilege to lead and train the great men and women of VT-21. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead.

As I write this, there are already changes occurring to our operational tempo for the summer. Our Weapons Detachment leaves after the 4th of July for three weeks in El Centro, Calif. While there, students will drop practice bombs; conduct low level navigation at altitudes as low as 500 feet; and perform multi-plane road reconnaissance. It will be an exciting time for the students and instructors alike. Additionally, we'll be preparing for a Carrier Qualifications Detachment at the end of July. Because of recent

carrier schedules, this will be another large boat det with over 35 students from both squadrons heading out to Jacksonville, Fla., to earn their first 10 traps.

All I ask of my folks during this heightened operational tempo is to do it SAFELY! This happens by maintaining a questioning attitude. If something doesn't look right, sound right, or feel right, then don't do it. That should go for everything we do in our daily lives as well.

Summer is here in South Texas, even though it doesn't officially start until June 21. The summer means weekend barbecues, trips to the beach, and the usual summer get-a-ways. But it also means water safety, boating safety, and motor vehicle safety. Please look over all your gear, equipment, and vehicles to ensure that they are in proper working order, especially if you haven't used it since last summer. If needed, get a professional to inspect it.

The most important part is that each and every one of us come back safely, with all 10 fingers and all 10 toes.

Have a wonderful summer and take care of yourselves and your shipmates.

God Bless.



Catherine Santos (left), wife of Cmdr. John Kelsey, removes his command pin, as Joy Alonzo, wife of Cmdr. Quino Alonzo, pins on the command insignia during the VT-21 change of command ceremony held June 10. (Photo by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)

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later. During his remarks, Kelsey thanked his team of instructor pilots and student aviators for taking a highly professional approach to the command mission.

"I have been honored to lead this squadron of professional instructor pilots, students and civilian personnel," Kelsey said before he officially turned over command. "I have all the confidence in the world that (Cmdr. Alonzo) will be a great leader because he already is. My wife Cathy and I wish him and his wife Joy the very best."

Kelsey will move to Stuttgart, Germany, where he will serve on the staff of U.S. Africa Command.

Alonzo moves into the command role for the squadron after serving as the ex-

ecutive officer since October 2010. He earned his wings of gold at NAS Meridian, Miss., in June 1966, with VT-7, and returned to NAS Meridian in 2001 for a two-year stint as an instructor pilot. He reported to NAS Kingsville last October. During his career he has logged more than 3,000 flight hours and made more than 650 carrier landings aboard 10 different aircraft carriers.

VT-21's new executive officer is Cmdr. Brian Beck, a native of Scio, Ohio. Beck earned his wings with VT-21 at NAS Kingsville in August 2008, and has logged more than 3,000 flight hours in the E2-C "Hawk-eye" aircraft, with more than 350 carrier landings on board eight different aircraft carriers.



Under the contract awarded, repairs will be made to the airfield storm drainage collection system and runways.

Contract awarded for NASK airfield repairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast awarded a \$10.6 million contract to Head Inc./Ballew of Columbus, Ohio, June 8, for work on the Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, airfield.

The work to be performed provides for repairs to the airfield storm drainage collection system and runways on board NAS Kingsville.

The airfield storm drainage collection system project consists of repairing the storm drainage collection system in the airfield area including runways 13L, 13R, 17L and 17R. Repairs include slip lining, pipe repairs, pipe replacement, catch basin repairs and manhole repairs.

"This project will provide better prediction and management of any storm water run-off," said Sheri Fox, environmental director, NAS Kingsville.

"It will provide for a smoother surface for take-off and landing for the student aviators here in Kingsville as they are training," said Lt. Cmdr. Dave "Gravy" Anderson, air operations officer, NAS Kingsville.

Runway repairs will be performed on runways 17L and 35R and will include repairing failed patches, sever spalls, and seal cracks on concrete sections. On runway 17L, the project will also repair failed

patches, and sever concrete breaks of the blast pavement.

"The prevention of standing water and minimization of FOD [foreign object debris] is important," claimed Anderson. "By repaving, the PCI [pavement condition index] will be restored to 100 percent, thereby minimizing the likelihood of runway pieces becoming FOD."

As recommended by the Pavement Evaluation Team in a March 2007 airfield condition survey report, the project will provide for the application of herbicide to vegetations growing in the joints at PB 17/1 and PB35/1.

"The repaving of the airfield would be beneficial to the environment to ensure that any oil or chemical residue that may be attached to the tires of the aircrafts or vehicles does not seep into the ground, thus preventing any ground water or soil contamination," said Fox.

The project will also repair the wearing surface of asphalt concrete by milling and application of two inches of asphalt overlay and striping as required.

The project is expected to be completed by June 2012. (NAVFAC Southeast Public Affairs Office)

PPV, housing residents asked to complete satisfaction surveys

The 2011 CEL Surveys, evaluating resident satisfaction, for PPV and base housing units will arrive sometime between July 11 and 19.

Residents are urged to be one of the first to complete the survey and return it in order to be eligible to win weekly prizes.

Surveys may be completed on paper or online. Those who decide to complete the survey online must print out the "Thank You" page after completing the survey in order to be eligible for the weekly prize drawings. The web site and pass code is located on the top right hand corner of each survey.

Hawks Landing is offering one prize a week for the open period of eight weeks. Hunter's Cove will also be drawing eight weekly prizes, but will also draw an overall prize from all the completed surveys after the survey period comes to a close. Only residents who return their surveys are eligible for these drawings.

The CEL Survey is anonymous. CEL does not identify any personal information – just response numbers to each question.

The NAS Kingsville Housing Service Center urges all residents to complete their surveys to make themselves eligible for the weekly drawings.



Vice Adm. Allen G. Myers, left, commander of Naval Air Forces and Naval Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Lt. Cmdr. Steve Cazalas make final checks as Myers prepares for a flight in a T-6 Texan during a visit to Chief of Naval Air Training at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi recently. (U.S. Navy photo by Richard Stewart)

Upgrades being made to auxiliary landing field

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast awarded a \$14 million contract to PM2i, Inc., of Austin, Texas, May 27, for construction of operational facilities for the T-6 Texan, a fixed-wing, turboprop trainer aircraft.

The contract will be carried out at Naval Air Station (NAS) Corpus Christi, Texas, using the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) in Berclair, Texas. This is the second task order under a multiple award contract.

"This contract award represents a great accomplishment for the future of the South Texas Military Pilot Training mission, the U.S. Navy and the people of the Coastal Bend Area," said NAS Corpus Christi Commanding Officer Capt. R. F. Pierson.

The work provides for construction including a single-story fire station/crash crew facility at NALF Berclair, Texas. The facility will have three apparatus bays, an office, storage/laundry room, dayroom/galley, restroom/shower, fitness room, bunkrooms and a pilot lounge.

Construction includes a new emergency generator building, runway lighting including approach path indicators, tie-downs, grounding system, pavement markings,

repair to access road, utilities and site improvements, security fencing around the new facilities and demolition of existing control tower and site improvements.

Repair of existing runway includes milling of pavement, leveling, installation of reinforced fabric, repairing cracks, overlay and striping. Repairs also include partial demolition and renovation of existing fire station to house support vehicles at the Outlying Field.

"I could not be more pleased with this critical progress that near guarantees the future of aviation in South Texas," said Pierson.

A Navy auxiliary landing field (NALF) is a remote location. The Navy trains pilots using NALFs to practice and train in real-life situations. The Chief of Naval Air Training is headquartered at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, and oversees the Naval Air Training Command whose mission is to safely train and produce combat-quality aviation professionals, and deliver them to the fleet for follow-on tasking.

The project is expected to be complete June 2012. (Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast Public Affairs Office)

Morale, Welfare & Recreation

MWR Event Calendar

Tuesdays

Ultimate Frisbee Under the Lights Tuesdays, at 7 p.m., on the football field.

Wednesdays

Wednesdays, at 7 p.m., movies are shown free of charge at the ITT Liberty Lounge.

Saturdays

Saturdays, at 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!!

Trivia on Tap

Trivia Night at the K-Bar is held Thursday nights at 7 p.m. Teams of four compete by answering trivia questions. Great K-Bar prizes available to winners. Call 516-6371, for more information.

Bowling Center

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

Zumba Fitness

Zumba Fitness will be held at the Fitness Center on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. Call 516-4386, for more information.



Achieving Senior Chief --

ABHCS(AW/SW) Rudolph Oliva was recently frocked to his current rank. Capt. Mark McLaughlin, commanding officer, Naval Air Station Kingsville, presided over the ceremony. Pictured left, his wife Monica (right) and daughter Asia pin on his senior chief collar devices. Pictured above, McLaughlin presents Oliva with a certificate making the advancement "official." Oliva has 17 years U.S. Navy service. (Photos by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)

NAS Kingsville, VFW commemorate pivotal moment in WWII, Battle of Midway

By Fifi Kieschnick
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

"Today is an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate a great American Naval victory during the uncertain days of 1942," said Capt. Mark McLaughlin, commanding officer, Naval Air Station Kingsville, during a ceremony commemorating the Battle of

Midway.

"We salute those warriors of the Battle of Midway," he added. "We remember their great victory and tremendous sacrifice. We commit to them, to our Midway survivors, to all veterans, and to all Americans our own combat readiness, every day, in defense of our nation."

The Battle of Midway is considered one

of the greatest U.S. victories in our brief history, and NAS Kingsville held a ceremony on Friday, June 3, at McFall Memorial Chapel followed by a 21-gun salute and wreath-laying to pay tribute to the battle's fallen heroes and remember this historic event.

"We were a wounded duck," said Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville public affairs officer, as he narrated the ceremony, "still burning from the attack on Pearl Harbor just 6 months earlier ... trying to regroup in order to turn back the push of the Japanese empire throughout the Pacific.

"It was a big goal for our Naval forces, but it was a goal we were determined to meet, at all costs."

The battle took place one month before the gates to Naval Air Auxiliary Station Kingsville would open.

Within a month of the attack on Pearl Harbor, work on this air station began, Gagné stated.

"By the time U.S. forces turned the tide on Japan in Midway, the air station was about 60 percent complete," he added. "Then on July 4, one month from the start of the Midway battle, Naval Air Auxiliary Kingsville was officially commissioned."

"Words cannot express our nation's gratitude for the extraordinary service of our World War II veterans and those who participated in the Battle of Midway," McLaughlin added.

"God bless these heroes of the Battle of Midway and watch over our Sailors, soldiers, airmen and Marines who today stand watch, who today stand in harm's way around the world defending our great nation, the United States of America."

Kingsville VFW Post 2375 members were on hand for the ceremony and conducted a 21-gun salute prior to the wreath-laying ceremony.



On behalf of Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer, Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff gives members of Kingsville VFW Post 2375 a command coin in recognition of their service to this nation. (Photo by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)



At the conclusion of the ceremony, Capt. Mark McLaughlin, (right) NAS Kingsville commanding officer, and Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff lay a wreath under the McFall Memorial Chapel pavilion. (Photo by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)



Kingsville VFW Post 2375 gave a 21-gun salute as part of the commemoration of the Battle of Midway held at McFall Memorial Chapel on June 3. (Photo by F. Kieschnick)

Naval Air Station Kingsville personnel celebrated Asian and Pacific American heritage earlier this month at the Captain's Club with an event put together by the NAS Kingsville Diversity Committee. Right, RP3 Quentin Williams and other members of the Diversity Committee dish up traditional foods at the conclusion of the program. Below, MAC Ron Murchison, of the Security Department, and ABE2 Jonathan Negron, of Field Support, attempt to "mix it up" with a traditional Tahitian tamore dance. Center, Kiana Kahlbaum, of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, entertained the crowd with a contemporary belly dance. Far right, AC1 Praise Sii performs a nontraditional hula to a love song. (Photos by Fifi Kieschnick)



Celebrating diversity Kingsville personnel recognize cultural contributions to Navy

By Fifi Kieschnick
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Kingsville personnel celebrated Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month recently. This year's theme was "Diversity, Leadership, Empowerment and Beyond."

Recognizing diversity allows personnel to be aware of the strength of the Navy, which lies in the breadth of human experience of its people. Today, there are more than 35,000 uniformed personnel combined in the active and Reserve component, and more than 29,000 civilians of Asian and Pacific American heritage who serve in the Navy's total force, according to the Navy Office of Information.

"It's very important to celebrate diversity, to recognize contributions to the

American culture and to increase awareness, mutual respect and understanding," said IC1(SW) Bernadino Martinez, of NAS Kingsville's Diversity Committee.

Last week's celebration held at the Captain's Club included speaker Diana Lozano, assistant director of international students at Texas A&M Kingsville, and Rennie Penitisi, of Navy Gateway Inns and Suites who talked about American Samoa and the Samoan culture. Also, various cultural dances were performed -- tinkling, belly dance and hula -- and traditional foods were served.

AC1(AW) Praise Sii performed a non-traditional hula to a love song.

"I have been dancing Polynesian dances since I was in elementary school, with my church youth group in Long Beach, Calif.," said Sii, who is Samoan.

She added that her parents moved to

California when they were young and built their home and family there. "Relocating to the 'states' opened up so much more opportunity for them and, of course, us."

"The committee wanted those attending to interact with and learn some traditions from Asian Pacific Islanders," Martinez added. "Our purpose (Diversity Committee) is to enhance awareness and promote harmony across cultures, gender and even workplaces."

According to the Navy History and Heritage Command, nine admirals, 11 members of the senior executive service and 187 master chief petty officers of Asian and Pacific American heritage are currently leading the Navy. More than 340,000 veterans of Asian and Pacific American heritage make up about 1.5 percent of the 23 million American veterans.