

# FLYING K

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## Joint exercise tests first responders

By Jon Gagné

NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK), Kleberg County, and the City of Kingsville will team with NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing Two for a joint exercise that will test emergency first responders June 1. The event, a simulated aircraft crash, will test first responders from the city and county - as well as TAMUK officials - in responding to an event that occurs on the campus of the university. Rather than actually test the response teams in action, the exercise will be conducted as a tabletop training evolution.

"This event is being led by the University," said NAS Kingsville Emergency Manager Monette Walker. "NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing Two's role will be to support the event, provide valuable information for planning and execution, and conduct our own response to such an event." NAS Kingsville teams participating include security, emergency management, dispatch, training, air operations, public affairs and fire and emergency services.

"We originally wanted this event to be just a tabletop exercise with an aircraft mishap scenario," said TAMUK event coordinator Hank Lawson. "But the Navy asked us to get a little more involved, and we're going to do that. This training evolution will be discussion-based, and we will break into teams for those discussions, and then hold breakout sessions. What we hope to accomplish is to get all the right people talking to each other and sharing information, because in a real crisis of this nature, communication will be key.

The scenario will call for the setting-up of a Unified Response Team, made up of both civilian and military first responders. Since the proposed accident occurs on University property, TAMUK and the Kingsville police department will play the lead roles. NAS Kingsville will participate by providing support to the local community, in the form of Fire & Emergency Rescue, Emergency Management, Public Affairs, and Air Operations. The Training Air Wing safety office will also participate.

"This particular exercise is a good way for us to test our coordinating skills with the local community," said Lt. Cmdr. Harvey Hanna. "With this scenario, our first responsibility would be to recover and transport the injured. Then, [we] would begin our response plans, including dispatching our flight surgeon to the local hospital if needed, and provide assistance to the crisis team on site."

Discussion groups will discuss the necessary steps that their teams would need to take as the incident progresses, and the breakout sessions will attempt to answer questions about their response during a simulated news conference that will wrap up the exercise.

"We know that media interest in an event like this would be very high," Lawson added. "So we're going to include that in the exercise, as well."



Exercise planner Hank Lawson, TAMUK, left, talks over first responder roles for aircraft mishaps with NAS Kingsville fire chief Ruben Perez, center, and assistant fire chief Donald Norton, right.



**REDHAWK ONE** -- VT-21 skipper Cmdr. Chip Kelsey takes the driver's seat while XO Cmdr. Gonzo Alonzo rides shotgun on the NAS Kingsville tarmac in Redhawk One (321). The aircraft sports its Centennial of Naval Aviation paint scheme, the third and final jet at NAS Kingsville to be repainted in celebration of the Centennial.

(Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs)

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**Capt. Mark McLaughlin**  
Commanding Officer



### **From the Bridge**

Greetings Team Kingsville!

Summer is definitely upon us and I'd like to make a point that if you intend to exercise or work outdoors, the color-coded flags are flying in front of the base gym to inform you of the heat index precautions each of you should take prior to rigorous outdoor activity. My safety officer will tell you many times over to use plenty of sunscreen and drink plenty of fluids when outside in the South Texas heat.

Shifting gears a bit, starting on Monday, May 23 the Navy Exchange gas station will be closed for repairs for the entire week. It appears we have an underground piping problem and we have a contractor that will be digging up the old lines and making the necessary repairs. Please make plans to purchase your fuel at other locations during the week of May 23-27 and avoid the construction area on the south side of the Navy Exchange.

With schools in South Texas about to begin their summer break, now is the time to visit the Morale, Welfare and Recreation ITT ticket office in the Club.

Delia Martinez runs a wonderful program over in the ITT office and can assist you in travel or vacation ideas to just about anywhere. Additionally, you won't find better discounted prices on venue tickets! So, if a vacation or a day-trip is in your future, go see Delia and start saving today.

We have the Memorial day weekend in front of us, and I encourage all of you to pause and reflect upon those who have sacrificed for the cause of Freedom. Memorial Day also marks the opening of our base swimming pool for the Summer; and that's great news for those who want to cool off!

We're also working on a special ceremony to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Midway, which took place June 4-7, 1942. The Battle of Midway marked the turning point in World War II and Naval Aviation played the key and decisive role in that victory. Stay tuned for more information on what we're planning with the local Veterans groups for June 3.

Finally, on Aug. 5., the Kingsville Navy League will be holding the annual Navy Ball Golf Tournament at the L.E. Ramey Golf Course. \$40 entry fee, first 22 teams to sign up will play. Lots of prizes to win, and fun to be had. More info in our next issue. Have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day Weekend!



### **Girl Scouts visit NASK Fire House**



Firefighter Joe Hastings, above, leads eight Daisies and Brownies of Girl Scout Troop 9210 and Troop leaders Lindey Sappington and Kelly Duque, around the NAS Kingsville Fire Department May 11. The group visited the training room, kitchen area, office spaces, and saw what the living arrangements are like for firefighters on duty. Hastings also described each of the positions firefighters man during casualty response, including the emergency medical team personnel. (Photo by IC1 (SW/AW) Jesse Booth, NASK Public Affairs)



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

Team Kingsville,

Ever wonder why people sometimes don't follow their own advice? Last year at this time I wrote an article for the *Flying K* that dealt with Summer Safety. One of the things I talked about in that article was the extreme heat here in South Texas. I also discussed the many dangers associated with being outdoors in such a hot environment. And of course, here I am a year later wishing I had paid attention to my own advice.

Last Friday I had the opportunity to fish Baffin Bay. My two fishing partners and I had been waiting for weeks for the spring winds to die down enough to go out to the Bay and last Thursday the weather forecast called for mild winds on Friday. Well of course, we couldn't pass up the opportunity.

So, I took a day of leave and readied myself for a fishing trip. Thursday evening we fished from a pier under the lights and caught over 50 speckled trout. Of those, 10 were keepers ranging in length from 16 to 22 inches.

Friday morning we were on the water by 6:30 a.m. heading to our favorite spring fishing spot. As soon as we arrived at our spot we applied sunscreen, gathered up our equipment and waded into the water to begin throwing lures. I was the lucky one and landed two nice trout and a couple of smaller ones. However, by 9 a.m. the wind

began to pick up. The wind finally got so bad we simply couldn't cast so we made the decision to head out into the intercoastal to try and find shelter from the easterly winds.

Some thirty minutes later we arrived at a favorite spot on the eastern shore of the intercoastal. The land to the east provided some protection from the wind and we felt like the fishing was going to be good. Sure enough, we fished there for several hours and each of us caught a lot of fish. By 1:30 in the afternoon, we decided we had had enough and decided to call it a day.

We ended up with 15 keeper trout, most of them in the 18 to 20 inch range. Unfortunately, the fishing action was so fast that I never reapplied sunscreen, and you guessed it, by the time we quit for the day, I felt like I'd been baked for six hours at 350 degrees. I wasn't cooked -- I was burnt to a crisp!

So now, a little more than a week after our fishing trip, my sunburn has healed and isn't very painful. But of course now I do have a nice painful fever blister on my lower lip as a result of the sun exposure.

My point in telling this fishing story is twofold. First, I wanted to let everyone know the speckled trout are biting again in Baffin Bay. Get your fishing gear together and get out and enjoy the fishing!

Second, I wanted everyone to know that this South Texas sun is dangerous. If you're going to participate in outdoor activities you need to take precautions. Wear protective clothing and apply sunscreen regularly to areas that aren't covered. In addition, make sure you hydrate when participating in outdoor activities by drinking plenty of water or Gatorade.

Have fun out there this summer, but BE CAREFUL shipmates!

## **Flying K**

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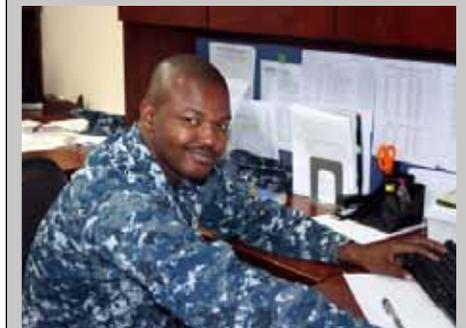
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This paper is published for people like ABF1 (SW) Nathan Jones, a native of Santee, S.C. Jones has been in the Navy for 11 years and is assigned to the Fleet Industrial Supply Center Jacksonville Detachment. He has been stationed aboard NAS Kingsville for the past year.

## Properly dispose your e-waste

By Fifi Kieschnick, NASK Public Affairs & Rana Evans, NAVFAC Southeast

Many electronic products become obsolete within a very short period of time, due to ongoing technological advancement. Disposing of these items – also known as “e-waste” -- in landfills has the potential to cause negative impacts to our environment and ourselves.

So, what do you do with your unwanted electronic devices, your “old” computer monitors, televisions, computer keyboards, printers, fax machines, cell phones, laptops or even speakers and cables?

e-Cycle.

e-Cycle e-waste, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

e-Cycling helps others, conserves natural resources and protects your health and surroundings.

According to an internet EPA article on Used and End-of- Life Electronics, between 1980 and 2007, the U.S. generated close to 2.25 million tons of e-waste. Only 414,000 tons – or 18 percent -- of that waste was recycled.

At EPA’s online e-Cycling webpage, it’s noted that despite the terminology e-waste is not actually waste, but “whole electronic equipment or parts that are readily marketable for reuse or can be recycled for materials recovery.”

If your unwanted electronics was purchased on the job with government funds, there is a procedure for accounting for those items, according to ABEC Curtis Bullock, who manages the NAS Kingsville recycling program.

“e-Waste is a DRMO function,” Bullock said. “All e-items, such as televisions, printers, DVD burners, purchased with government funds must be accounted for with a DD Form 1348-1A (Issue Release/Receipt Document).”

Bullock added that he does recycle rechargeable batteries from cell phones, cameras, portable radios and such. “I work with a company called ‘Call2Recycle’ to get those items recycled.”

If the unwanted electronic devices are your own personal out-dated unwanted items they could be refurbished and provided to support organizations, schools, and people that cannot afford these items, resulting in overall quality of life improvement.

The EPA has “e-Cycling partners” listed on their website. They are commercial businesses or organizations, many of which you may

have purchased your devices from.

In 2008, these partners collected and recycled 68 million pounds of used consumer electronics in the United States.

These partners can be found at <http://epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/plugin/partners.htm>.

Also, state, local governments, and other manufacturers are providing more opportunities to recycle or reuse e-waste. You can verify with a recycler if your e-waste will be refurbish for reuse, demanufactured for parts, or recycled into raw materials. A designation as a certified electronics recycler is now available.

This means the recycler has been certified by a third party as meeting responsible recycling standards that ensure safe reuse and recycling of electronic equipment.

The EPA’s website adds that currently only electronic manufacturers, retailers and mobile service providers are eligible for partnership with their Plug-In To e-Cycling program.

As you upgrade or replace your computer, telephone, television, printer, copier, fax machine, etc., check online and at your purchase source for environmental safe options for your old electronics.

Authorized Kingsville residents can dispose of e-waste at the Kleberg County landfill. Monitors, TVs, old stereos, VCRs and DVD players are accepted on a limited basis.

Office hours for the landfill are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Corpus Christi residents wanting to dispose of e-waste will have to contact one of the many recycling centers throughout the city. Corpus Christi landfills do not accept e-waste.

For more information about recycling on board the air station, including disposal or recycling of rechargeable batteries, contact Chief Bullock at 516-6075.

For the disposal of government property, contact the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) at 516-6638.



## Navy salutes 2010 Instructors of the Year

By Steve Vanderwerff, Naval Education and Training Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), announced its 2010 Military Instructors of the Year (IOY) during a ceremony at the Navy Memorial, May 12.

“Demand for a well trained naval force is at a level we have not seen in recent years,” said Rear Adm. Joseph Kilkenny, commander, NETC. “We are accomplishing this demand by being more responsive, alert and flexible than ever before. We are able to sustain this level of support and readiness because our Sailors and Marines are trained to be the best on earth.

“We would not have that level of success without NETC’s instructors. They are fully engaged with the Navy’s maritime mission and they take the extra time and effort needed to make certain that our Sailors and Marines are ready to stand side by side with their shipmates going into harms-way,” said Kilkenny.

Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, III, chief of naval personnel presented the winners with the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal and an IOY plaque.

Lt. David Tebbe, from Indianapolis, was selected as Officer Instructor of the Year. A seven-year veteran, he is currently assigned to Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center (NMITC), Dam Neck, Va. He enjoys being an instructor and influencing the future of naval intelligence.

I love my job as an instructor,” said Tebbe. “It is truly a privilege to walk into the classroom every day and teach the future of naval intelligence. I have the opportunity to influence the lives and careers of these young men and women who will go on to defend our great nation. It is a great job, and I am humbled to be selected NETC’s Officer Instructor of the Year.”

Tebbe has been teaching students for almost two years at NMITC. He suggests to those considering instructor duty or wanting to make a difference, to remember the importance of that role.

“Never forget that yours is a sacred duty,” Tebbe said. “You are training the future of the Navy; building, shaping, and molding the men and women who will defend our nation for decades to come. Take this opportunity to also learn from your students. Allow their life experience, patriotism, and passion to influence you as much as you influence them.”

The Senior Enlisted Instructor of the Year is Chief Operations Specialist Joshua Craig, from St. Francisville, Ill. A 14-year veteran, he is currently assigned to the Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) detachment, Mayport, Fla. He credits teamwork for his selection.

“To be selected as NETC’s Senior Enlisted Instructor of the Year in this rigorous competition of outstanding instructors is an

absolute honor,” Craig said. “My success as an instructor has been a complete team accomplishment, because I have the privilege to work with the finest chief’s mess and Sailors in the fleet. I feel a great sense of pride each day I don my uniform and come to work, because I know I have the ability to touch the lives of Sailors both personally and professionally. With the training cycles that ships are continuously going through, we are the frontline for combat training that will ensure their overall safety and success.”

Craig has been instructing students for more than two years at the CSCS detachment. He says the military changed his life.

“I seriously don’t know where I’d be today if it weren’t for the United States Navy,” Craig said. “My grandfather, who was in the Army and was held as a prisoner of war during World War II, was my greatest influence when deciding whether or not to join the military. I’m thankful that I listened to him. The military has afforded me many opportunities to travel and visit many different places, but the greatest benefit is being able to lead and mold the Sailors who are the future of this great Navy.”

Mid-Grade Enlisted Instructor of the Year honors went to Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class Amadou Bah, a native of Chicago who is currently assigned to the Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) detachment, Great Lakes, Ill.

The eight-year Navy veteran, who has been at CSCS Great Lakes, Ill., for two years, was honored and excited about his selection, and helping support the maritime strategy.

“I feel particularly fortunate serving as an instructor, especially in a rate that I love,” said Bah. “I welcome the opportunity that I have in teaching and helping mold the future of the Navy.”

Bah said he credits the Navy’s core values that were instilled in him for his selection.

“The Navy has had an indispensable amount of positive influence in my life,” he said. “The Navy gave me a sense of belonging, and camaraderie. My superiors and peers alike have shown me irreplaceable dedication and support while instilling in me the Navy core values of honor, courage and commitment. Be honest and open with your students and fellow instructors. Be engaged in the mission and use other instructors’ experiences, while developing relationships along the way. Never let your pride get in the way of asking others for advice and assistance.”

The Junior Enlisted Instructor of the Year is Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Roy Leitch from Oranjestad, Aruba. A six-year veteran he is currently assigned to the Center for Naval Aviation Technical

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### 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

## Navy/Coast Guard team prepares for warrior games

MC1 Andre N. McIntyre,  
Expeditionary Combat  
Camera Public Affairs



COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (May 10, 2011) Retired Chief Operations Specialist Gerald Wayne Williams, a member of the Navy/Coast Guard Warrior Games wheelchair basketball team, demonstrates wheelchair handling techniques during basketball practice in preparation for the second annual Warrior Games, a Paralympic-style sport event among 200 seriously wounded, ill, and injured service members from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Andre N. McIntyre)

Members of Team Navy/Coast Guard have ascended upon Colorado Springs, Colo., where they are preparing to compete in the 2011 Warrior Games, May 16-21.

The second annual Warrior Games will take place at the Olympic Training Center and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The team reported a week earlier than they did for last year's games, devoting valuable time to training, developing team cohesion, and acclimating to the high altitude. The team of 34 men and women share a desire to win and a deep determination to compete.

"This week of practice gives us an advantage over last year," said retired Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Dewalt, one of the participants in wheelchair basketball. "We have an opportunity to do some team building and spiritual bonding."

"The extra week of training increases the esprit de corps," shared Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Dayton, a member of the sitting volleyball team. "We feed off each other's energy, and coming out here a week earlier has us pumped-up and ready to show the world that we are ready to get back in the fight."

The team is utilizing training facilities located at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Fort Carson, and other local venues.

"It is paramount that the athletes adapt to the change in altitude," said retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Gerald "Wayne" Williams. "We got off the plane last year and the altitude took its toll on us. We have trained throughout the year for this event... but nothing compares to being here and putting in quality work."

"Prior to this week of practice, the group had only come together two other times," said retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer James Wilson, team co-captain and Navy Safe Harbor adaptive athletics program coordinator. "Their first meeting was in December for the Adaptive Athletics Training Camp. They met two-months later in February for the Training and Selec-

tion Camp. At the conclusion of the camp the members of Team Navy/Coast Guard were announced. Each member of the team departed and began his or her training regimen."

The warriors do not only train for themselves. They train, they say, to give hope to other service members that have been seriously wounded, ill, or injured.

"The Warrior Games is about hearing other people stories and it builds camaraderie," said Dewalt. "I get out of the bed in the morning and train hard in order to be an inspiration to others and my teammates."

"I come out to the Warrior Games to show people what they can do," said Dayton. "The Warrior Games is the culminating event to our adaptive activities. It is a great program, because it allows us to focus on our possibilities and not our disabilities."

The members of Team Navy/Coast Guard plan to excel in competition next week, but they agree that the Games are about much more than medal counts.

"It doesn't matter in the grand scheme of things if we bring home any hardware," said Wilson. "As long as we bring these young men and women home with purpose, drive, and renewed faith in themselves then we have fulfilled our purpose. It is all about recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration. We will not be left behind."

Because of this spirit the word "wounded" has been purposely excluded from the title of the competition.

"I like the concept, because we don't see our injuries," said Dayton. "We see our spirit. We have a winning spirit. We are not victims; we are victors."

The team is sponsored by Navy Safe Harbor, the Navy's lead organization for coordinating the non-medical care of wounded, ill, and injured Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, and their families. Through proactive leadership, Safe Harbor provides a lifetime of individual tailored assistance designed to optimize the success of enrollees' recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration activities.

## "I'll sell anything!"

When it comes to fund raising during my Navy career – both active and civilian – I've been a salesman for just about anything you can imagine. I've washed cars, planted trees, sold hot dogs and burgers, chili, lumpia, and even jalapeño peppers. I've pushed hole and tee box sponsorships for golf tournaments, sold bricks, bowled for pennies, served food, bagged groceries, and even walked old(er) ladies to their cars. Anything for charity, I'd always say.

Until recently, I thought I had every angle covered. But I didn't.

Now, I'm pushing blankets.

Okay, I'm told they're not really blankets; they're 'throws.' But they look like a blanket, and appear to be made like a blanket, so I don't think I'm too far off base when I tag them as blankets. But since I'm now pushing them for sale, I'll call them whatever you want me to.

These 'throws' are actually 'historical throws,' which basically means they represent something historic. In this case, they represent 60 consecutive years of flight training at NAS Kingsville from the time the base reopened on April 1, 1951 to the present. Each throw is 50x60 inches, and they include gold Naval Aviator wings in the center, and images of a few of the aircraft that have flown here, such as the F9F-8 Cougar, the TA-4J Skyhawk, and the T-45 Goshawk. NASK, TW-2 and VT-21 and VT-22 logos are also included.

The throws are made of light material, and are perfect for cool nights during football season at Javelina Stadium. They also come in handy while you're zonked out on the couch or cozying up to a warm fire. Heading out to the beach? Toss a throw in your bag and you're set.

Each throw costs \$50, with the profits going to the NASK Historical Committee's Static Aircraft Park Upkeep fund. Our static aircraft are on loan to the air station from the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Fla., and we are required to keep

## My side

Jon Gagné,  
NAS Kingsville  
Public Affairs



the aircraft maintained – which includes washing, rust removal, repair and repainting. Since we don't have funds dedicated to maintain these historic birds, selling blankets appears to be worth the effort.

Selling these throws was IC1 Jesse Booth's idea. She presented it to me one morning while I was chomping down on a sausage muffin and enjoying my first cup of coffee. I usually enjoy my first cup of Joe without interruption, but IC1 Booth was persistent. It became impossible not to pay attention when she draped one of the blankets over my desk.

"Did you know," she asked, "if we could sell 100 of these 'throws,' we could raise \$2,500 for the airpark?"

That's the moment she got my attention.

"Really?" I replied as I began to do the math, thinking on a much bigger scale, like 10 times that number. But I'll be realistic and cut that in half. 500 seems 'doable' to me.

We will be ordering the throws in sets of 25, so the turnaround will be fairly short. You can pay cash or by check (paid to the NASK Historical Committee), and order forms are available at the NAS Kingsville Public Affairs Office. We will be selling the throws through September.

If you'd like to look at one of the throws before you make up your mind, stop by the Public Affairs Office – we have one proudly displayed just for you. If you like what you see, we'll give you an order form.

And if you want to call them blankets, we're okay with that, too.

Come September, I'll probably be pushing snow cones. But for now, I'm in the blanket business.



## Aircrew Competition highlights 63rd Naval Helicopter Association symposium

By MC3 (SW) Stephen D. Doyle II, Navy Public Affairs Support Element West

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- Naval air crewmen from around the fleet gathered at Breakers Beach on board Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island, Calif., to take part in the installation's annual aircrew competition May 11.

"It's a good time, you get to come out and see a lot of people you haven't seen in a long time," said Naval Air Crewman 3rd Class Ruben Coss of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 42. "It really builds camaraderie within the aircrew community."

There were 24, four-person teams from across the helicopter community. Each team challenged one another in fitness and job-related skills.

The competition consisted of eight events, beginning with a 150-meter swim in the ocean, followed by a litter run, relays, more running, more swimming and finally a first aid challenge.

According to Naval Air Crewman Airman Jeremiah Angerman, assigned to HSL 40, the event challenged him in many ways.

"It actually has a lot of good team building events, great all around training and you need to be in good shape for swimming," he said.

HSL 48 won this year's competition, receiving a plaque and 'bragging rights.'

"This is a big event for the rescue swimmer community, for the winners it **'Comics for Courage' to help Wounded Warriors**

The Insurance Associates of Corpus Christi (IACC) is sponsoring a "Comics for Courage" event benefiting The Wounded Warrior Project. Christopher Cannon and JJ Gordon are two stand-up comics that will be performing improv comedy on Saturday June 18 at 7:30 p.m. aboard the USS Lexington. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets for this event are on sale now for \$15 each, \$13 for military personnel. The USS Lexington will have the Mess Deck open and be selling food and beverages. All donations will go 100% to The Wounded Warrior Project. Expenses will come out of the ticket sales and the remaining funds will go to The Wounded Warrior Project. Only 500 tickets will be sold.

For tickets, call 361-561-4259 or email IACC2011@yahoo.com. If you're not able to attend this event, but would like to support The Wounded Warrior Project, donations will be accepted.

All checks for donations will need to be made payable to Comics for Courage and mailed to Comics for Courage, c/o IACC, PO Box 271571, Corpus Christi TX 78427.

For more information, visit [www.comicsforcourage.org](http://www.comicsforcourage.org), or [www.wounded-warriorproject.org](http://www.wounded-warriorproject.org).



Aircrew teammates carry a stretcher during a relay race at NAS North Island during the 63rd annual NHA symposium competition.

means they take home the bragging rights," said Chief Naval Air Crewman Charles Ott, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 3. "It's all about having a good time."

The competition was one of many events held in conjunction with the 63rd annual Naval Helicopter Association (NHA) Symposium.

The symposium, which ended May 13, featured guest speakers, industry experts and events for naval personnel in the helicopter aviation community.

## Instructors *(from page 3)*

Training Unit (CNATTU), Whidbey Island, Wash. He credits enjoying his job and wanting to help Sailors advance their careers for his selection.

"I thoroughly enjoy my job," Leitch said. "Preparing my fellow Sailors for their future roles in the fleet gives me a great sense of accomplishment. I look forward to every opportunity to share my experience, knowledge and help my shipmates advance their career. I strive to encourage students to seek continuous improvement in both themselves and the Navy."

"My commitment to setting an example is an important part of this award. Being selected is overwhelming; however, I can think of no better example with which to encourage students to excel, than to have been selected for this honor and I am truly grateful," Leitch said. Leitch has been at CNATTU for two years.

"Continuously improve yourself and those around you, and no matter what you find in the Navy, leave it better than you found it," Leitch concluded.

The NETC Military Instructor of the Year award program recognizes Navy and Marine Corps instructors and facilitators who exemplify personal excellence and display outstanding instructional and leadership performance.

The program highlights the significant contributions of individuals from throughout the Naval Education and Training enterprise who have been nominated by their command based on their sustained superior performance over the course of the past year.

## Conversion opportunities available for ERB eligible Sailors

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- In an effort to provide conversion opportunities ahead of the Enlisted Retention Board, NAVADMIN 160/11 was released May 9, to waive some standard conversion requirements and provide Sailors with the guidelines for submitting applications.

The goal of the ERB is to re-balance manning in 31 overmanned ratings, improve advancement rates, and increase Perform to Serve (PTS) opportunity.

"Leadership respects and values the service of our Sailors," explained Rear Admiral Tony Kurta, head of personnel policy. "By providing increased opportunity to convert to undermanned rates, our goal is to keep high performing Sailors in the Navy while increasing competition and advancement opportunity in those overmanned ratings."

As part of Navy efforts to increase conversion opportunities for ERB eligible applicants, some of the waived conversion requirements include:

- Years of Service: Personnel with greater than 12 years of service will be considered for conversion.

- Paygrade: All personnel, regardless of paygrade, will be considered for conversion.

- Personnel who are more than 12 months from their rotation date will be considered for conversion.

- Minimum activity tour requirements are waived.

- Personnel in receipt of PCS orders will be considered for conversion.

- Existing obligated service requirements incurred as a result of reenlistment, training, or other programs are waived.

Sailors who desire a conversion will need to submit, by June 15, a NAVPERS 1306/7 signed by their commanding officer or officer in charge (OIC), a signed memorandum prioritizing conversion requests, copies of all evaluations for the previous three years, a PRIMIS print-out showing PFA scores for the previous four years, a print out of FleetRIDE qualification to the rating(s) they are applying for and any additional documents required for their targeted conversion ratings.

To learn more about the ERB, including eligibility requirements, read NAVADMIN 129/11 on Navy Personnel Commands website at, [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil).

To learn more about the conversion opportunities available, to include a list of the eligible undermanned ratings, read NAVADMIN 160/11 at [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil).

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit [www.navy.mil/local/cnp/](http://www.navy.mil/local/cnp/).

## Hospital Corpsman Reenlistment



**CONGRATULATIONS!** Lt. Cmdr. Jimmy Cook, right, served as reenlisting officer for a ceremony at the Captain's Club prior to his retirement ceremony May 13. Cook issued the reenlistment oath to Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Petty Officer Luis Figueroa, who is joined by his wife Karina, above. Figueroa, a native of Miami, Fla., who is almost to his six year marker, added on six more years. Figueroa will be transferring from Branch Health Clinic NAS Kingsville May 31 for duty with the Navy Medical Training Center at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio. (Photo by IC1 (SW/AW) Jesse Booth, NASK Public Affairs)

## Public Works Chief closes 20-year active duty Navy career



Capt. Mark McLaughlin presents a Fleet Reserve Certificate to Chief Gas Turbine Systems (Mechanical) Ryan Wystub during his retirement ceremony at McFall Memorial Chapel May 13. (Photos by Jon Gagné and IC1 (SW/AW) Jesse Booth, NASK Public Affairs).

Chief Gas Turbine Systems (Mechanical) Ryan Wystub brought his 20-year Navy career to a close May 13, with an official retirement ceremony at McFall Memorial Chapel on board NAS Kingsville. The ceremony featured remarks by NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Mark McLaughlin and guest speaker Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff, and music by Eric Moreno and Deviro Yanus, Pastor Doug Hoffman provided the invocation and benediction.

More than 150 people attended the ceremony, including Wystub's wife Maria and sons Ryan Jr., Tyler and Jeremy. Family members traveled from as far away as Wyoming to share the event with a Chief that has been known as the "go-to-guy" to get things done aboard the base.

A Lewistown, Mont. native, Wystub walked on unfamiliar ground during his

two-year tour at NAS Kingsville. As his rating demanded, Wystub spent the bulk of his 20-year career at sea, serving aboard USS Acadia (AD-42), USS Coronado (AGF-11), USS Olendorf (DD-972), USS Crommelin, and pre-commissioning duties aboard USS Chung-Hoon (DDG-93).

"This Chief is a fleet Sailor," McLaughlin remarked during his opening remarks to the audience. "He has nearly served his entire 20-year career at sea; and that time includes a lot of tough assignments when the U.S. Navy was forward-deployed. He's done the tough jobs, working in the engineering spaces keeping his ship operating and able to respond when directed to any operation in the world."

Then, turning his attention to Wystub's children, McLaughlin added, "If you're looking for someone to look up to, your dad is that guy."

Ratliff's comments focused on the road ahead for Wystub as he re-adjusts to civilian life. He tasked the Wystub children with assisting with the transition by holding morning reveilles, weekly fire drills, and other tasks that become second nature to a career Sailor.

Ratliff also spoke about Navy tradition, and how important it is to train your Sailors to take your place.

"I have been speaking with a 2nd class petty officer who I served with aboard the USS John Paul Jones," Ratliff said. "Shortly after he arrived on board he was advanced to petty officer 1st class, and I have informed him that his next challenge is to make chief, and then put in for orders to NAS Kingsville."

Turning to Wystub, Ratliff added, "So you see, shipmate, your relief is already in training."



Senior Chief David Jones salutes Chief Wystub as he "assumes the watch."



Above, Chief Wystub presents special gifts that he made for each of his sons, Ryan Jr., Tyler and Jeremy. Right, Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff challenges the Wystub family to help with his transition back to civilian life by holding reveille each morning and conducting weekend fire drills.



Chief Wystub gives his wife Maria a kiss and presents her a bouquet of roses



Chief Ryan Wystub salutes the sideboys as he goes ashore.

## Nurse closes out 27-year Navy career



Above, Lt. Cmdr. Jimy Cook, is congratulated by Cmdr. Darrel Vaughn, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi. Below, the H.M. King High School JROTC unit parades the colors to start the ceremony.

Branch Health Clinic-NAS Kingsville held a retirement ceremony at the Captain's Club May 13 for Lt. Cmdr. Jimy Cook, who closed out a successful active duty career that spanned nearly three decades. Former Branch Health Clinic-NAS Kingsville officer in charge Lt. Cmdr. (Ret.) Dawn Hardin, served as guest speaker for the ceremony.

Cook began his career in the Navy as enlisted hospital corpsman in 1984. Over the last 27 years, Cook moved up through the enlisted ranks and transitioned to the Navy Nurse Corps Program through the Navy's Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECP). An emergency room technician by trade, Cook obtained his emergency medical technician license in 1985.

Following his selection for MECP, Cook attended the University of Texas-El Paso, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree

in nursing. In March, 1998, Cook transferred to the Officer Indoctrination School at Newport, R.I., and earned his commission. In 2001, he was selected for the Navy Nurse Corps' Duty Under Instruction (DUINS) Program at the University of Texas-Houston. Cook spent four years in the Houston Emergency Medicine Program, graduating in 2005 with a Masters and Post Graduate Degree. He reported to Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi and Branch Health Clinic-NAS Kingsville in 2008.

Additional duty stations during his career included Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla.; Marine Barracks, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Naval Branch Medical Clinic NAS Miramar, Calif.; Officer Indoctrination School, Newport, R.I.; Naval Hospital Guam; and Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Calif.



Guest speaker Dawn Hardin and Chaplain Mark Haley watch from the stage as Sailors pass the flag. Below, Lt. Cmdr. Jimy Cook salutes the sideboys as he goes ashore, concluding the retirement ceremony.



Lt. Cmdr. Jimy Cook passes the national ensign on to his wife Teresa following the Old Glory ceremony.



## 11 receive Wings at TW-2 Ceremony

Training Air Wing Two presented Wings of Gold to 11 Navy and Marine Corps flight students Friday, May 13 at a winging ceremony at the Captain's Club. The ceremony marked the end of nearly 14 months of undergraduate jet/strike training for the students at NAS Kingsville.

Completing their training with Training Squadron 21 (VT-21) were:

1st Lt. Jon Hinton, Burnsville, Minn.; 1st Lt. Daniel Kohli, Summit, N.J.; 1st Lt. Stephen Maro, Cherry Hill, N.J.; and Lt. j.g. Brian Sullivan, Gainsville, Ga.

Completing their training with Training Squadron 22 (VT-22) were:

Lt. j.g. Thomas Hanley, Tallahassee, Fla.; 1st Lt. Eric McCusker, Simsbury, Conn.; 1st Lt. Jack McKinnon, Spokane, Wash.; Lt. j.g. Omar Sanusi, New York, N.Y.; Lt. j.g. Gavin Saito, Kailua, Hawaii; 1st Lt. David Simon, Glendale, Calif.; and Lt. Charles Walker, Santa Clara, Calif.

The Navy and Marine Corps' newest Naval Aviators will now on to their respective Fleet Replacement Squadrons to learn their selected fleet aircraft.

Training Air Wing Two is one of two undergraduate jet/strike training commands for the Chief of Naval Air Training Command, training 50 percent of Navy and marine Corps jet/strike pilots.

TW-2 trains graduates an average of 130 student aviators each year.



**WINGING CEREMONY:** Pictured are, front row left, Cmdr. John Kelsey, CO VT-21; Capt. Mark McLaughlin, Commanding Officer, NAS Kingsville; 1st Lt. Stephen Maro; Lt. j.g. Charles Walker; Lt. j.g. Gavin Sato; 1st Lt. Eric McCusker; Capt. Mark Brooks, Commander, TW-2; Cmdr. Rey Molina, CSO TW-2; Cmdr. Quino Alonzo, XO, VT-21. (Middle from left): Cmdr. Darren Guenther, XO, VT-22; 1st Lt. Jack McKinnon; Lt. j.g. Brian Sullivan; Lt. j.g. Omar Sanusi; Lt. j.g. Thomas Hanley. (Top from left): Maj. Chris Reinhart; Maj. Derek Bibby; 1st Lt. John Hinton; 1st Lt. Daniel Kohli; 1st Lt. David Simon; Lt. Col. Terrance Latorre, CO, VT-22; and Capt. Matthew Halbert. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs)