

Flying K



Vol. 69, No. 6

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

www.cnic.navy.mil/kingsville

March 25, 2011

Inside ...

Women's history celebrated

-- page 3

NASCC air show April 9-10

-- page 4



Sports Day fun

-- page 7

Naval air, surface forces open Odyssey Dawn as coalition strikes against Libyan air defenses

From Joint Task Force Odyssey Dawn Public Affairs

USS MOUNT WHITNEY, At Sea -- As part of an international coalition force aimed at stopping the violence against Libyan civilians, U.S. military ships, submarines and aircraft commenced strikes against military sites and surface-to-air defense systems along the Libyan coast March 19.

The strikes were launched to set the conditions for the international coalition to establish a no-fly zone over Libya and to take measures to prevent attacks on the Libyan people, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973. President Barack Obama authorized the offensive operation by U.S. forces.

More than 110 Tomahawk cruise missiles were used in the strike by U.S. and British ships and submarines against Libyan air defense, surface-to-air missile sites and communication nodes. Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyers USS Stout (DDG 55) and USS Barry (DDG 52) and submarines USS Providence (SSN 719), USS Scranton (SSN 756) and USS Florida (SSGN 728) participated in the strike.

Navy EA-18G Growlers from coalition bases and U.S. Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers aboard USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) were launched March 20, in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn, to enforce U.N. Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1973, which is centered on protecting Libyan citizens from further harm.

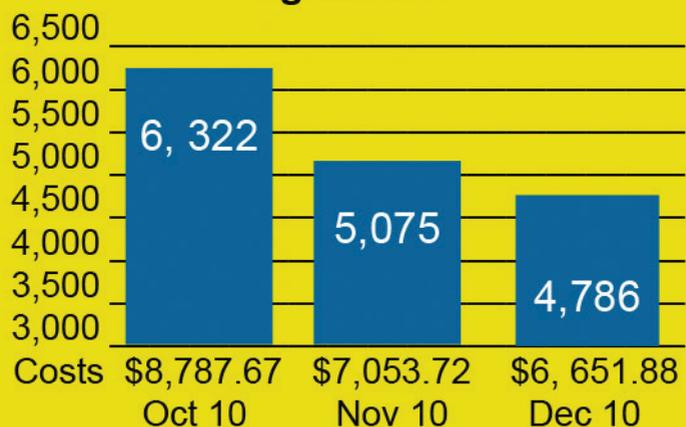
The Growlers provided electronic warfare support over Libya while Harriers from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)

see **Strikes** on page 14



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Barry (DDG 52) launches a Tomahawk missile in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn. (U.S. Navy photo by ICFN Roderick Eubanks)

NAS Kingsville Quarterly Water Usage - 1st Qtr FY-11 Kgal Used



President pledges resources, support for Japanese

By Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

The United States is using all available resources to assist a stricken Japan reeling from the effects of a massive earthquake, a follow-on tsunami and a battered nuclear power infrastructure, President Barack Obama told reporters March 17 at the White House.

"We are working aggressively to support our Japanese ally at this time of extraordinary challenge," Obama said. "Search and rescue teams are on the ground in Japan to help the recovery effort ... The U.S. military, which has helped to ensure the security of Japan for decades, is working around the clock."

Already, "we've flown hundreds of missions to support the recovery efforts, and distributed thousands of pounds of food and water to the Japanese people," he said. "We've also deployed some of our leading ex-

perts to help contain the damage at Japan's nuclear reactors. We're sharing with them expertise, equipment, and technology so that the courageous responders on the scene have the benefit of American teamwork and support."

Some of Japan's nuclear facilities have been in a state of emergency since the massive March 11 earthquake, followed by a tsunami, devastated parts of the country's main island of Honshu. Due to the uncertainty of the situation, Obama authorized the movement of Americans located within 50 miles of Japan's nuclear facility at Fukushima Daiichi.

"Even as Japanese responders continue to do heroic work, we know that the damage to the nuclear reactors...poses a substantial risk to people who are nearby," the president said. "This decision was based upon a careful scientific evaluation and the guidelines

see **Japanese** on page 8

Deckplate Leadership



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

Team Kingsville,

April is a very important month for military families as it is designated the Month of the Military Child. There are currently about 1.7 million American children under the age of 18 with a parent serving in the military. Over half of these children have had their parents deploy multiple times.

The challenges military children must endure are all too familiar for those of us

who serve. They are forced to move frequently. In fact, most military children will attend six to nine schools on average over the course of a parent's military career. That's a lot of first-day-of-school stress to handle isn't it?

Military children must also adjust to being separated from a parent who deploys on a regular basis. Frequently, military parents will think about how many birthdays, holidays and special events they have missed over the course of their careers. But do they stop and realize that their children miss having one of their parents present on those special occasions?

The amazing thing to me is that military children always seem to cope with the stress that comes with their parents' service to our nation.

From a personal perspective, I would be

upset, and see the glass as half empty, when I was facing yet another deployment, but my children would be the ones who would see the glass half full and make a comment like, "Gee dad I can't wait until this deployment because when you get back you will be transferring to three years of shore duty."

I would ask that each of you pause for a moment in April and think about the service of the 1.7 million military children who serve our country. That's right, our children's sacrifice is indeed service to our country and I for one am proud of the contribution each and every one of them make.

Be sure and thank a military child during the month of April for the important role they play in our armed forces community.

V/R,
CMC

Training Wing TWO pilots attend Women in Aviation Conference

By Lt. j.g. Danielle Thriot
VT 21 Public Affairs

Lt. j.g. Carolyn Work, Lt. j.g. Danielle Thriot, and Ens. Candice Nunley represented Training Air Wing TWO at the 22nd annual Women in Aviation Conference last month.

The conference was sponsored by Women in Aviation International, an organization dedicated to providing networking, education, mentoring and scholarship opportunities for women (and men) who are striving for challenging and fulfilling careers in the aviation and aerospace industries.

This year's conference was in Reno Nev., and was attended by over 3,000 men and women from military, corporate, commercial and recreational aviation careers ranging from pilots and air traffic controllers to aviation mechanics and engineers. An exhibition hall housed displays and booths from 121 different aerospace industries. Information sessions covered new FAA regulations, aviation safety, aircraft engineering and work life balance.

Among the most memorable guest speakers were remaining members of the Women Air Service Pilots (WASP) who were the first women to fly military aircraft in WWII. On the final day, at the scholarship banquet, \$691,750 in scholarships were distributed to WAI members at every stage of life from university students to mature members seeking a mid-life career change to aviation.

In addition to the civilian portion of the conference, the U.S. Navy held the annual Leading Edge Summit specifically for female Naval aviators and aircrew. More than 80 Navy and Marine Corps women traveled from around the world to attend the conference. The two-day Leading Edge Summit is run by senior male and female leadership and includes briefings on detailing, flight gear discussions, a naval air forces diversity update and a flight surgeon recap of recent



Training Air Wing Two pilots attended the Women in Aviation Conference in Reno, Nev. Pictured are Lt.j.g. Danielle Thriot, left, Adm. Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations, and Ens. Candice Nunley. (U.S. Navy Photo)

Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) changes.

A highlight of this year's summit was a question and answer period with Rear Adm. Pat McGrath, deputy commander, Naval Air Forces; Adm. Wendi Carpenter, commander, Navy Warfare Development Command; and Rear Adm. John Miller, commander, Naval Strike Air Warfare Center. In honor of this year's Centennial of Naval Aviation Adm. Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations, was the keynote speaker at the closing banquet. All three TW-2 representatives had the honor of meeting and escorting the CNO.

"It was one of the most motivational and informative forums I've participated

in. Meeting the WASP pilots who are trailblazers of the past along with women currently in senior leadership positions was inspiring and shows how far women in aviation have come," said Ens. Candice Nunley, student naval aviator with Training Squadron Twenty-One. "The summit provides an opportunity to connect with old and new friends, and catch up on the latest developments in Navy and Marine Corps aviation."

By providing access to women who have had diverse and successful Navy careers, the conference encourages the younger generation to pursue a Navy career and connects them to mentors who can help them along the way. In addition, the conference provides a recruiting and outreach opportunity for the Navy and Marine Corps to access hundreds of college students who are exploring career options within aviation.

Thirteen percent of the conference attendees were college students and the presence of women in flight suits encouraged conversations with students who are considering a military career.

The WAI conference is a place where personal and professional networks are built and senior leadership can interact with junior service members creating valuable mentoring relationships.

Flying K

The *Flying K* is published every other week by DJ. Young Publishing, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas.

The *Flying K* is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Navy, Naval Air Station Kingsville, or DJ Young Publishing, of the products and services advertised herein.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher may refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. All editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Naval Air Station Kingsville Public Affairs Office.

Comments, letters, or suggestions should be sent via e-mail to: kngv-pao@navy.mil. Commanding Officer's Direct Line Input: Submit questions or comments for the Commanding Officer to: kngv-pao@navy.mil, on the info line add: Direct Line.

To advertise in the *Flying K*, call DJ Young Publishing at (361) 814-0866.

Capt. Mark McLaughlin
Commanding Officer

Cmdr. Scott Wilmot
Executive Officer

Jon Gagné
Public Affairs Officer
Managing Editor

Fifi Kieschnick
Public Affairs Specialist / Editor

IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth
Staff Photographer/Writer

AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum
Staff Photographer/Writer



This paper is published for people like Nathan Hobson, grounds keeper for NAS Kingsville's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Dept. The Florida native has been a member of Team Kingsville for 3 years.

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

Celebrating Women's History Month

Women play important role on board Naval Air Station Kingsville

By IC1 (SW/AW) Jesse Booth
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Honoring women for their achievements began in 1978, by celebrating Women's History Week. In 1987, it changed to a celebration for the entire month of March. This year's theme is "Our History is Our Strength."

Of the 265 enlisted Sailors that are part of NAS Kingsville, 18 of them are women. Of that small group, a few were interviewed regarding their experiences that have led them to where they are today.

Culinary Specialist 1st Class Holly Clow joined the U.S. Navy in 1994, and has seen many changes. "When I joined, there were no female billets available for a sea duty assignment, and now it's hard to stay off a ship. Also, females used to be required to wear pumps and skirts to events like changes of command. Now we are authorized to be uniform with the males, in slacks," Clow said.

Clow has been on four deployments so far and has recently returned from an individual augmentee (IA) deployment to Kuwait. "It is so nice to be a part of something bigger than myself and to give what I can back to my country," Clow said.

At Training Air Wing Two, currently two women are jet/strike flight instructors. Lt. Rebekah "Charlie" Murphy, an instructor pilot at Training Squadron Twenty-One (VT-



Retault



Thiriot



Murphy



Clow



Alvarez

21) has been flying for eight years now, and is qualified in the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, as well as the T-45C Goshawk. "I worked extremely hard to achieve what I have, and I feel gender has never been a part of my success or failures," Murphy said.

"Starting out as a student pilot with no prior flight experience is tough. The pace and expectation of your learning curve is challenging, but when you rise to the challenge the rewards are amazing," said Lt.j.g Danielle Thiriot, an instructor pilot at VT-21. "As with anything, hard work and determination help you to achieve your goals. Having a good support structure of personal and professional mentors is also key to success."

The NAS Kingsville Fire Department has two female fire fighters. "Both women

are role models who have heard their special calling to protect our families and our communities. We owe it to these women to accept them in the profession as equals," said Ruben Perez, NAS Kingsville Fire Chief.

Battalion Chief Corrine Retault has been a firefighter for 21 years and has incurred several obstacles as a woman. She said she was a firefighter during a time in which there were no female living quarters. "It could have been harder, but as with any profession you just have to earn the respect of your coworkers," Retault said. "Not a lot of people follow through with becoming a firefighter, but I wanted it enough that I didn't let anything stop me from doing what makes me happy."

"Fear is what stops the person, not the situation," said Firefighter Audrey Alvarez,

a Kingsville native. "Obstacles and challenges are a part of everyday life, but is the way we overcome them that defines us," Alvarez said. Alvarez transferred to NAS Kingsville in October, from the Alice Fire Department.

Alvarez said that she was the first female firefighter to serve in the Alice Fire Department since its establishment in 1949.

Alvarez added, "As a small woman, there are a lot of things I cannot do strength-wise that I make up for in technique.

"My size can also be a benefit to the team because I can fit in smaller places than that of most of the men."

"If a man and a woman can do the job successfully, there is no reason to separate them, but to acknowledge them as equals," Perez concluded.



Fair Winds & Following Seas -- AC3 Kiana Kahlbaum receives a Navy Achievement Medal from Capt. Mark McLaughlin, commanding officer, NAS Kingsville, as she leaves Navy. Since July 2009, Kahlbaum had been assigned to the Public Affairs Office where she served in a highly-visible billet with direct contact with local community leaders and Navy VIPs. She took a conscientious and professional approach to all assignments. As command Fleet Home News director, she submitted nearly 300 submissions with zero returns, resulting in over 1,700 stories about command personnel published nationwide. She oversaw over 60 visits and installation tours, greatly enhancing the command's community outreach program. She also successfully completed photo assignments for changes of command, retirements, special VIP visits, and Pilot For a Day evolutions. Kahlbaum also wrote more than 100 news stories for publication – with several being published nationally. Her efforts played a significant in the command's ability to accomplish its mission. (U.S. Navy Photo by Jon Gagné)



Staying Navy -- Lt. Sean Duncan reenlists Electronics Technician Senior Chief (SW/AW) Kirk Hurst on March 10, for two more years of Naval service. Hurst, a native of Port Isabel, Texas, is a veteran of 20 years. (Photo by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)



Staying Navy -- AC2(AW) Michael Daugherty, a native of Oklahoma City, Okla., reenlisted on Mar. 18, for six more years of Naval service. Lt. Paul Kite, air traffic control facility officer, was the reenlisting officer. The Navy veteran of six years received a Selective Reenlistment Bonus of \$7,140.83 for staying Navy. (Photo by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)

Strikes from page 1

conducted strikes against Muammar Gaddafi's ground forces and air defenses, joining an international effort to halt an offensive against the Libyan populace.

"Protecting the innocent and conducting combined operations are what we are designed to do," said Col. Mark J. Desens, commanding officer of 26th MEU. "Our forces are doing both as part of the U.S. commitment to protect Libyan citizens."

"These measures were taken in order to prevent further attacks against Libyan civilians," said Adm. Samuel J. Locklear, III, commander, Joint Task Force Odyssey Dawn. "The international community strongly condemns the use of violence against Libyan civilians. We are commit-

ted, first and foremost, to the protection and safety of the Libyan people while promoting a resolution to the crisis."

The strikes continued through the weekend, March 19-20, with a total of 19 sorties flown, and 124 U.S. and U.K. Tomahawk land-to-air missiles launched, with 20 targets hit with various levels of damage.

U.S. military assets that participated in the strikes include: two U.S. Navy ships and three submarines; 15 U.S. Air Force aircraft, including the B-2 Spirit Bomber, and four U.S. Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers, all of which launched strikes against targets in Libya. These targets include SA-5, 5A-3 and 5A-2 air defense systems around Libyan airfields and various munitions sites.

Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Bowling Leagues

In the Doghouse League Standings as of March 15

Place	Team	Won	Lost
1	Alley Cats	63	45
2	Lane Breakers	62	46
3	The Other Guys	60.5	47.5
4	Tumbalos	56	52
5	Minds in the Gutter	53.5	54.5
6	The Players	51	57
7	DNA	45.5	62.5
8	The "HR's"	40.5	67.5

Wednesday Nite Mixed Standings as of March 16

Place	Team	Won	Lost
1	Petes Angels	57	43
2	Big K Rollers	54.5	45.5
3	Slow Rollin	53.5	46
4	Rat'lers	52	48
5	Bad Ass	51	49
6	Laugh Out Loud	46.5	53.5
7	Pin Bangers	44.5	55.5
8	DUH's	41	59

High Score Game-Men: John Zapalac, 245; JD Monroe, 244.

High Score Series-Men: John Zapalac, 638; Bryan Hastings, 603.

High Score Game-Team (Year to Date): Alley Cats, 657; Lane Breakers, 608; 3 Minds in the Gutter, 589.

High Score Game (Year to Date) -Men: Frank Goff, 278; Clinton Howell, 275.

High Score Series (Year to Date) -Men: John Zapalac, 670; Roberto Herrera, 657.

High Score Game-Women: Lee Peters, 215; Doris Wallis, 212; Delia Monroe, 209.

High Score Series-Women: Dina Kangas, 543; Lee Peters, 535; Shirlee Duffy, 531.

In the Break



Capt. Mark Brooks
Commander
Training Air Wing TWO



Greetings TW-2/NASK Team,

As I write, Training Air Wing TWO T-45s are filling the pattern here at NASK on a Sunday "Surge Day" as we call it. This follows last Friday's Naval Air Station Kingsville Sports Day, one that I hope many enjoyed and got the chance to decompress a little. We started that day with a TW-2 Safety Stand-down/Operational Excellence event at the Club. It gave the Wing and Squadron leadership a chance to catch us up on some required training and we also heard from NASK Executive Officer Cmdr. "Chilly" Wilmot about the state of the base. As a result of both events, the skies were quiet here on Friday; and, that's OK because we all needed a short respite from the daily grind.

We, the Wing and Squadron leadership, examine the balance of Student Naval Aviator (SNA) training production and personnel operational tempo (OPTEMPO) on a constant basis — it may not seem so at times; but, I promise you it's true. For the past year, we have been on an increasing-to-now-steady trend of production effort. Many variables go into the equation of determining that level of effort: Students in Training (SIT), output required to the Fleet Replacement Squadrons (FRS), Instructor Pilot (IP) manning levels, effects of weather, shortage or surplus of resources such as simulators, aircraft, and the like. Of late, we have had an unusual added variable in that the Pri-

mary Training Wings (TW 4 at NAS Corpus Christi, and TW 5 at NAS Whiting Field) were providing reduced numbers of SNAs to us here in the Advanced Training Wings (our brethren at TW 1, NAS Meridian included) due to material problems with the aging primary aircraft fleet.

The Primary TRAWINGS have gone to great effort to mitigate that shortfall and have been working seven days a week for some time now. Inevitably, we will receive the product of that effort in the form of increased SIT. For that reason — among others — we are keeping the press on with our current student load so that we are postured for the increased effort to come. None of this is possible without a team effort between the Wing and NASK — I thank you all for that continued effort.

Of course, all of the above are elements of our primary mission here: to fully prepare tactical jet Naval Aviators for follow-on operational and combat training. The Strike and E2C2 Navy and Marine Corps aviators that leave here will go on to the FRS for their respective "gray jet" and eventually fill the flight decks of aircraft carriers and "big deck amphib," having had that follow-on operational and combat training so that they are prepared to carry out missions assigned by our nation's leadership.

Again, as I write, Navy and Marine Naval Aviators are flying combat missions, this time off the coast of Libya. Many of those aviators will be graduates of Training Air Wing TWO. That makes me proud. It should make all of you proud who contribute to our mission here, because I have the utmost confidence they will carry out their tremendous responsibilities with professionalism — the foundation for which they learned right here!

Godspeed to those in harm's way.
Regards, Fingers.

NAS Corpus Christi air show April 9-10

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi will hold their bi-annual air show April 9 and 10.

The air show features the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels. Other performers include the U.S. Army's Golden Knights Parachute Team, the U.S. Air Force's Viper West F-16 and a U.S. Coast Guard rescue demonstration. There will also be a taste of the old Cold War as Randy Ball will put on a demonstration of the MiG-17F.

Demonstrations of World War II-era aircraft include a B-25, SBC-2 Helldiver, F-4U Corsair and a P-51 Mustang.

Scheduled civilian aerobatic performers include: Trojan Phylers Air Show and Race team flying the T28B Trojan; Gene Soucy flying the "Showcat" biplane; Skip Stewart flying "Prometheus," a modified Pitts S-2S; and more.

Aircraft will be on static display, available for visitors to inspect and crawl around.

The air show will celebrate the Centennial of Naval Aviation. A majority of the acts and displays will focus on Naval Aviation

today and years past.

Naval Aviation began just after the turn of the century. On May 8, 1911, Capt. Washington I. Chambers, U.S. Navy, officer in charge of aviation, prepared the requisition for the Navy's first aircraft to be purchased from aviator and inventor Glenn H. Curtiss. Through the years, Naval Aviation has grown from a tactical afterthought and support capability to primary instrument of our national security. From the Curtiss A-1 Triad to the F/A-18 Superhornet, from USS Langley (CV 1) to USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), Naval Aviation has scored an impressive list of achievements in peace and war.

Saturday and Sunday, gates open at 8 a.m. The show starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to bring sunscreen, hats and cameras, but may not bring pets, hard-sided coolers, cans, bottles, alcohol, tents, firearms, bicycles, backpacks, skateboards, scooters, drugs, and weapons.

More information can be found at www.cnic.navy.mil/corpuschristiairshow2011.



Chief Master-at-Arms James Blagg and Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Richard Grier, command drug and alcohol prevention advisors at Naval Air Station Key West, Fla., hang a banner next to a vehicle that crashed near Key West while the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The vehicle display at Key West's Boca Chica Field serves as a reminder to not drink and drive. (U.S. Navy photo by Trice Denny).

Distracted driving could prove deadly

April is national distracted driving awareness month, which makes it a good time for us as a Navy, Marine Corps, and as individuals, to assess our own driving habits and reduce distractions that too often prove injurious or even deadly.

There are three types of distraction that occur while driving. Visual distraction takes your eyes off the road, manual distraction takes your hands off the wheel, and cognitive distraction takes your mind off the task of driving. While all types of distraction endanger your safety, texting is the most alarming because it involves all three types of distraction at the same time.

According to the national highway traffic safety administration, the age group most prone to distracted driving is drivers under age 20. The second most distraction-prone drivers are those between the ages of 20 and 29. This encompasses a disproportionately large percentage of our force.

Take advantage of distracted driving awareness to identify and modify any behaviors that may distract you from the business of driving. Short-term modifications may lead to life-long good habits. It's also a good time to ensure all military personnel age 25 and under have complied with the requirement to complete a four-hour driver safety course.

The Naval Safety Center has resources designed to help you be successful behind the wheel. A distracted driving awareness kit is available on the Safety Center Web site, as well as Plan of the Day/Week reminders, presentations, tips for general military training, and more.

The Naval Enterprise is operating all across the globe, fighting the war on terror and assisting victims of national disasters. Simultaneously, resources are shrinking and fiscal constraints are becoming all too real. Our Navy, Marine Corps, and Nation cannot afford to lose anyone in a preventable mishap caused by distracted driving. When you're behind the wheel, drive to arrive alive - take care of yourself, your passengers, and each other.

College degrees can increase advancement percentage

By Ed Barker,
NETC Public Affairs

Sailors with college degrees can increase their chances for advancement, according to data provided by the Navy Advancement Center (NAC) recently.

According to the NAC data on the September 2009 through September 2010 advancement cycles for E4/5/6, Sailors with a college degree advanced at a rate that was higher than their counterparts without a degree.

For example, on the September 2010 cycle 208 exams, 22.9 percent of Sailors with a degree advanced, while 16.4 percent of Sailors without a degree advanced.

"The September 2008 exam cycle was the introduction of education points into the calculations for the E4-E6 final multiple score (FMS)," said Lt. Cmdr. Jim LeViness, director of the NAC.

"This review of the data shows the difference a degree can make, but only if it's combined with sustained, superior performance and excellent test scores. An important point is that degrees must be verified and recorded properly to earn points."

Details of the education points process can be found in Naval Administrative Message 301/07. Sailors competing for advancement to pay grades E4-E6 will be awarded two points for an accredited associate degree, and four points for an accredited baccalaureate degree or above. Education points will be awarded for the highest degree held, and will increase the overall FMS points with no reduction in points from other factors.

"Education enables and reinforces the critical thinking skills that make a better Sailor, and a more efficient, more technical future force. Education points help, but a degree alone won't get you there. Sailors need to remember that the biggest point makers will always be their evaluations and exam score," said Master Chief Electrician's Mate (SS) Jeromie Cook, Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center command master chief.

To receive the advancement points for education, Sailors must ensure transcripts with degree information are forwarded directly from their academic institution to the Virtual Education Center (VEC) at:

Center for Personal and Professional Development, Attn: Virtual Education Center, 1905 Regulus Ave., Suite 234, Virginia Beach, Va. 23461-2099. Phone: (877) 838-1659.

Sailors are also strongly encouraged to verify degrees are documented in their Sailor or Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART) by visiting <https://smart.navy.mil>.

To allow sufficient time for the VEC to process all documents, transcripts for Sailors competing for advancement for E4-E6 must be received by no later than the first of the month in which their advancement exam occurs.

Meeting Team Kingsville



Fifi Kieschnick
NASK Public Affairs

Some people make a difference just by walking into a room.

They make us feel good about ourselves and our interaction with them creates a positive experience.

Mike Crisman is just such a person.

Mike is one of the "computer geeks" that services NAS Kingsville and its tenant commands. Actually, he is the Kingsville site lead of the NMCI field services representatives, and has been a part of Team Kingsville for 11 years.

He says he loves working here, which you can see with the smile he greets you with.

Mike began working at NAS Kingsville in 1996, working for Naval Air Training Management Support Activity Detachment Kingsville, the organization that is now called CNATRA Maintenance Contract Detachment. At that time, his job "focused on the mission side of the house, in particular support of Wing activities," the Alice, Texas, native said.

"Each building had its own computer network. I would set up servers so that users in the building could share documents and technical publications."

Mike said that he learned a lot about the



Mike Crisman

student pilots and their training because the organization he once supported developed customized curriculum for the wing analysts to track production of the pilot training.

Over the years, the Navy began collapsing services and started interconnecting buildings. "They consolidated and reduced the footprint in each building," he added, "which also reduced the costs associated with maintaining servers and computer support services. For example, they consolidated 15 servers into five, which is now managed in one central location."

He says that the company he worked for was subcontracted by Electronic Data Systems (EDS) to implement Navy-Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) in 2003, when the Navy consolidated and migrated all existing servers and services to San Diego, and deployed hundreds of NMCI work stations.

And, in 2005, he was hired to EDS (now HP Enterprise Services) to be the Kingsville site lead, which meant he wears many hats in his position.

"The NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing Two Activity Customer Technical Representatives (ACTRs) are my main customers. They identify new IT infrastructure requirements and rely on my team to work out the details, develop cost data, work with NAVFAC to develop a timeline to implement the project, and serve as site project manager as the job is executed."

Mike says that his team supports the station, Wing and support activities.

Mike hasn't always been in the computer field. Right out of high school he worked in the South Texas oil fields as a mechanic. After

about 3 years, he decided to go to college and change careers. He earned an associate's degree in business data processing - what is now called "Information Technology (IT)." Through the years, he has gained varied knowledge on all facets of IT. "I have a general knowledge of all aspects of IT, while some in the field choose to specialize in certain portions, such as data bases and network connectivity. I liked being adaptable to a constantly changing environment."

He holds various industry certifications, which he maintains, saying that this is one of the ways he stays on top of all the technical advances in the field.

The most unusual things he's come across in all his years working with computers is finding a dead rat in a desktop case and discovering a four-foot piece of shed snake skin when he was opening a ceiling tile to trouble shoot a network problem.

And, he loves his job, especially the flexibility and the different types of jobs.

"I feel lucky to work here," he adds. "I live here, have a great job and get to meet so many interesting people - how lucky can I get?"



Sailors move cases of humanitarian relief supplies drinking water supplies to waiting to helicopters on the flight deck of the 7th Fleet command ship USS Blue Ridge. (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Field Hart).



Sailors move cases of humanitarian relief supplies drinking water supplies to waiting to helicopters on the flight deck of the 7th Fleet command ship USS Blue Ridge. (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Field Hart).



Japanese from page 1

we would use to keep our citizens safe here in the United States, or anywhere in the world.”

Beyond the 50-mile radius, Obama said, “the risks do not currently call for an evacuation. But we do have a responsibility to take prudent and precautionary measures to educate those Americans who may be endangered by exposure to radiation if the situation deteriorates.”

Damage at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power facility has caused the Defense Department to authorize the voluntary departure of eligible military family members from Japan to the United States. The State Department has established a similar program for family members living in Japan.

Obama urged Americans in Japan to continue to monitor the situation closely, to follow the guidance of the U.S. and Japanese

governments, and to contact the U.S. embassy and consulates in Japan for assistance.

The president said he knows that many Americans are worried about possible risks to the United States from radiation in Japan.

“So I want to be very clear: we do not expect harmful levels of radiation to reach the United States, whether it’s the West Coast, Hawaii, Alaska or U.S. territories in the Pacific,” he said. “This is the judgment of our Nuclear Regulatory Commission and many other experts.”

The Centers for Disease Control and other public health experts do not recommend that people in the United States take precautionary measures beyond staying informed, Obama said, adding that he’s commissioned a review of U.S. nuclear facilities.

Obama, who’d returned from a visit to the Japanese embassy here before speaking

to reporters in the White House’s Rose Garden, said the Japanese people “are not alone in this time of great trial and sorrow. Across the Pacific, they will find a hand of support extended from the United States as they get back on their feet.

“We have an alliance that was forged more than a half century ago, and strengthened by shared interests and democratic values,” he added. “Our people share ties of family, ties of culture, and ties of commerce. Our troops have served to protect Japan’s shores, and our citizens have found opportunity and friendship in Japan’s cities and towns.”

In the coming weeks, Obama said, the United States will continue to do everything possible to ensure the safety of Americans in Japan while assisting the Japanese as they recover from the disaster.

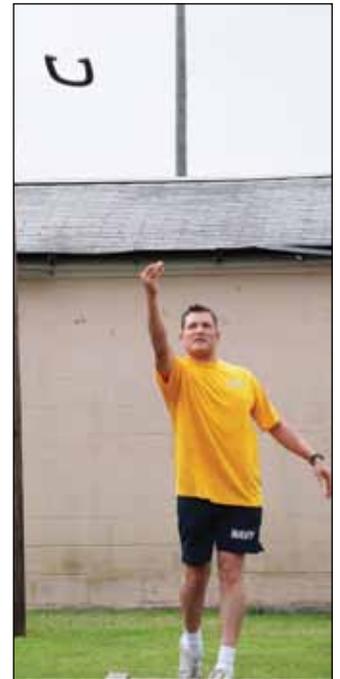


Left: Marines assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, board a KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft to provide assistance to areas in Japan affected by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunamis. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Justin Wheeler)

Above: Navy air crewmen assess earthquake and tsunami damage from an HH-60H Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the Black Knights of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4. (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Kevin B. Gray) Below: Japan Ground Self-Defense Force vehicles cover the flight deck of the amphibious dock landing ship USS Tortuga (LSD 46) for delivery to Onimato, Japan. (U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Scott Bourque).



Everyone had a 'ball' during Sports Day, March 18



Above, Alma Wilson, fitness specialist, repels down the rock wall. Below, ABE1(AW/SW) Maurice Thigpen, of Air Operations, looks for a member of his team to pass to. (Photos by Fifi Kischnick)

VT-21 triumphed over VT-22 during the NAS Kingsville Sports Day "Dust Bowl" football game. Pictured, 1st Lt. John Hinton, left, and 1st Lt. Eric Mui, right, both with VT-21, prevent HM2 Steven McKinley, playing for VT 22, from running in a touchdown. (Photo by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)

Above, AC1(AW) Daniel Garza tosses and hopes for a ringer. He was one of the many who took part in the horseshoe competition. Pictured below, AC2 Jarrun Robertson and the rest of the Air Ops team, pull with all their might during the tug of war competition.



Above, adult participants of the pie eating competition watch intently as the youngsters "enjoy" competing. Pictured below, team members of the Clinic's Trauma Dogs, take a break from the competitions and enjoy free barbecue and all the fixings.



Sports Day winners are:

- 3-on-3 Soccer: VT-22 Whatever
- Basketball: Trauma Dawgs
- Volleyball: VT-21
- Racquetball: Snehil Sood, VT-22
- Horseshoes: "That's Fine"
- Pie Eating: Shauna Johnson, Air Ops
- Dodgeball: Global Gym
- Home Run Derby: Brandon Verley, MWR
- Tennis: Jake Frederick, VT-22
- Tug-O-War: Air Ops
- Bean Bag Toss: The Realest VT-22
- Dust Bowl: VT-21