

FLYING K

Chief of Navy Information award-winning publication 2008, 2009 & 2010



Vol. 69, No. 17

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

www.cnic.navy.mil/kingsville -- NAS-Kingsville@Facebook.com

August 26, 2011

Navy Region Southeast helm changes

By MC2(SW) Greg Johnson
Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

Commander, Navy Region Southeast held a change of command ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS JAX), Aug. 18.

During the ceremony, Capt. John C. "Jack" Scorby Jr. relieved Rear Adm. Townsend G. "Tim" Alexander as the region's commander.

"It's absolutely wonderful to be back in Jacksonville," said Scorby, who previously served as commanding officer at NAS JAX. "It's an absolute honor and a privilege to be able to serve as the commander of Navy Region Southeast. We have an extraordinarily outstanding staff here that I am proud to work with."

Scorby, a 1981 graduate of the State University of New York at Cortland, was commissioned an ensign after completing Aviation Officer Candidate School in March 1983.

He holds a Master of Science in financial management from the Naval Postgraduate School, a Master of Arts in national security and strategic studies from the College of Command and Staff, U.S. Naval War College, and a Master of Arts in national resource strategy from the Industrial College



Capt. John C. "Jack" Scorby Jr. relieves Rear Adm. Townsend G. "Tim" Alexander as Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE), during a change of command ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Aug. 18. (Photo by MC2(SW) Greg Johnson)

of the Armed Forces.

Scorby has been selected for rear admiral and comes to CNRSE from his current position as executive assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, In-

stallations and Environment, a position he has held since May 2010.

Alexander has commanded CNRSE since January 2009. Under his leader-

see **CNRSE** on page 2



Public Works employees take a break in the shade, while repairing a water main break adjacent to the fuel farm. Co-worker Larry Patterson made fixtures so that umbrellas could be placed in the rear of the trucks and used to help laborers beat the heat.

Beat the heat, stay hydrated

Story & photos by Fifi Kieschnick
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Water is life.

It's the main ingredient in almost every tissue in the body and the most important nutrient.

So, staying hydrated is very important, especially when working outdoors.

"Poor hydration and heat stress can be major factors in the safety of occupational workers," said Janemarie Schoonover, occupational health nurse at Branch Health Clinic Kingsville.

"Everyone knows it's hot in the summer," said Arturo Mendez, structures supervisor at Public Works. "Everyone knows they need to drink plenty of fluids, wear light cotton clothes, and take extra breaks when working outdoors."

"We also know that by noon we will be in black flag conditions and that we need to keep an eye on each other," he added, talk-

see **Heat** on page 4



Splashing success – The Back-to-School Splash event held Friday, Aug. 19, was a splashing success. Nearly 250 people attended the event that featured games, food and fun. School Liaison Officer Jeanie Alexander supplied prizes to many throughout the entire evening, so everyone was a winner. Some of the winners who received prizes include: water balloon toss, Hunter Smith and Adam Anvalo; water horse race, Tucker Evans, William Maul, Nadia Marling, Benjamin Haley, Veronica Mancette, Hannah Haley, Leann Gree and Alexa Nelson; grand door prize winner, Tristan Fryar, winning a Nintendo Wii; and second prize winners, Roberta Cashion and Andrew Munoz, winning a Nintendo DS each. (Courtesy photo by Carol Garza)

From the Bridge



Capt. Mark McLaughlin
Commanding Officer



Greetings Team Kingsville,

A few weeks ago we had a family emergency that led us to recalling one of our chief petty officers from an Individual Augmentation (IA) deployment to Afghanistan. That led me to reviewing where all our IA Sailors are located today, and I'd thought I would share with you their assignments.

Deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan, are AC2 Elias Mogollon and ET3 Richard Nava. Both of these Sailors are working as military police guards and are expected to return to Naval Air Station Kingsville in the spring of 2012. Working in Djibouti, Africa, a small country located at the southern end of the Red Sea where it joins the Gulf of Aden, is ET1 Abel Camarillo. He is assigned as an information technology specialist and is expected to return to South Texas in the spring also.

Deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are ABH3 Shannon Dockum and DC2 Nazr Xmann. Both of these Sailors are working as guards with rotation dates back to NAS Kingsville in January and May 2012, respectively.

On the medical front, Lt. Cmdr. Russell Braden, officer-in-charge, of Branch Medical Clinic Kingsville has three of his Sailors deployed on IAs as well. HM1 Gideon Kain is deployed with the 2nd Medical Battalion in Afghanistan and will return in March 2012. Deployed with the Forward Surgical Team in Afghanistan is HM3 Heng Tran; he will return in March 2012. Lastly, HM3 Timothy Williams just deployed Monday, Aug. 22, to the Forward Resuscitative Team in Afghanistan. He will return to South Texas next April.

Within the next few weeks, NAS Kingsville will be deploying Lt. Ricardo Cerna and AME2 Fernando Cisneros. Both of them will be deploying to Afghanistan for their IA assignments.

As we head into the Labor Day holiday, I ask all of you to keep these warriors in your thoughts and prayers. They don't have the luxury to spend the holiday break -- nor many of the upcoming holidays -- with their families while deployed in harm's way.

To our Sailors on IA, if you happen to find this article online, we wish you all the best and a speedy return home.

Until Next Time~Skipper Mac

Click It
or Ticket

CNRSE from page 1

ship, installations throughout the region made significant reductions in energy costs through the development of the CNRSE Energy Strategy and the establishment of the Regional Energy Council. As a result, the region will save an estimated \$4.2 million with 38 new energy projects during fiscal year 2012 and will generate an estimated \$58 million in new energy projects during fiscal year 2013.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with the men and women, military and civilians, who are the Southeast Region," said Alexander. "I will miss their dedication, professionalism and friendship."

Alexander, who was awarded the Legion of Merit during the ceremony, will assume command of Navy Region Mid Atlantic, Norfolk, Va., in September.



Capt. John C. "Jack" Scorby Jr. has been selected for rear admiral and comes to CNRSE from his current position as executive assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment.



Capt. Mark McLaughlin (left), Naval Air Station Kingsville commanding officer, poses with Rear Adm. Townsend "Tim" Alexander and Capt. John C. "Jack" Scorby Jr., following the Navy Region Southeast change of command ceremony, where Scorby relieved Alexander.

Training system moves to new Web address

By Ed Barker
NETC Public Affairs

A new home page Web address (URL) for the Navy's training management system was implemented Aug. 6 as part of network policy and standardization initiatives.

The Navy's Corporate enterprise Training Activity Resource System (CeTARS) is the authoritative student training management system for Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (MPTE) and serves as the data source for all formal Navy training statistical information and aspects of

student management.

"CeTARS users should manually change their bookmarks to reflect the new URL," said Peg David, CeTARS technical program manager for the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC).

To reach the new Navy training home page, users should delete the old CeTARS URL, <https://cetarsweb.cnet.navy.mil/>, from their favorites list or desktop icon. Use the new CeTARS URL and add it to the favorites list. To navigate to the CeTARS Main

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Flying K

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This paper is published for people like ET2 (SW/AW) Matthew Watson, a native of Wichita Falls, Texas. Watson, who has 7 years U.S. Naval service, has been working as a radar technician aboard Naval Air Station Kingsville since April 2010.

Personnel receive brief on Board Selection process

GMCM (SW/AW) Daniel Stark paid a visit to NAS Kingsville Aug. 10, to speak with supervisors and enlisted Sailors about enlisted selection boards. Stark, who is assigned to NAS Corpus Christi and a recent selection board member, held briefs for the Chief Petty Officers' Mess, members of the Wardroom, and enlisted Sailors.

NAS Kingsville Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff asked Stark to come to Kingsville and speak with Sailors and supervisors. Stark knows the enlisted selection board process inside and out, having served on several selection boards over the past five years at the Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn.

The brief covered everything from the requirements needed to serve on the selection board to meeting the grade to become board eligible, writing evaluations, the importance of viewing and maintaining service records, submitting packages to the board, and more.

Selection boards are tasked, Stark said, to pick the most fully qualified candidates based on the advancement quotas for each particular rating. It's an intense process that includes checks and balances throughout. Board members review hundreds of records during the selection process to effectively rank the candidates, and while performance evaluations play a critical role in the ranking process, there are other criteria considered that board members use to see which Sailor is most fully qualified.

"Sailors need to play an active role in preparing themselves for the board selection process," Stark said. "It doesn't stop with managing their records; they also need to manage their career paths in line with what the selection boards will be looking for.

"How is the Sailor managing sea-shore rotations? Are Sailors choosing the hard billets? Are they standing out among their peers? Are they volunteering for Individual Augmentee assignments – and what did they do during these assignments? Are they taking major collateral duties that have a direct impact on the command?"

The bottom line, Stark summarized, is for Sailors to prepare themselves for their next pay grade ahead of time and show the command – and the selection board – that they are not only ready for advancement and more responsibility, but that they are already performing at the next level and leading by example.



Stark

Flight Plans

Tamales Sale

NAS Kingsville Diversity Committee is selling tamales to raise funds to sponsor the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, which is slated to be held Oct. 5.

Chicken, pork and beef tamales by the dozen are \$8 and will be delivered fresh on Monday, Aug. 29, at the Chaplain's office.

Orders must be placed by close of business Friday, Aug. 26. Call Edward Valenzuela at x6339, to place your order.

Kleberg County Air Show

Kleberg County airport will host its annual air show and fair on Saturday, Aug. 27. Gates will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission to the event is free. The airport is located on West Highway 141.

The Air Show and Fair includes live DJ music, game and food booths, airplane rides for children, Patriot Guard and other static displays, the Civil Air Patrol, and aerial demonstrations by local pilots – and the Confederate Air Force.

Freedom Walk

Sponsored by MWR and the Command Religious Ministries Department, the 2011 Freedom Walk will take place Friday, Sept. 9. All base personnel are invited to participate in the event that will start at the NAS Kingsville command flag pole at 7:50 a.m.

Following remarks and morning col-

ors, the Freedom Walk will begin at NAS Kingsville Headquarters and end at McFall Memorial Chapel where a 9/11 remembrance ceremony will be held beginning at 8:30 a.m..

TAMUK Events

Texas A&M University will hold two events to recognize this year's 10th anniversary of 9/11. The first event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 10, at Javelina Stadium.

Prior to the opening kickoff for the Javelina's first game of the year, there will be a solemn ceremony on the field marking the anniversary. The TAMUK color guard will present the colors, and the on-field events will conclude with a flyover of T-45 Goshawks from Training Air Wing TWO.

All military personnel in uniform will receive free admission to the game and will be invited to participate in the pre-game events on the field. The game against Minot State is part of the school's New York Life Hall of Fame Weekend.

9/11 Remembrances

Bay Area Fellowship Church in Kingsville, along with local law enforcement agencies and Fire Departments, will hold a remembrance ceremony Sunday, Sept. 11, at 7:15 a.m. at the church on Brahma Blvd., in Kingsville.

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Staying Navy -- Pictured left, CS2 Chris Crocker recently reenlisted for 6 years more years of U.S. Naval service, with orders to USS San Diego (LPD 22), which will be homeported in San Diego, Calif. Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer, was the reenlisting officer. The Mineral Wells, Texas, native has 7.5 years of U.S. Navy service. Pictured right, Lt. Cmdr. Dave Anderson, air operations officer, reenlisted AC2 Matthew Harotpp, a native of North Cape May, N.J., for 4 more years of service. The 4-year Navy veteran will transfer to Tactical Air Control Squadron Twenty-Two, Little Creek, Va., in April 2012.

NAS Kingsville Religious Services Offered

Sunday

10:30 a.m. - Family Bible Services

12:30 p.m. - Catholic Mass

Tuesday

11:30 a.m. - Bible Study

Wednesday

7 p.m. - Officer Christian Fellowship

Thursday

4:30 p.m. - Catholic Choir Practice

5:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting



L-3 Vertex Aerospace plane captains make final checks on the aircraft prior to taking off. L-3 plane captains are now making final checks under the canopies on the flightline in an effort to beat the heat. It's one of several measures L-3 instituted to help employees beat the heat.

Heat from page 1

ing about the 13 employees he supervises.

Mendez said that they try to schedule heavy work, like digging and mixing concrete, in the morning and answer trouble calls in the afternoon. "There is tremendous heat in the afternoon, especially if the guys are working on the concrete ramps," said Mendez, who supervises laborers, painters, plumbers, carpenters, welders, pipefitters and those who do concrete work.

"It can be 130 degrees when they are working on the runways. One of the things we do is provide them with umbrellas, which gives the workers shade and cuts at least 20 degrees off the temperatures."

Mendez added that his employees work together like a family and keep an eye on each other. "Safety is our goal here, and we know that if someone's skin is dry and hot, and he's not sweating, that his 'internal air conditioning' is not working and we would put him in the shade, give him fluids and monitor his condition."

Richard Salinas, L-3 flightline lead coordinator for L-3 Vertex Aerospace, says his job is to provide safe and operational aircraft for the Navy. "We provide safe aircraft, and then we recover, refuel, and get them ready to go again."

"The plane captains, often referred to as the 'line guys,' are the last person a pilot sees before getting off the ground and the first he sees when landing," added Salinas, who has been working on the flightline since 1984. "So making safe working conditions is not only important but my main focus."

Safe working conditions for his 'line guys' includes managing heat stress. For example, last Friday afternoon, it was 117 degrees on the flightline and 90 degrees in the shade. If aircraft had been flying, they would have added 10 to 20 degrees to the ambient temperature.

Hydration is important to help avoid heat illness.

"To maintain hydration, we tell the employees (working outdoors) to get a drink of water before the start of the day," said Joe Morales, L-3's environmental health and safety coordinator. "Drink before you are thirsty' is our motto."

Morales added that L-3 has instituted several procedures to help ensure the employees working "the line" do not suffer heat stress and dehydration.

"We provide 5-gallon jugs of water and Gatorade," said Morales. "The line employees make final checks (of the aircraft) in the shade under the canopies, and the line lead constantly makes safety checks on the employees and communicates with them by radio."

"The best treatment for dehydration is prevention," Schoonover adds. "Anticipate the need for increased fluid intake. Break up exposure to hot temperatures. Find air conditioned or shady areas and cool off between exposures to the heat."

(Note: This is the second in a series of articles about heat stress.)



L-3 Vertex Aerospace plane captain, Art Gonzales, signals to a pilot after making final checks on the aircraft. L-3 plane captains are now making final checks under the canopies on the flightline in an effort to beat the heat.



Local educators get a look at the air station

Educators and administrators from eight local Independent School Districts visited Naval Air Station Kingsville earlier this month to learn about the life of Sailors, Marines and soldiers assigned to the air station.

Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer, hosted the nearly 40 administrators and educators.

Above, he talks to the group about the history of the base and life in the military.

Pictured right, AC1(AW/SW) Philip Ford explains the "Approach" watch station in Approach Control Radar to the educators and administrators.

The group also visited Ground Training, received a tour of the Army Medivac Unit's Blackhawk helicopter, and ate lunch in the



Captain's Club. The event was coordinated by School Liaison Officer Jeanie Alexander. (Photos by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)

Training from page 2

Menu, go to <https://main.prod.cetars.training.navy.mil>.

For many users, CeTARS serves as the gateway to 21 subsystems or modules, all of which are accessed via CeTARS' homepage. A few of the programs accessed through CeTARS include Catalog of Navy Courses; Enterprise Navy Training Reservation System; Navy Training Quota Management System; Class Event and Resource Scheduler; and Recruit Training Management.

Users may experience a slight delay when accessing the new URL for the first time. The delay should be less than 3 minutes in most cases. However, when accessing the CeTARS Discoverer tool, the delay may take 3-5 minutes, during which time a white screen will be displayed. After that, login should be normal.

If a user experiences a problem accessing the new CeTARS URL on a Navy-Marine Corps Internet (NMCI) computer, they should clear their computer's Java cache and remove the CeTARSII security certificate before accessing the new URL. Anyone continuing to experience problems, or needing assistance clearing the cache should contact the NETPDTC helpdesk by

dialing commercial (850) 452-1001 or DSN 922-1001, then selecting option 1.

"CeTARS standardizes reporting at all activities that train Navy students," added David. "It allows training managers and upper echelons to support Navy training by maintaining accurate student, instructor, and course data, all of which helps Navy leaders make informed decisions with the most current and accurate data available. With this new upgrade, we're operating in an even more standardized environment."

CeTARS supports more than 4,000 users, primarily training administrators and managers, located at more than 300 locations worldwide. It also provides management and tracking of more than 1,000 courses, with an average daily attendance of more than 50,000 students. CeTARS interfaces with 39 other applications and systems in the Department of Defense to share student data and order writing capabilities in support of MPTE enterprise efforts.

For more information about the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/netc/Commands/NET-PDTC.aspx>.

Have you met? David Taylor

David Taylor is Naval Air Station Kingsville's new Security Officer responsible for force protection, physical security and public safety.

It's a field he has been working in for the past 22 years – Taylor retired from the Navy in April as a master-at-arms senior chief petty officer. And from April until the beginning of August, he was working for the Army at Ft. Rucker, Ala., as their antiterrorism officer.

The Taylors have a home in New Braunfels. His wife and four daughters will continue to live there until they sell the house, then they plan to relocate here. He loves listening to country music, which is great because he will be "commuting" on the weekends.

Taylor says he's very straightforward and a big proponent for team effort. He adds that he believes in common sense and confidence. "When I was an instructor, I used to tell my master-at-arms, 'there are two things you need: common sense and confidence.' They are both equally important, and you can't have one without the other."

The Joplin, Mo., native says he's looking forward to the fall football season and, "Chiefs all the way!"



Flight Plans from page 3

As we look back to the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the bravery and humanity shown on that day and the many that have followed since will always be remembered by the City of Kingsville and the Nation. Please join us in this tribute!

Connor Museum: On Sunday, Sept. 11, TAMUK will hold a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the John E. Connor Museum at 6 p.m. Among the guest speakers for this ceremony is Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer. Following the event at the Museum, a musical tribute will be presented at Jones Auditorium, located across the street from the Museum. Admission is free.

Note of Thanks

The family of Patrick H. Butler would like to give thanks to all of the beloved friends and co-workers who showed their love and blessings to the Butler family following his recent passing. The support was a great comfort to the Butler family, and Pat's wife Gracie found comfort from the men and women of the air station who spent so much time with him during his final

days. Patrick was a man of honor and loved his work, and always said that his joy came from the people he worked with. Thank you for your kind remarks, blessings, flowers, and leave donations on Patrick's behalf.

Back-to-school run/walk

Boy Scout Troop 144 will host their 5th annual Back-to-School 5K Run/2 Mile Walk on Saturday, Sept. 10, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Texas A&M University Kingsville Student Union Building.

Awards will be given for overall male, female and master runners; top three finishers in each age bracket for the 5K; and top three male and female 2-mile walk finishers.

Registration cost is \$12 for students, \$15 for adults, and \$20 for late registration. T-shirts will be given to those who register by Aug. 29.

Entry packet pick-up will be held Friday, Sept. 9, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Young's Pizza, at 625 W. Santa Gertrudis, or from 7 to 7:45 a.m. race day at the Student Union Building. For more information, call Ostine Watts at (361) 903-6743, 592-8631 or 228-4845.

Cleaning up --

AE1(AW) Jonathan Ballard was one of several volunteers who washed cars several weeks ago to raise funds for the basewide holiday party. Nearly \$250 was raised via donations. Volunteers who washed vehicles included members of the holiday party committee and the First Class Petty Officer Association. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)



Not all wet -- Nearly 250 people enjoyed the Back-to-School Splash event held Friday, Aug. 19. The evening's activities included swimming, games, food and fun. School Liaison Officer Jeanie Alexander supplied prizes to many throughout the evening, so everyone went home a winner. (Courtesy photo by Carol Garza)

Morale, Welfare & Recreation

MWR Event Calendar

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

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

Tuesdays
6 p.m. – Water aerobics

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

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

Fridays
12 noon – Yoga at the Fitness Center

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

K-Rock Coffee Shop
Buy 10 Cups get one free!!

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

Bowling notes: The Wednesday Morning Ladies Bowling League will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7, at the NAS Kingsville bowling center. Play starts at 9 a.m.

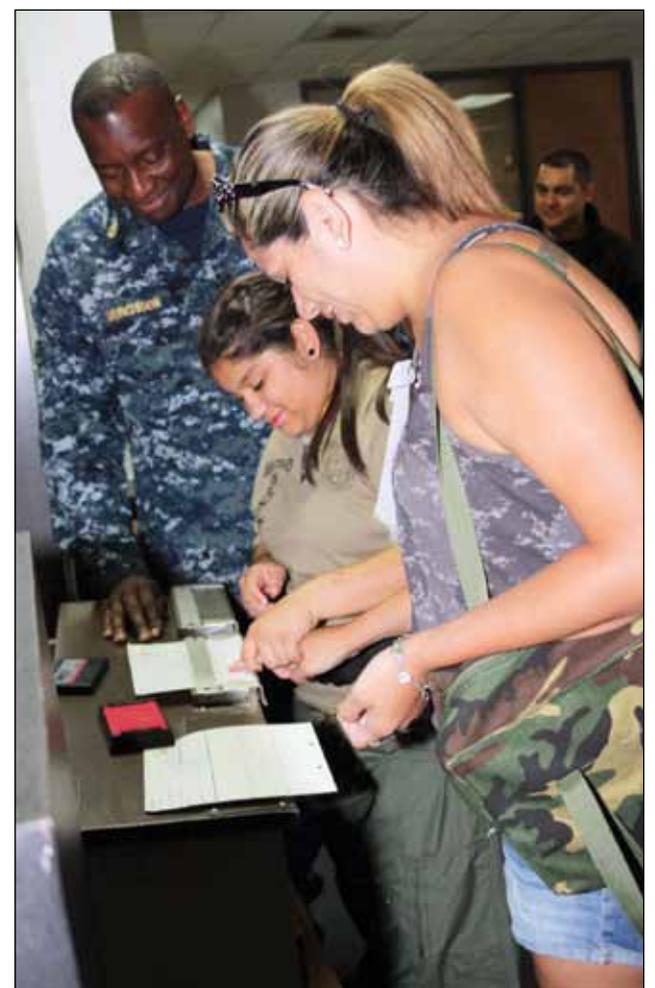
There is plenty of room for new bowlers – and all women are invited to come and join the fun. New members may contact Irene Woosely at 592-4236 for more information, or Daniel Rackley at the bowling center at 516-6196.

Mixed League: The Wednesday Nite Mixed League will also begin bowling on Sept. 7. An organizational meeting will be

held prior to the start of bowling, at 6:30 p.m. All interested bowlers are welcome to join.

Base Access Change: There has been a change in base access for bowling leagues this year. In addition to the MWR Blue Cards, all non-military personnel will be required to register through the NAS Kingsville Security Office to receive a Security ID pass. This is a one-time registration.

For more information, contact Daniel Rackley at the Bowling Center at 516-6196.



Pilot for a Day -- NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO welcomed 13-year old Alice, Texas, youth, Julieanna Gonzalez, as "Pilot For a Day," Thursday, Aug. 18. Julieanna is a patient at Driscoll Children's Hospital (DCH) in Corpus Christi. She was joined by her mother Marisol Mendez and father Giovanni Gonzalez for her special day on board the air station. Training Squadron 21 sponsored the visit. Julieanna visited Air Operations, Fire & Emergency Services, Security, the Ground Training complex, the Paraloft and toured the Army Medivac Unit's Blackhawk helicopter. Pictured above, Firefighter Randal Ross helps Julieanna into a firefighting ensemble and overcoat. From left are Fire Capt. Armando Buentello, Firefighter James Escatiola, and Firefighter Omar Soliz. Above center, Capt. McDougall, VT-22 instructor pilot, tests the communications equipment with Julieanna. Above right, MAC(SW) Ron Murchison supervises Julieanna fingerprint her mom. Left, Parachute Rigger Emiliano Gonzales fits Julieanna for the proper headgear. (Photos by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)



Wings of Gold -- Training Air Wing TWO held a winging ceremony Aug. 12, as 15 student pilots received their Wings of Gold and were designated Naval Aviators. Pictured are, from left (front row): Cmdr. Darren Guenther, VT-22 executive officer; Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer; 1st Lt. Eric Mui; 1st Lt. Jorge Couto; Lt. Manoel Andrade; Lt.j.g. Nathan Knutsen; 1st Lt. Brian Baldwin; 1st Lt. Brandon Wells; Capt. Joseph Evans, TW2 commodore; Cmdr. Quino Alonzo, VT-21

commanding officer; Cmdr. Rey Molina, TW2 chief staff officer; (middle row) Maj. Chris Reinhart, VT-21 senior Marine; 1st Lt. Kraegen Bramer; Lt. Brandon Miller; 1st Lt. John Collins; Lt.j.g. James Haley IV; 1st Lt. Matthew Stacey; Capt. Wesley Deaver, VT-22 senior Marine; Lt.j.g. David Reis; Lt.j.g. Gabriel Wood; Lt. Christopher Nigus; and Lt.j.g. Christopher Trump. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs)



Above, DC2 Mara Martinez begins handcuffing "the Redman" during the culmination exercise of the Auxiliary Security Force training held last month. Pictured left, ABH2 (AW) Edward Valenzuela moves toward "the Redman" as course instructor, Joe Richardson, looks on. Getting "the Redman" down and handcuffing him was part of the ASF culmination exercise.

Sailors learn skills, gain confidence from ASF course

By Fifi Kieschnick
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Naval Air Station Kingsville's Auxiliary Security Force recently added 11 members to its roster.

The Sailors completed the 3-week ASF training course last month, which wrapped up with a culmination exercise designed not only to display skills learned, but also build confidence and sympathy.

"The culmination exercise is a 'building up' process," said Joe Richardson, a retired Marine gunnery sergeant who teaches the class. "It takes the students out of their comfort zone, as they go through the exercise."

The Sailors moved through different stations displaying the skills they had learned throughout the course.

"They have to do each skill properly before they can move onto the next step," Richardson added.

Much of the culmination exercise is done once the Sailor has been sprayed across the eyes with oleoresin capsicum (OC), otherwise known as "being pepper-sprayed."

"They have to properly do mechanical advantage control holds (MACH), handcuffing procedures, baton strikes, baton blocks," Richardson said. "The 'Redman' is the final step where the Sailor must use the proper strike techniques maintaining distance, communicating to the subject,

using baton retention, and MACH to take down the 'Redman' with the baton and transition to handcuffing."

The ASF augments security forces with watch standing and the training allows the Sailors to do their part to maintain the base's readiness and safety.

"ASF is an essential part of the security force team and the training helps the Sailors gain confidence in their abilities," said MAC(SW) Bill Worthen, Security training officer.

Many of the graduates agree.

"I gained the confidence in standing my watch now and what to expect when the unexpected arrives," says ABH2(AW) Edward Valenzuela. "I also learned more about my surroundings of my current command, as far as the outskirts of the base and what we guard and why we guard."

DC2(SW) Mara Martinez said she learned a lot, including how to deal with high stress environments. "I learned how to handle different situations, different temperaments of people and to pay attention to their body language," the 5-year Navy veteran said.

"The most valuable thing about the training is the comfort of handling your weapon," Martinez added, "and not being afraid of it, and when to use it and how to use it."

Valenzuela added that he thought weapons training and CPR were the most valuable portions of the class.

"They changed the CPR instruction in February," Valenzuela said, "and there's a minute key piece of that instruction that makes a big impact and difference in a person's life."

"Weapons training was valuable, too. In an event where I may need to use a weapon in a hostile environment or situation, I want to be sure I'm going to hit my target where I'm aiming."

"I am currently an expert shooter on the M-9 and M-16, but just when I thought I knew everything there is to know about weapons, the instructor broke it down to a science, so I'm more confident in my shooting ability."

Richardson, "These 'guys' worked hard and now have the tools to provide better force protection."

He plans to hold another ASF training next month.

The recent ASF training graduates are:
ET2(SW) Casey Boyle
AC3 Colton Cronquist
QM2(SW) Bryan Hastings
ET2(SW) Laren Hosey
ET2(SW/AW) Brian Johnson
DC2(SW) Mara Martinez
EN2(SW) Duane McCurdy
ABE2 Jonathan Negron
ACAA Alexander Rollett
ABH3 Johnathan Rush
ABH2(AW/SW) Edward Valenzuela



AC3 Colton Cronquist handcuffs a volunteer during the ASF culmination exercise.



ACAA Alexander Rollett makes a strong side block against volunteer IC1(SW) Bernardino Martinez during the ASF culmination exercise.