



Flying K

*Toys For Tots
program breaks
records
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January 27, 2012

Leap Frogs jump into air show line up

Another spectacular act has been added to the 2012 Wings Over South Texas air show lineup.

The U.S. Navy's Parachute Team, the Leap Frogs, will open the show, jumping onto the NAS Kingsville flightline from an aircraft at an altitude of 12,500 feet.

The Leap Frogs are based in San Diego and perform aerial parachute demonstrations across America. The team is composed of parachuting experts from Naval Special Warfare including Navy SEALs, special warfare combatant-craft crewmen, and an NSW parachute rigger, in addition to support personnel.

The parachute team began in 1969, when Navy SEALs and Frogmen volunteered to perform at weekend air shows. The team was officially commissioned as the U.S. Navy Parachute Team "Leap Frogs" in 1974, by the Chief of Naval Operations and assigned the mission of demonstrating Navy excellence throughout the United States.

A typical Leap Frogs performance consists of 14 jumpers leaping out of an aircraft at an altitude of 12,500 feet. During free fall, jumpers reach speeds of 120 mph and can accelerate up to 180 mph by pulling their arms to their sides and straightening their legs into what is called a "track." The jumpers typically open their parachutes at around 5,000 feet by releasing a smaller pilot chute which deploys their main blue-and-gold canopy. After deploying their chutes, the Leap Frogs fly their canopies together to build dramatic canopy-relative work formations.

The Leap Frogs are renowned for exciting and complex formations such as downplanes, sideplanes, dragplanes, diamonds, big stacks, tri-by-sides, and T formations. After performances, the Leap Frogs make themselves available to the public to answer questions about the Navy and the Naval Special Warfare community, as well as to sign autographs.

"More acts will continue to be added to the line-up as the show nears," said Lt. Cmdr. David Anderson, air show coordinator. "But, we're thrilled to have the Navy's Leap Frogs open our show. We are working to make this the 'best ever' air show in South Texas."

For updates on the 2012 show, including performers and static displays, show times, and other information, visit the air show's official web site at <http://www.wingsoversouthtexas.org/wost>.

Right, the U.S. Navy Parachute Team "Leap Frogs" will open the 2012 Wings Over South Texas Air Show on April 14 and 15.



'Fat Albert Airlines' makes annual stop at Navy Auxiliary Landing Field Orange Grove



"Fat Albert" makes a stop at NALF Orange Grove for their annual training prior to air show season last year. (File photo by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels' "Fat Albert Airlines" team will be stopping in South Texas Feb. 12. They will be at Navy Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) Orange Grove for their annual trek to the area to practice for the upcoming air show season.

The Fat Albert team uses the Orange Grove facility for two weeks of training annually prior to the air show season, which runs from the beginning of March to November.

Fat Albert is a C-130 Hercules responsible for transporting road crew personnel, supplies and equipment to and from each show site throughout the air show season, and is considered the workhorse for the

Blue Angels' team. "Fat Albert" is a nickname given to the plane by Marine Corps Blue Angel pilots in the 1970s because of its size and shape, and is a reference to the popular children's cartoon of the same era.

The Fat Albert team is an all-Marine flight crew. The eight Marines include three pilots, two flight engineers, a navigator, a flight mechanic and loadmaster.

The C-130 holds 46,000 pounds of fuel. It has a cruising speed of 375 miles per hour and shaft horsepower is about 4,500 per engine. The maximum takeoff weight of Fat Albert is 155,000 pounds. The distance under Fat Albert's propellers to the ground is

see *Fat Albert* on page 6

From the Bridge



Capt. Mark McLaughlin
Commanding Officer



However, the Navy still lost 25 Sailors in Fiscal Year 2011. Most accidents occurred at night or on the weekend, and involved Sailors under 26 years of age. As you would expect, excessive speed, alcohol, fatigue, distractions, and failure to wear seatbelts were the principal contributing factors in the fatalities. Read those again please – each one is preventable!

Additionally, there were 16 motorcyclists killed in FY11, 12 of which were riding sport bikes. Of those 12 on sport bikes, nine had not completed the Military Sport Bike Rider Course (MSRC). The MSRC is a proven tool that provides riders the mental and physical skills needed to be successful operating those types of vehicles. Navy

regulations require all Sailors under the age of 26 to complete a traffic safety course and for those motorcycle riders, they must complete the Basic Rider Course (BRC) and the MSRC, if applicable.

With our current technology and reporting requirements, our Safety Department will be checking the Enterprise Safety Applications Management System (ESAMS) for proper accountability. Likewise, if you're in need of the motor vehicle or motorcycle safety training, please call our Safety Department and get the details for available training.

Be safe in your travels and always be prepared.

Until next time. ~ Skipper Mac

Greetings Team Kingsville.

This week, I'm sharing some notes taken from a message from the Vice Chief of Naval Operations on motor vehicle and motorcycle safety.

During the last four years, the number of Sailors killed in motor vehicle and motorcycle mishaps has dropped by 60 percent.



On parade -- NAS Kingsville's color guard led the Martin Luther King Jr. parade held Jan. 16, in the city of Kingsville. From left are, ET3 Jessica Korenek, ACAA Daniel Wright, AC2 Israel Cansino and ACAA Alexander Rollett. The annual holiday honors the life of the prominent leader in the African-American civil rights movement. King is best known for being an iconic figure in the advancement of civil rights using nonviolent methods.

News Briefs

Anchor scholarships announced

The Anchors Scholarship has its roots on the Atlantic side where it was chartered in 1980 at SURFLANT. In 2004 the Foundation was re-chartered to include Surface Navy families across the globe and now is available to family members of Sailors who have served six years (cumulative, not consecutive) in commands that administratively fall under either COMNAVSURFPAC or COMNAVSURFLANT claimancies. Commands can be either sea or shore, as long as they were under CNSP or CNSL.

Members do not have to be currently serving in a CNSP or CNSL command, as long as they have met the 6 year require-

ment. The deadline for applications for next fall is March 1.

More information can be found at the website: www.anchorsscholarship.com

Armed Services YMCA essay contest

The Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) program is accepting essays for the theme "My Military Hero," now through March 16. Winners and runner-ups in each category will receive U.S. Savings Bonds.

Children of all active duty or retired military personnel from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and family members of the National Guard/Reserves in grades one through 12 are eligible.

Grades 1-8 entries should be at least 100 words in length but no more than 300. Grades 9-12 should be no less than 300 words and no more than 500.

Entry forms, rules and additional information on the program can be found on the Web at www.asymca.org. All submitted essays become the property of the Armed Services YMCA and will not be returned. Completed entry forms should be submitted via e-mail to tharper@asymca.org.

Correction

Tommy Figuero, an air condition equipment mechanic at Public Works, was misidentified in the Jan. 13 issue of the *Flying K*.

Flying K

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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

Contact Lines
Command Information Hotline
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Air Show Information
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This paper is published for people like Erik Canalas, a native of West New York, N.J. He has been working on board NAS Kingsville for nearly three years as the DEERS/site representative, and now works as a security guard.

Volunteers being sought to help with NAS Kingsville's 2012 air show

By Jon Gagné
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

NAS Kingsville's bi-annual Wings Over South Texas Air Show would not be possible without the help of hundreds of volunteers. Volunteers are the heart and soul of the air show. Actually, every member of the staff of the air show is a volunteer! Their support, as well as the support of vendors and sponsors, makes our air show a top attraction -- not only for the air station -- but also the Kingsville community.

The NAS Kingsville air show committee is looking for volunteers for this year's show, which takes place April 14 and 15. Individual and group volunteers are needed. Vendors who will have booths on the midway will need staff assistance, and this is a great opportunity for volunteers to earn a little extra cash while they help support the air show.

"We are already collecting names of individuals and organizations that would like to volunteer to work the concession operations at the air show this year," said David Haigh, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department (MWR) director and air show marketing coordinator. "We will need at least 16 booths staffed with a daily requirement of about 160 people, depending on what the particular booths are selling."

Each volunteer will be paid the same percentage of the profits that are made from



Volunteers prepare a hot dog with all the fixings during the 2010 air show. Volunteers are needed to work in the booths on the midway during this year's show. (File photo)

the air show, regardless of the type of booth that they work, minus cash and inventory shortages from sales.

Each volunteer should: dress comfortably with protective shoes (No open toes); wear shirts with sleeves (no tank tops); wear head covering (cap, visor, or hairnet); and dress according to weather forecasts.

Food vouchers will be provided to volunteers each day and will only be valid for food purchase on the Midway. The vouchers may not be used for merchandise or beer purchase. A cup will also be supplied, so unlimited soft drinks will be available.

You must be 16 years of age or older to work at any booth, and you must be 21 years of age or older to work at booths that sell al-



Volunteers are needed to work in the booths on the midway during the 2012 Wings Over South Texas Air Show. This will be a great opportunity for volunteers to earn a little extra cash while helping to support the air show. (File photo)

cohol. No alcohol may be consumed during the work shifts. Beer servers must comply with all Texas and U.S. Navy requirements. Volunteers will be selected to meet staffing requirements, so some groups or individuals that apply may not be selected.

All food booth staff must have a valid Texas Food Handler's Sanitation Card and they must meet all Texas and Navy requirements.

For more information on Navy food handling requirements, contact Daniel Rackley at (361) 516-6196.

Parking passes for all volunteers will be issued by MWR for each day they work.

If you're interested in volunteering, contact the NAS Kingsville Information, Tickets & Tours Office at (361) 516-6449.

Volunteer group applications are available for download on the Wings Over South Texas web site at <http://wingsoversouthtexas.org>.

Completed volunteer forms can be emailed to the NAS Kingsville public affairs office at KNGV-PAO@navy.mil.

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Voting is a right, registering to vote is easy

By Fifi Kieschnick
 NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

What ETCS(SW/AW/EXW) Kirk Hurst says makes sense:

"We're serving our country.

"We're defending our country.

"Part of what we are defending is the right to vote.

"If we're not voting, we're not taking part in what we are defending."

There's no arguing with that logic.

"We're voting to make our country better, a country we are serving. We need to have a voice on what goes on in our country," Hurst added.

It's something he feels strongly about because he says it's also a way we can make a difference in our communities.

"Many people don't realize that in many ways government starts at the local level with local elections, not national elections," Hurst said. "We need to be involved at the local level."

That starts with registering to vote and that's easier now than ever before because

there is a "one-stop-shopping" voting website, www.fvap.gov.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program website is primarily for military, their family members and civilians living out-of-the-United States. But anyone can access the site and take advantage of the information available. All Sailors need to know is the state of their home of record to get started.

Too easy.

The website walks you through registering to vote and requesting your ballot. It also has forms and a wealth of information about voting absentee, U.S. elections, state and federal offices, key election dates and legislation, to name a few.

All at the touch of your fingertips.

And, if you would rather get the information "the old fashioned way," Hurst is the person to go to. He is Naval Air Station Kingsville's voting assistance officer and he has a host of voting information in his office. If he doesn't have the information you need, he can quickly find it for you. For more information, go to www.fvap.gov or call Hurst at 516-6388.

Register to vote, request your ballot for upcoming primaries

Voters from the following states should visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website, www.fvap.gov, to register and request for absentee ballots for the February, March and April 2012 Presidential Preference Primaries (P) and State Primaries (S) listed below:

February Primaries (30-day notice)

For February primaries, if you have not received your requested State ballot, submit the back-up Federal write-in absentee ballot at www.fvap.gov.

Missouri (P): Feb. 7

Arizona (P): Feb. 28

Michigan (P): Feb. 28

March Primaries (60-day Notice)

Georgia (P): March 6

Massachusetts (P): March 6

Ohio (P,S): March 6

Oklahoma (P): March 6

Tennessee (P): March 6

Vermont (P): March 6

Virginia (P): March 6

Alabama (P,S): March 13

Mississippi (P,S): March 13

Illinois (P,S): March 20

Louisiana (P,S): March 24

April Primaries (90-day Notice)

District of Columbia (P,S): April 3

Maryland (P,S): April 3

Texas (P,S): April 3 (This is a change, the election was originally scheduled March 6)

Wisconsin (P): April 3

Alabama (Primary Runoff): April 24

Connecticut (P): April 24

Delaware (P): April 24

New York (P): April 24

Pennsylvania (P,S): April 24

Rhode Island (P): April 24

Go to www.fvap.gov for ballots or more information.

Be sure you include an e-mail address, phone number, and/or fax number on your absentee ballot application in case your local election official needs to contact you. Remember, many states allow you to submit your form electronically, and deliver your ballot electronically or provide online ballot access. Go to www.fvap.gov to see how you can return your form.

To find out the status of your registration/absentee ballot request, contact your local election office at <http://www.fvap.gov/shortcuts/wheresendfpa.html>, or visit your state website

Vote the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

The FWAB is a backup ballot. If 30 days before the election (or longer based on your geographic location) you think you will not receive your State ballot in time to vote and return it (especially in February Primary States), vote the FWAB at www.fvap.gov. The FWAB is also available in embassies and consulates and military installations around the world.

Additional information

Check your state's election website for specific information on candidates, elections, contact information, and links to your local election offices. Find your state's website at FVAP's web portal: <http://www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html>

If you'd like more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process please go to the FVAP.gov web portal or call FVAP at (703) 588-1584 (toll free 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584). E-mail vote@fvap.gov.

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Online records ease Sailors' selection board preparation

With the 2012 Navy-wide advancement exam for chief petty officer complete, first-class petty officers hoping to advance must now focus on reviewing their record and preparing a package for the board, officials said Jan. 20.

"The advancement process for chief petty officer is two-fold," said Navy Personnel Command (NPC) Force Master Chief (AW/SW/NAC) Jon Port. "Our first class petty officers must take an advancement exam and then, if they score high enough to become selection board eligible, their record will be reviewed by a selection board at Navy Personnel Command."

Approximately 33,000 active duty and Reserve first class petty officers participate in the exam annually. Last year about 20,500 first class petty officers were selection-board eligible and after a thorough review of the candidates records by a selection board of master chiefs and senior officers, 3,700 active duty and Reserve Sailors were selected for chief.

"Your record represents you before the selection board and that is why, if you want to be competitive for selection, you need to make sure your record is as complete as possible. Because if you have a college degree or a recent award or significant qualification and it is not in your record, the board isn't going to know it," said Port.

When the selection board convenes, its members are given quotas for each rate and a precept containing guidance on factors to consider when reviewing records from the candidates' official military personnel file (OMPF). It is up to the board to score each record based on those factors, which in the past has included leadership, education, personal and professional development, competency and skill expertise, overseas and arduous duty, and collateral duties.

Sailors should review their OMPF for completeness and accuracy. The OMPF consists of digital images of official documents amassed over the course of an individual's career by categories including fitness reports/performance evaluation, awards, professional history, personal data, orders, privileged information, and enlisted records. Sailors may access their OMPF online by selecting "My Personnel Info" link on the NPC website at www.npc.navy.mil.

Sailors who find items missing from their OMPF or discrepancies may submit a letter to the board and include the missing document or explain discrepancies for the board to consider. Sailors can confirm their package has arrived by clicking on the "Selection Board Status" link on the NPC website, or by calling the NPC Customer Service Center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC.

Letters sent to a selection board for con-

see *Records* on page 10

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Chipping away

Public Works' Brigido "Sal" Salinas, left, and Adrian Gonzalez chip away at flaking paint and rust on one of two anchors that will be repainted and placed in front of the main gate to present NAS Kingsville with a sharper and cleaner look. Pictured below, "Sal" sandblasts one of the two anchors. The anchors were brought to NAS Kingsville from Naval Station Ingleside prior to its closure in 2009. The 4,600-pound anchors were originally purchased from Fredericksburg, Texas, in 1995. The refurbishment was undertaken as part of a quality improvement and preservation project. (Photos by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)



Fat Albert from page 1

approximately six feet.

The C-130 Hercules has a payload of 45,000 pounds and a range of 2,400 miles and can cruise with a speed of up to 320 knots. It is a four-engine turboprop transport aircraft, which was originally designed as a troop, medical evacuation and cargo transport aircraft.

During the Fat Albert Airlines two-week stay, NALF will open its doors to local landowners for a barbecue and orientation visit. The annual event is designed to solidify the relationship between the landowners, local community and NAS Kingsville, which owns the Orange Grove facility.

"Fat Albert" makes a stop at NALF Orange Grove for their annual training prior to air show season last year. (File photo by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)



Local Toys For Tots 2011 program sets records

By Jon Gagné
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The 2011 Toys For Tots program for Kleberg and Kenedy Counties set records for most toys collected and most donations accepted, according to local program coordinator Lisa Bockholt.

“Even at a time when so many people are struggling to get by, our program went above and beyond in 2011,” Bockholt said at her annual After-Campaign Appreciation Party on Jan. 12, at the Kingsville Pizza Parlor.

“We set a number of records this year and it really just goes to show that our community really stands behind this program.”

Lisa and Jerry Bockholt, owners of the Kingsville Stop N’ Lube, have been coordinating the Toys For Tots program for Kleberg and Kenedy Counties for 24 years. During that time span they have represented the Marine Corps Reserves’ program on a local level – and accepted the challenges that come with coordinating the program eagerly.

“Our theme for this year’s program was “Kingsville – a City of Hope,” Lisa Bockholt said to volunteers and sponsors in attendance at the event. “I chose that theme because I thought the song lyrics really reflect how our community responds to this program year in and year out.”

The 2011 campaign collected nearly 5,000 toys, 965 books and over 1,500 stocking stuffers that were distributed to about 1,800 children. There was also more than \$5,000 in cash donations to the program.

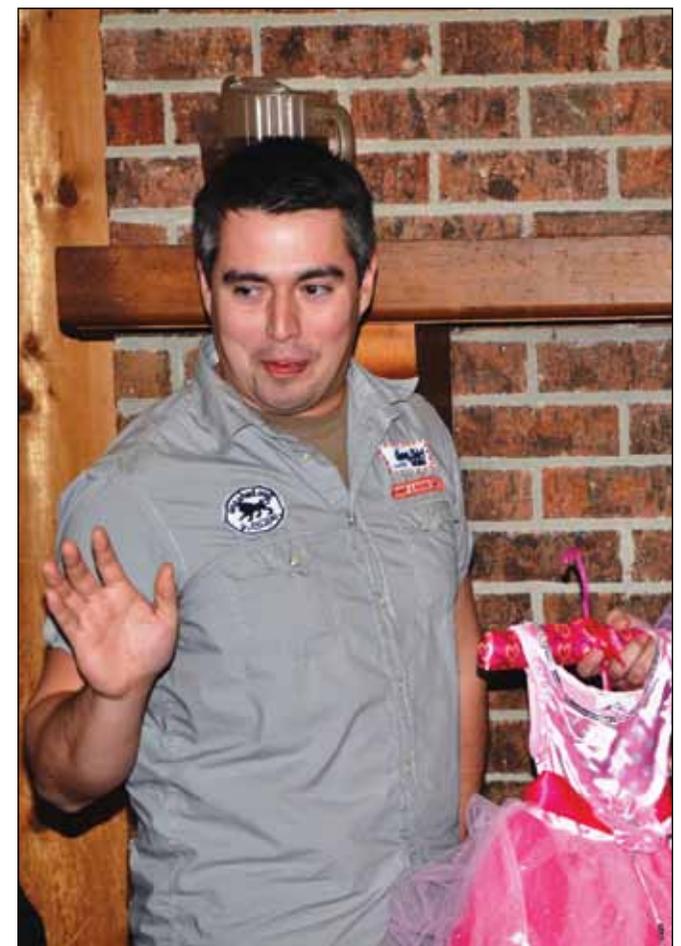
The NAS Kingsville Chapel’s Religious Ministries fund was one of the big monetary donors, with a \$500 donation. The VT-21 Officers Wives Club also donated \$500.

NAS Kingsville’s Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff accepted an appreciation plaque for the Chapel staff, and Joy Alonzo accepted the award for the Officers’ Wives Club. Lt. Col. Scott Schoeman, VT-22 executive officer, was presented an appreciation plaque for his coordination of volunteer efforts from more than 20 Marines during the campaign.

ET1(SW) Samuel Sanchez, of NAS Kingsville’s Ground Electronics Division, served as the volunteer coordinator for the Naval Air Station this year.

Sanchez not only lined up people to assist with toy collection and distribution, he also kept the volunteers at the Secret Santa Warehouse in good spirits throughout the holidays. He was provided a special thank you by Bockholt in the form of a red tutu, and a plaque for his efforts. Ratliff also received a special award – the Unsung Hero Award –recognizing his support of the program for the last three years.

A number of local businesses and civic groups also received recognition awards during the ceremony including the Kingsville Elks Club, which walked away with the “I Think I Can” Trophy for the most toys donated by a local service club. The Elks donated 601 toys to the 2011 campaign.



Photos, clockwise, beginning top left: Lt. Col. Scott Schoeman, VT-22 executive officer, accepts a special recognition award from Lisa Bockholt on behalf of more than 20 Marine officer volunteers from the air station over the course of the 2011 campaign. Lisa and Jerry Bockholt have been the coordinators for the Toys For Tots for Kleberg and Kenedy Counties for 24 years. ET1(SW) Samuel Sanchez, of the Air Operations Department’s Ground Electronics Division, received the Volunteer Coordinator Award and a “special” thank you from the Bockholts for his positive attitude throughout the campaign. ET1(SW) Samuel Sanchez was recognized by Lisa Bockholt for his volunteer efforts during the annual Toys For Tots campaign. Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff accepts the Chapel’s award and “Unsung Hero Award” from Toys For Tots coordinator Lisa Bockholt for his continuous support of the program during the past three years. Ratliff is set to retire from active duty in April.



ERB-Sailors stay positive despite change in career options

By Fifi Kieschnick
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

When one door closes, another opens.

That's how ABF1(SW) Nathan Jones is looking at it.

Jones, a Navy veteran of more than 12 years, is one of the more than 3,000 Sailors impacted by Enlisted Retention Boards (ERBs).

Jones is in one of the overmanned ratings that was looked at, aviation boatswain's mate, fuels, (ABF). As such, he's involved in the operation and servicing of fuel farms and equipment associated with the fueling and defueling of aircraft ashore and afloat. He also observes and enforces handling safety precautions and maintaining fuel quality surveillance and control in aviation fuel systems. ABFs are also part of the team that assists in launching and recovering aircraft from land or ships.

"The ERB looked at 31 ratings and Sailors in those ratings that had more than 7 years service, but less than 15, as of Oct. 1, 2011," said NCC(AW/SW) Minerva Verley, NAS Kingsville's career counselor. It was the first year the board was convened and it was set up very similar to a selection board, according to Verley.

"Locally, 10 Sailors were looked at by the ERB and four were not selected for retention," Verley added.

Jones was one of those four and, like many of the Sailors who were not selected for retention, had planned on making the U.S. Navy his career. But now, he is doing everything he can to find employment. "I didn't take 'baby leave' when my wife delivered last month," Jones said, "instead, I went to TAP (Transition Assistance Program) class, got my resume together, and began networking and making contacts."

The first step for separating Sailors is to receive a DD Form 2648, Preseparation Counseling Checklist for Active Component Service Members. The command career counselor goes over the form with the Sailors to ensure they are aware of the assistance and benefits available to them.

The checklist covers employment assistance, relocation assistance, education, training, health and life insurance, finances, and veterans benefits among other items.

The next step is the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC).

The FFSC offers transition assistance classes, among other services for departing service members. Transition as-



Ramon Panganiban manages the Fleet and Family Support Center's transition assistance program.

sistance is one of Ramon Panganiban's chief responsibilities, at the NAS Kingsville FFSC.

"Many of the Sailors I see are really 'stressed out,' especially the 'ERB Sailors,'" Panganiban said. "Many of them came into the Navy straight from high school and have spent the past 12-to-14 years in their current career field. This -- the Navy -- is all they know. I prepare them to become a civilian."

FC2(SW) Natascha Josey is one of those Sailors who entered the Navy out of high school and another one not selected for retention. "I don't take it personally," Josey said. "But it's hard to absorb. It feels like I'm standing on rocky ground and that everything I have been working for has been taken away from me."

Josey is not sure what she wants to do or where she wants to go when her enlistment ends in September.

"We ensure they know what resources are available to them and that they go to TAP class," Panganiban said. "I continue

to touch base with them, too, sending them vacancy announcements, as I see them, and referring them to job fairs and counseling, if needed."

The FFSC offers transitional assistance that includes resume writing, financial counseling and relocation counseling. They also answer questions about veterans' and educational benefits.

Everyone's circumstances are different -- from their rating to marital status or education, and whether they rent or own a home. And, based on their circumstances, Panganiban guides them to varying resources.

For example, Jones would like to move to Georgia where he owns a home. He'd like to work for the military there in his chosen career field. But, he may have to continue to rent out his home there, move to a different part of the country and wait until the economy improves.

"Because of the economy, Sailors may have to relocate to find jobs," Panganiban added, "and not necessarily where they were looking to move to."

"My heart goes out to these Sailors who are getting caught in this (ERB)," Panganiban said. "But, we're here for them -- the FFSC. We not only offer transition assistance, but have two counselors on staff available to talk to. We'll send them information about job fairs and job opportunities, but the rest they have to do on their own."

The command is supporting these Sailors, stated both Panganiban and Verley. The Sailors have opportunities to receive one-on-one counseling, as little or as much as they need, so that they are as prepared as possible to depart the military and enter the civilian workforce.

"After I give them pre-separation counseling," Verley said. "They can come back anytime as questions come up."

"I have the resources I need (because of command support), I just need to decide what I want to do and put it in resume format," Josey said.

"I'm trying to look at it like this could 'open the door' for better opportunities" Jones added. "Things happen for a reason. I may not like how it happens, but when 'one door closes, another opens.'"



FC2(SW) Natascha Josey is another local Sailor not selected for retention.



ABF1(SW) Nathan Jones is one of four local Sailors not selected for retention by the Enlisted Retention Boards. (Photo by IC1(SW/AW) Jesse Booth)

Navy COOL offers opportunities for Sailors

Naval administration message (NAVADMIN) 396/11 released Dec. 22 provides important information on credentialing opportunities available through Navy Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL) for those selected for separation under FY12 quota-based Enlisted Retention Board (ERB).

Navy COOL is a centralized, Web-based hub that consolidates information from numerous sources at the federal, state and local levels on certifications, licenses, apprenticeships and growth opportunities that correspond with each

Navy rating, job and occupation. Navy COOL also provides funding for Navy enlisted personnel to obtain these civilian licenses and certifications.

The message describes how Sailors identified for separation may apply for a waiver from the Navy COOL requirement to have a minimum one year remaining on their enlistment to apply for funding toward commercial certification and/or licensure exams found on the Navy COOL website.

"Though it isn't the purpose of the Navy's
see *COOL* on next page

Navy examines early retirement options for some ERB-separating Sailors

As announced by the Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert during an All Hands Call at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Jan. 19, the Navy plans to offer voluntary early retirement to certain Sailors separating due to the Enlisted Retention Board (ERB).

A NAVADMIN outlining official guidance and application procedures for voluntary early retirement is forthcoming.

The National Defense Authorization Act, signed into law Dec. 31, 2011, reinstated the authority for the Department of Defense to implement Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA) for Sailors who have completed at least 15 years of service. TERA is a temporary, voluntary program that offers voluntary early retirement at a reduced monthly stipend to eligible members with 15 to 20 years of active service.

"Our Sailors have served honorably and our Navy is committed to doing all we can to help them and their families successfully transition to the civilian sector," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West. "We have aggressively pursued the option to offer early retirement benefits to eligible Sailors since Temporary Early Retirement Authority was granted. This is the right thing to do, and it ensures we provide the strongest possible transition benefits to those who qualify for retirement under TERA."

Sailors who will have completed at least 15 years of active service as of Sept. 1, 2012, and who were not selected for retention by the ERB, will be eligible for early retirement benefits under TERA.

Eligible Sailors who desire early retirement under TERA must submit an application. As TERA is not an entitlement, all eligible members must apply to receive benefits, and all applications may not necessarily be approved. Detailed application procedures will be promulgated in a future NAVADMIN. Eligible Sailors who wish to apply for TERA will have their ERB results held in abeyance to facilitate their application for voluntary retirement.

Sailors whose TERA application is ap-

proved will be retired voluntarily no later than Sept. 1, 2012, and will not be entitled to involuntary separation pay (ISP). However, Sailors will remain qualified for enhanced ERB transition benefits until their retirement date.

"We strongly encourage Sailors who are eligible for voluntary early retirement under TERA to discuss this option with their families and with their command retention team," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk. "Additionally, we're encouraging Sailors to continue to take advantage of the transition assistance benefits and resources available to them."

Sailors eligible to apply for early retirement should request to remain in the Navy through Sept. 1, 2012. NPC is now accepting Short Term Extension (STE) requests to extend a Sailors Soft End of Active Obligated Service (SEAOS) to Sept. 1, 2012, to ensure eligible Sailors have the opportunity to receive TERA benefits. Sailors should submit a request for an STE to NPC for expedited processing and approval. Further instructions on submitting STE requests are forthcoming. Because of their time-sensitive nature, commands are encouraged to expedite these requests. Once program application procedures are established, Sailors may still be able to separate prior to Sept. 1, 2012 if their application is approved and they have accumulated 15 years of service."

ERB Sailors who will reach 15 years of service after Sept. 1, 2012, will not be eligible for TERA and must separate in accordance with ERB policies no later than Sept. 1, 2012, or at the end of their operational deferment, as applicable.

For more information on the ERB, visit the NPC Web page www.npc.navy.mil or contact the NPC customer service center at CSCmailbox@navy.mil or 1-866-U-ASK-NPC.

More information on ERB transition assistance can be found on the NPC Web page at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/boards/ERB/Pages/TransitionInfo.aspx>. (Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs release)

COOL from previous page

crediting program to be used solely as a component of transition, earning an industry-recognized certification or license may provide a key factor toward a successful transition from Sailor to civilian employee," said Keith Boring, program manager, U.S. Navy Credentials Program Office.

To be eligible for credentialing, enlisted Sailors must meet one of the following eligibility requirements: they must be in the appropriate rating or occupation to which the credential is mapped; be currently working in, or have been assigned to a position to which the credential is mapped; or have prior documented experience in a position to which the credential is mapped for credentials outside of their specific rating, and

the credential has relevance or applicability to the current or future needs of the command or the Navy Reserve.

Eligibility for Sailor credentials must be validated and approved by their commanding officer or command-designated approving official. Additionally, before authorizing the request commands must also certify that Sailors have passed their most recent advancement exam, and passed or been medically waived from their most recent physical fitness assessment. The Sailor must not have received any non-judicial or courts-martial punishment within the past six months, and they must be selected for separation under FY12 quota-based ERB.

see COOL on next page



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First Class Petty Officers take the annual Navy-wide CPO Advancement Exam at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Matthew Cole)

Records from page 5

sideration will not be permanently added to a service member's OMPF. BUPERSINST 1070.27 outlines all items that should or should not be submitted by officer and enlisted personnel and how to submit those documents.

Correspondence to the board for the Fiscal Year 2013 E-7 Selection Board must be received by the NPC Customer Service Center by April 30 for the Reserve chief selection board and June 4 for active duty chief selection board. Communication to the board must originate from the individual candidate. Correspondence from the command to the president of the board will not be accepted or considered.

COOL from previous page

Sailors must be able to complete all certification requirements no less than 60 calendar days prior to separation from the Navy. Personnel must also satisfy credentialing agency eligibility requirements for the certification/licensure being sought prior to requesting exam funding.

If a service member decides to withdraw the request for exam funding or is unable to complete the Navy-funded credentialing exam prior to 60 calendar days from separating from the Navy, they are required to return any voucher not used and provide correspondence from their commanding officer confirming withdrawal for military or emergency reasons.

Sailors must also provide pass and fail results to Navy's credentialing program office within 30 calendar days of notification of exam results from the credentialing agency.

Service members affiliating with the Navy Reserve will remain eligible for continued Navy-funded credentialing exams.

"Navy COOL operates one of the most valuable ancillary programs for Sailors. It is the most organized and painless program I've used in my 23 years of Naval service.

Sailors may submit correspondence through traditional mail or by e-mail. Mailing instructions and detailed information can be found in NAVADMIN 349/11. The Reserve chief selection board convenes May 14. The active duty chief selection board convenes June 18.

The active duty chief selection board is the largest selection board conducted in the Navy. The board typically lasts five weeks, with their results forwarded to the chief of naval personnel for final approval.

For more information read NAVADMIN 349/11 and visit the "Boards" section at www.npc.navy.mil. (From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs)

Once approved, I wasn't sent a generic list of instructions; rather it was specifically tailored to the program I was applying for. It's obvious that Navy COOL maintains contact with the programs they support," said Senior Chief Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Brett Wallace who recently became certified in Anti-Terrorism and Homeland Security. "Getting my certificate in the mail was better than getting a \$500 bonus for the month, the cost of the certificate program, because I'm more competitive for advancement within the Navy and better poised for civilian employment when I retire."

The certification and licensure exam voucher request form may be downloaded from Navy COOL website, <https://www.cool.navy.mil> and submitted electronically through e-mail to navycool@navy.mil, or faxed (850) 452-6897.

For more information about Navy credentialing opportunities visit <https://www.cool.navy.mil>

For more details on the ERB exemption, review NAVADMIN 396/11. (Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs release)

Morale, Welfare & Recreation

MWR Event Calendar

Jan. 31
Stay Fitter 10K @ 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 9
Valentine Story Time
at 4 p.m. at the Library

Feb. 10
Casino Night
in the K-Bar

Feb. 14
Valentines Day 5K Fun Run/Walk
5 p.m. at the Fitness Center

Feb. 15
Learn at Lunch Parent Education
Workshop at 11:30 a.m.
in the CDC conference room

Feb. 18
Single Sailor Splatter Action
Paintball Trip
begins at 11 a.m.

**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

Bowling Leagues

In the Doghouse League Standings as of Jan. 17

Place	Team	Won	Lost
1	Alley Cats	46	26
2	Lane Breakers	43	29
3	Three J's	42.5	29.5
4	3 Minds/Gutter	38.5	33.5
5	The Guys	36	36
6	The Dusters	32	40
7	DNA	25	47
8	Spare Tires	24	48

High Score Game-Men: Jerry Brooks, 256; Rodney Malin, 234.

High Score Series-Men: Jerry Brooks, 682; Rodney Malin, 668.

Wednesday Nite Mixed Standings as of Jan. 11

Place	Team	Won	Lost
1	IBowlers	40	24
2	Big K Rollers	36	28
3	Petes Angels	36	28
4	Bad Azz	31	33
5	DUH's	30	34
6	Laugh Out Loud	29	35
7	Rat'Lers	27	37
8	I Can't Believe	27	37

High Score Game-Men: Clinton Howell, 276; JD Monroe, 275; Rodney Malin, 269.

High Score Series-Men: John Zapalac, 724; Clinton Howell, 704; Rodney Malin, 679.

High Score Game-Women: Tilde Hyndyman, 201; Mary Gonzales, 201; Lee Peters, 192.

High Score Series-Women: Lucy Clarkson, 522; Delia Monroe, 518; Shirлие Duffy, 518.



Very funny -- Dozens of Morale, Welfare and Recreation patrons enjoy the jokes and story-telling of Comedienne Shayla Rivera when she performed at the K-Bar on Jan. 12. (Courtesy photo)

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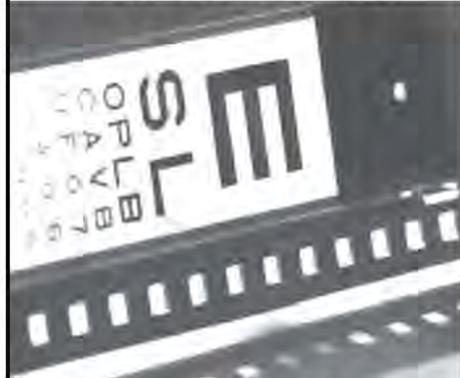


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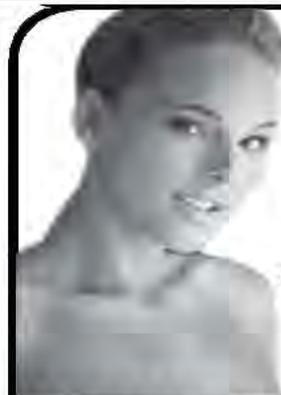
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