



# Flying K

DV embark  
program  
-- pages 6&7

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Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

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## 2012: a year in review

### Air show, ribbon cuttings, celebrations, set positive tone for new year

NAS Kingsville began 2012 looking ahead to an exciting year on board the air station.

Besides getting ready for the 2012 "Wings Over South Texas" air show, we were preparing to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the station's original commissioning on July 4, 1942, as well as ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the new Fitness Center and Navy Gateway Inn & Suites.

The Navy's Blue Angels and "Fat Albert Airlines" were set to headline the 2012 air show and military and civilian acts began falling into place during the first two months of the new year to help fill the card for the two-day event April 14-15.

Several civilian acts also confirmed that they would be part of the show. World Aerobatic Champion Rob Holland in his MX-2 committed to perform, as did air show veteran Jan Collmer of Dallas flying the FINA EXTRA 300L. Corpus Christi-native Paul Fiala also pledged to participate. And, air show announcer extraordinaire Rob Reider committed to call the shots again in 2012.

In January, plans were announced to name NAS Kingsville's new fitness center after Kingsville native Petty Officer Ronchester M. Santiago, a mess management specialist, who was one of 17 Sailors killed in the terrorist

attack on USS Cole (DDG 67) in Aden Harbor, Yemen, on Oct. 12, 2000.

Later in the month, NAS Kingsville personnel were recognized for their efforts during the local Toys for Tots 2011 program, which 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.

The NAS Kingsville color guard led the Martin Luther King Jr. parade held Jan. 16, in the city of Kingsville. The annual holiday honors the life of the prominent leader in the African-American civil rights movement.

In February, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels' "Fat Albert Airlines" team made a stop in South Texas for two weeks. It was their annual trek to Navy Auxiliary Landing Field Orange Grove to practice for the upcoming air show season. 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. About 50 local landowners, community leaders,



Aaron Watson and the Orphans of the Brazos Band played free concerts during the 2012 Wings Over South Texas air show held in April. (File photo by Jon Gagné)

military and family members took part in a barbecue and orientation visit while the team was at the Grove.

"ERB" were the letters most talked about in the beginning of the year – Enlisted Retention Boards. Several Kingsville Sailors were not selected for retention causing them to rethink their future and plan for separating from the military.

"Many of the Sailors I see are really 'stressed out,' especially the 'ERB Sailors,'" said Ramon Panganiban, a transition assistance specialist at the Fleet and Family Support Center.

"Many of them came into the Navy straight from high school and have spent the

*see Review on page 3*



### **Breaking ground --**

Ground was broken on Dec. 13 near the NAS Kingsville water tower marking the start of a 15-month water distribution and collection system project. The project will replace 70-year old water lines throughout the air station. From left are Gilbert Huff, NASK Public Works; Cmdr. Troy Hamilton, NAVFAC SE; Kingsville Commissioner Noel Pena; Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NASK CO; Kingsville Chamber of Commerce Director Alice Byers; Lt. Cmdr. Eric Haas, NASK Public Works Officer, and Jack Koptaz, NASK Contracting Officer. (Photo by Jon Gagné)

## From the Bridge



Capt. Mark McLaughlin  
Commanding Officer

Greetings Team Kingsville!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas and I wish you all a Happy New Year!

As this year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for the tremendous work you did to support the mission of training the future of Naval Aviation here at NAS Kingsville.

I, like many of you, am watching the news to see where the country is headed with regards to the fiscal cliff. I have a feeling that however it goes, things will work out in the long run, and if you are reading this, then the Mayans were wrong about their prediction, too. See, it all worked out and the world did not end.

This holiday break should be about you enjoying the time with your family and not worrying about budgets, fiscal cliff or the tragedy that occurred in Connecticut. As you recharge your batteries for the new year and the missions that are ahead of us, I do ask you though to please take a moment to remember that we have Sailors from NAS Kingsville on Individual Augments forward deployed to hot spots around the world that are unable to be home for this holiday season. Please keep them and their fellow Sailors and Marines in mind throughout this holiday season.

From my wife Kristin and I, please accept our sincere blessings for a happy and safe holiday season and I look forward to everyone's return next week.

Until next time~ Skipper Mac

## Deckplate Leadership



CMDCM(EXW/SW)  
Randy Foust  
Command Master Chief

Team Kingsville,

I hope that each of you enjoyed your Holiday! Hopefully you were able to take time to enjoy your family and friends. Please take the time to offer thoughts and prayers for our Brothers and Sisters-in-Arms who are forward-deployed, aboard ships, in aircraft or on the ground, ensuring that we are afforded the time to celebrate with our friends and families.

As the New Year approaches, it's a traditional time to reflect on the past year and to make resolutions on how to have a better next year. Please take this time, not just to eat, drink and be merry, but look into your life and make the course corrections that will push you forward.

Join me as we start a New Year, full of vigor and vitality. Stride with me as we improve our health. Challenge yourself to do just a little more. Commit to run a little further and/or a little faster. Lift a little more or add a few more reps to keep up your strength. Choose to eat grapes instead of buttery popcorn. Study just a little more for advancement, or enroll in college. Serve a group or a cause just a little longer, or add a volunteer event to your calendar. Save just a little bit more than you did last year.

Little changes can make a huge difference over the long run. Just give yourself the opportunity by planning ahead and don't make a New Year's resolution for the sake of resolutions. Set your goal, and make it obtainable. Don't worry if you need to check your progress along the way and adjust the plan as needed to succeed.

With the New Year comes new opportunities so let me pass on a few:

Spring semester starts in January, so get registered now! CPO 365 will soon be in full swing, so if you're a Future Chief Petty Officer (FCPO) (currently an E-6) don't miss

out on the PT, Training and Team Building events.

Road closures and water outages throughout the base will begin in January as Public Works begins overseeing a major water collection and distribution project aboard the air station. Be patient, pay attention to posted signs, and keep an eye on our command Facebook page and Web site for updates.

Pay attention to information passed out by your Chiefs during quarters. There will be GMTs, Navy Pride and Professionalism Training, Diversity Events, and Community Relation events to participate in. MWR will be offering Sailor and Family Centric events -- keep an eye on the marquees.

Chaplain Hardison is working to grow a tighter spiritual community on base, so join in the events you can. It's a new time at NAS Kingsville, and I look forward to seeing it with all of you!

Have a safe holiday and return to work next year!

Keep Cool, Stay Safe, Have Fun!  
CMC

## Best wishes, Chaps!



**End of tour award** -- Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer, presented a Navy Achievement Medal to Lt. Mark Haley, command chaplain, as he prepares to depart for San Diego, Calif., and his next duty station. His citation reads, in part, that from December 2009 to 2012, Haley provided sustained superior chapel ministry, conducting more than 586 worship services, 1,870 counseling sessions and 175 prayers at ceremonies. He was also instrumental in reinvigorating the community service program including Relay for Life and Feds Feed Families. Haley also oversaw Operation Shipmate, which provided food and resources for 62 enlisted Navy families. His outstanding leadership, proactive involvement and consistent superior performance significantly impacted every aspect of NAS Kingsville. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)

## Flying K

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This paper is published for people like Lt. Alex Homme, who is a Staff Judge Advocate stationed at NAS Corpus Christi. The Minneapolis, Minn., has 3 years Naval service and has been in South Texas since June.

Review from page 1

past 12-to-14 years in their current career field. This – the Navy – is all they know. My job is to prepare them to become a civilian again.”

Commander, Naval Installations Command changed hands as Vice Adm. William D. French relieved Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale during a traditional ceremony on Feb. 3 at CNIC Headquarters at the Washington Navy Yard.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program opened doors aboard the air station in mid-February.

The station hosted eight-year-old Madelyn Perez, as Pilot for A Day on Feb. 16. Madelyn, a Kingsville resident and patient at Driscoll Children’s Hospital, spent the day aboard the air station with her mother and aunt. Madelyn received a flight suit and squadron patches prior to “taking off” around the base, gearing up at the Paraloft, visiting the radar room, watching student pilots take off at the air traffic control tower, getting flight training in a simulator and being made an honorary NAS Kingsville firefighter.

NAS Kingsville’s Diversity Committee celebrated African-American History Month with an event Feb. 23. Kleberg County Sheriff Ed Mata, one of the guest speakers, talked about “opening doors,” providing opportunities for others.

More acts and another feature were added to the 2012 “Wings Over South Texas” air



ABE1 Daniel Garcia uses a forklift to raise the nose of the TA-4J aircraft and lower the tail of the aircraft as it “prepares to return home” to the air station. The aircraft had been loaned to the Kingsville Independent School District to use as a display for the aviation maintenance class. (File photo by Jon Gagné)

show in early March. Abilene, Texas-based country singer and songwriter Aaron Watson committed to headlining free concerts on both Saturday and Sunday.

“More acts will continue to be added to the line-up,” said Capt. Mark McLaughlin,

NAS Kingsville commanding officer. “But we’re thrilled to add two free concerts to the line-up of events that we will offer the community with this year’s air show. We are working to make this the ‘best ever’ air show in South Texas.”

Then, Indy Boys Inc., motor sports entertainment joined the civilian acts. Paul Stender, vehicle builder and driver, planned to bring both his jet-powered school bus and jet-powered outhouse.

A dedicated team of NAS Kingsville personnel and workers from Munchkin Erection, Co., joined together to bring a TA-4J “Skyhawk” home to the air station in February. The aircraft, which departed the base in 1994, hadn’t been very far from home during the 18 years away, just 3 or 4 miles from the main gate of the air station, tucked neatly inside an aviation maintenance building at H.M. Kings High School.

The aircraft had been loaned to the Kingsville Independent School District by the National Museum of Naval Aviation to use as a display for the aviation maintenance class. Due to limitations on what the school could and could not do with the aircraft, set by the Naval Aviation Museum, it pretty much was only used for display inside the building, taking up a lot of space.

The high school dropped the aviation maintenance program in 2010 and the ISD decided to return the aircraft to the Navy.

In March, Flying Ace Kent Pietsch was added to the air show line up, adding more excitement and comedy to the program. And, a historical act was also added – the Disabled

see Review on page 4

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The Navy's Blue Angels headlined the 2012 Wings Over South Texas air show held in mid-April. Also performing was World Aerobatic Champion Rob Holland in his MX-2. (Courtesy photo)

## Review from page 3

American Veterans (DAV) Flight Team and their B-25 Mitchell Bomber.

Four-year-old Matthew Garza, of Bishop, was the March Pilot For a Day. Matthew, an oncology patient at Driscoll Children's Hospital, toured the air station and earned his Wings of Gold with his family in tow.

The base took part in Navywide force protection exercises March 19-24. Exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2012 were conducted on all continental U.S. Navy installations and Navy ships, and impacted all Naval forces including installation commands and tenant activities.

The two exercises occurred simultaneously and trained and tested security force personnel throughout a number of force-protection scenarios.

"We learned a lot from the exercise," McLaughlin said, "especially how important it is how we respond."

The end of March and beginning of April saw a lot going on behind the scenes as preparations were being finalized for the 2012 Wings Over South Texas air show including firming up the lineup of military and civilian acts, and the planning of placing static displays along the flight line.

The Month of the Military Child was celebrated by the preschoolers from the Child Development Center with NAS Commanding Officer Capt. Mark McLaughlin signing a proclamation designated as such.

And, then we "braced ourselves" for Air Show Weekend!

There were several preshow activities that got "Air Show Week" kicked off, including a "Meet the Blues" event organized by Kleberg County Parks and Recreation, Kingsville Chamber of Commerce and the Kingsville Convention and Visitors Bureau at held at the J.K. Northway Convention Center.

Also, about 8,000 students from throughout South Texas also attended a pre-show pep rally held at Texas A&M University-Kingsville's Javelina Stadium.

Air Show announcer Rob Reider served as emcee for the happenings during the pep rally which included a video of University President Dr. Steve Tallant's ride with the Blue Angels held earlier in the week; talking to the Blue Angels and flyovers of several acts that would be performing throughout the weekend.

The air show -- with free admission and ample free parking, as well as numerous pre-air show activities planned -- meant we expected a record-breaking number of visitors. And, we were not disappointed -- even with strong winds for the Saturday show and overcast skies for the Sunday show. Aviation enthusiasts from throughout South Texas and afar drew more than 115,000 spectators.

The majority of spectators attended the Saturday show, which produced the strongest winds, with gusts reaching 25 mph. An estimated 70,000 people turned out for the opening day of the weekend show.

"All in all, the weather turned out to be just fine," said NAS Kingsville air boss and air show coordinator Lt. Cmdr. Dave Anderson. "The crowds were lower on Sunday. The forecast for possible showers may have hurt attendance. Still, the show went on and we're pleased with the attendance numbers."

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NAS Kingsville's state-of-the-art fitness center opened May 5. (File photo)

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**Bowling Leagues**

**In the Doghouse League Standings as of Dec. 18**

Place	Team	Won	Lost
1	Los Leones	45.5	17.5
2	DNA	41.5	22.5
3	Alley Cats	37.5	26.5
4	3 Minds/Gutter	35.5	28.5
5	Spare Tires	33	31
6	Three J's	27	37
7	Here 4 the Beer	27	37
8	Ghost	0	0

**High Score Game-Men:** Hardy Robertson, 224; Roberto Herrera, 216.

**High Score Series-Men:** JD Monroe, 569; Buddy Wilson, 532.

**Wednesday Nite Mixed Standings as of Dec. 12**

Place	Team	Won	Lost
1	IBowlers	31	21
2	I Can't Believe	29	23
3	Big K Rollers	28	24
4	Petes Angels	27	25
5	Laugh Out Loud	27	25
6	DUHs	25	27
7	Rattlers	22	30
8	Slow Moving	16	36

**High Score Game-Men:** Rodney Malin, 259; Isaac Vidaurri, 256; Monty Bryant, 247.

**High Score Series-Men:** Rodney Malin, 671; John Zapalac, 662; Joey Soliz, 622.

**High Score Game-Women:** Carmen Arevalo, 245; Lucy Clarkson, 219; Shirlie Duffy, 209.

**High Score Series-Women:** Carmen Arevalo, 563; Lucy Clarkson, 526; Doris Wallis, 518.

**NAS Kingsville Religious Services Offered**

**Sunday**  
**at McFall Memorial Chapel**  
 10:30 a.m. - Family Bible Worship  
 12:30 p.m. - Catholic Mass

**Wednesday**  
 7 p.m. - Officer Christian Fellowship  
 at Hunter's Cove Community Center

**Thursday**  
 11:30 - Luncheon Bible Study in the Chapel  
 4:30 p.m. - Catholic Choir Practice  
 5:30 p.m. - Protestant Music/Prayer  
 6 p.m. - Dinner Fellowship with Bible Study

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Part 2 of 2-part series

# DV embarks provide inside look at the Navy

By Jon Gagné & Fifi Kieschnick  
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

*Note: In our first installment of this two-part feature about the Navy's Distinguished Visitor (DV) Embark Program, we focused on the various programs at the upper levels of the Navy designed to provide nationally known DVs or VIPs with a unique look at Navy operations at Sea to further understanding of the Navy mission as a Global Force for Good. In this installment, we'll look at how offering DV Embarks to local and regional DVs and VIPs can be a win-win for the local command and community, as well as the Navy and Marine Corps.*

When it comes to sharing the Navy story with local civic, educational and business leaders, few opportunities can compare to the Navy's Distinguished Visitor (DV) Embark Program.

This program, whether at the national, regional or local level, provides a unique look at Navy operations at sea aboard an active Navy aircraft carrier. It's a rare glimpse at today's Global Navy Force at work, and a program that truly is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for those who are fortunate enough to participate.

Most communities are well aware of how important military installations are to the local economy. But often times the roles these commands play in the bigger picture of today's Navy and Marine Corps' Global Force is misunderstood. The Navy DV Embark Program is specifically designed to give these influential leaders a firsthand look

at how the Navy operates.

Participants are nominated for the program by local commanders. There are a number of factors that come in to play before being officially approved for participation, but the leading factors include holding a position of influence within their communities, and having little or no prior exposure to the Navy. Each participant pays all expenses of the program, including travel, berthing and meals.

"The DV Embark Program provides a unique opportunity to increase the public's understanding and appreciation for the Navy," said Suzanne Speight, who coordinates the regional DV Embark Program for Navy Region Southeast, headquartered at NAS Jacksonville, Fla. "Reaching out to key influencers in communities where we operate in the southeast region, and offering them the chance to see the work our young men and women are doing day-in and day-out, gives them a better understanding of how important the Navy is in protecting this country and our freedoms."

These individuals, in turn, Speight added, make positive contributions to the public understanding of the roles and missions of the Navy by having their experience promoted through their own circles of influence.

"DV's return to their communities and speak to civic groups, family members, business leaders and others, telling the Navy story to the American public," Speight added. "Programs like this are an essential tool in creating public support and understanding of the operations, mission, and requirements of the Navy. We live and work in these



This photo is posted on Jeff Kane's facebook page with the following comments: "Yes that's a teenager at the wheel of a \$6.2 BILLION aircraft carrier. Confident, professional, courteous, and capable. You want the face of today's Navy? This is it." (Courtesy photo)

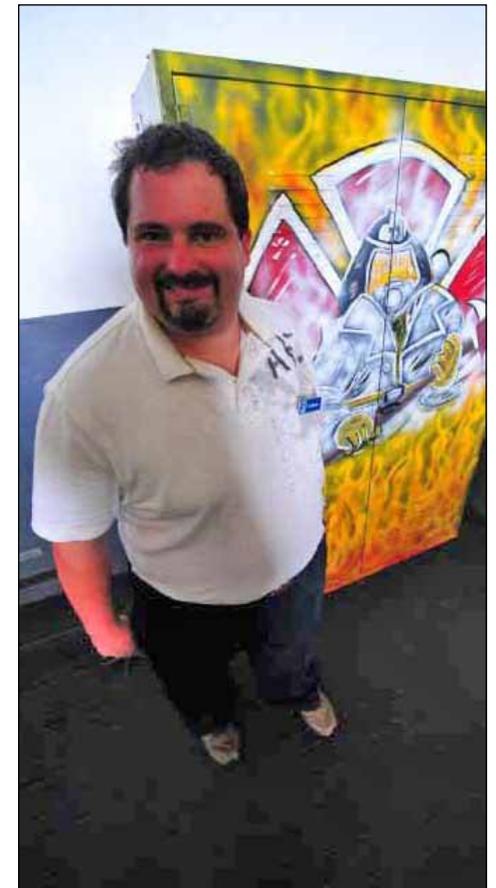
communities, so anything we can do to foster good relations is a win-win situation."

NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO have taken advantage of the Navy DV Embark Program in the past to show how Navy and Marine Corps Student Naval Aviators complete the final evolution of jet/strike training en route to earning their coveted "Wings of Gold" and the designation as Naval Aviators. To "carrier qualify," students must successfully complete 14 landings and 10 arrested landings aboard the carrier.

"Carrier 'quals' are the highlight of jet training for our student pilots," said Capt. Joe Evans, Commander, Training Air Wing TWO. "Carrier quals not only provide the students their first experiences of taking off and landing aboard an aircraft carrier at sea, but it also is a final exam!

"It's a very big deal when they obtain their carrier qualifications, for both the students and the command. Sharing this experience with leaders from the local community through the DV Embark program provides Navy leadership the opportunity to show how their individual mission connects to the overall mission of the Navy."

Dick Messbarger, executive director of the Kingsville Economic Development Council, has helped line up potential participants for the DV Embark Program for NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO. He is an avid supporter of the program and fully understands its value to local business owners, educators and civic leaders.



This photo of Jeff Kane in one of the passageways aboard USS Bush (CVN 77) is also posted on his facebook page. (Courtesy photo)



This photo of Monica Pena-Moore, left, Tripp Batey and Marilyn Bartlett on board USS Bush (CVN 77) is posted on Marilyn's facebook page. (Courtesy photo)

see *Embark* on next page



**Wings of Gold** -- Two winging ceremonies were held in December -- Friday, Dec. 14, and Saturday, Dec. 15. Bravo zulu to all the Student Naval Aviators who earned their coveted Wings of Gold. Pictured above are leadership and students who were winged on Dec. 14. From left are: (front row) Cmdr. Darren Guenther, Training Squadron 22 commanding officer; Capt. Joe Evans, commander, Training Air Wing TWO; 1st Lt. Karl Bronk; Lt.j.g. Brendan Kelly; Lt.j.g. Zachary Huff; 1st Lt. Andrew Williamson; Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville CO; Cmdr. Rey Molina, TW2 chief staff officer; Cmdr. Charles Stahl, VT-21 executive officer; (back row) Maj. Joshua Zager, TW2 senior Marine; Lt. Cmdr. Robert Hanvey, VT-21 operations officer; 1st Lt. Kevin Smith; Lt.j.g. Jarom Gunderson; Lt.j.g. Richard Packer; 1st Lt. Sean McHugh; Maj. Michael Anderson, VT-21 senior Marine; and Maj. Wesley Deaver, VT-22 senior Marine. Pictured right are leadership and students who were winged on Dec. 15. From left are Deaver; Evans; Lt.j.g. Nicholas Murray; Lt.j.g. Christopher Jibilian; Capt. Patrick Parker, of VT-22; Lt.j.g. William Revell; Lt.j.g. Bryan Kauffman; Guenther; and Stahl. (Photos Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs)

## *Embark from previous page*

“The Navy is the largest economic engine for Kingsville and the Coastal Bend (of South Texas),” Messbarger said. “Having an opportunity to witness first-hand operations on an aircraft carrier, including getting an arrested landing and catapult launch aboard the ship, provides a better understanding of the what and the why of NAS Kingsville. You have an opportunity to meet and talk with everyone from the 19-year-old Sailor working on the flight deck to the ship’s commanding officer, and piece together the training at NAS Kingsville with the actual operations on the carrier.”

Messbarger added that the takeaways from this experience far outweigh any negatives.

“Participation in this program provides DVs a snapshot look at how the 5,000 highly-trained personnel that live and work on a floating city do their job in all kinds of weather, under all possible conditions - and do it in a very professional manner. Watching 19-year-old Sailors wearing different colored shirts coordinating the high-intensity activity on the flight deck is nothing short of amazing and inspiring.”

Participants return from these visits, Messbarger added, with a new sense of respect for role the Navy plays in the defense of freedom.

“Whether these people share their experience with civic

groups or with other individuals, the message is the same: our Navy and the nation’s defense is in very good hands.”

Jeff Kane, vice president for marketing for Sam Kane Beef Processors of Corpus Christi, is one of most recent participants in the DV Embark Program for Training Air Wing TWO. Up until the time of his embark aboard USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), his contact with the Navy had been limited to attending special events and ceremonies at NAS Corpus Christi. What he took away from the program, in his words, was “simply incredible.”

Kane made the trip “to the boat” along with three other South Texas professionals that included Dr. Marilyn Bartlett of Texas A&M University-Kingsville; Tripp Batey, a Corpus Christi business owner; and Monica Pena-Moore, a member of the South Texas Chamber of Commerce. Kane said he was surprised at how receptive the ship’s command was to their visit.

“From the full-throttle arresting wire landing in the C2-A Greyhound aircraft, to the catapult shot off the flight deck the next day, my time aboard the carrier can accurately be described as a whirlwind,” Kane said. “Capt. DeWolfe Miller, Bush commanding officer, spent individual time with each of us to explain the critical mission of the ship and how important it was that every member of the crew

worked together. I could write pages about what amazing aspects of carrier life we saw, yet it was this personification of the ‘Mission Critical’ concept that most awed me.

“I fully expected that the captain, executive officer and other officers would understand and embody this 100 percent,” Kane added. “What I didn’t expect was that everyone -- from the 18-year old Sailor doing ‘Human Chain’ resupply from a COD down to cold storage, to the shiny-cheeked 20-year old Sailor manning the helm of our multi-billion dollar conveyance -- would embody the ‘Mission Critical’ aspect as well. It’s an indescribable pride and determination; an innate knowledge that every task to be performed, no matter how menial, is crucial to defending the United States of America.”

Kane said of all the incredible sights, sounds, and experiences the group witnessed; from watching the massive flight deck catapults in action, to watching NAS Kingsville pilots conduct carrier qualifications, nothing matched the humbling pride and dedication of those serving our carrier and country.

“As I was told,” Kane added, “this was the trip of a lifetime as the Navy only lets an individual participate once. That’s a shame, as I’d proffer some vitals for the chance to go again.”

# Elizabeth

*Elizabeth is about 9 months old  
as of 8/15/2012.*

*She got her name because her and another puppy walked into Christus Spohn Shoreline Emergency room. Both were in very bad shape. After the doctors cared for them for just a little while, they called Chanel 3 news and they were transported to us. (Feb. 2012) This sweet girl is receiving weekly mitaban dips until her hair has fully grown back as she had some mange when brought in. She is already starting to look much better. Her brother-Christus found a new home, however Elizabeth is still waiting. We invite folks to come in and meet her-and give her the gift of a loving home for the holidays.*



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### Review from page 4

The Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team was the featured act. Other Headline acts included 2011 National Aerobatic Champion and Former World Aerobatic Champion Rob Holland; the U.S. Navy F/A-18E "Super Hornet" Tactical Demonstration Team from VFA-122; the U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command's Heritage Flight and B-1B Bomber; the Disabled American Veterans B-25 Mitchell Bomber, the Horsemen Flight Team; and Randy Ball's Russian-made MiG-17.

Other acts included stunt pilot Kent Pietsch, the Indy Boys and their jet-powered school bus, King Ranch pilot Paul Fiala, and air show veteran Jan Collmer. The Naval Air Training Command also provided a four-plane, T-45 Goshawk power demonstration.

Tejano music recording artist Jennifer Pena and Kingsville resident Sandra Messbarger opened the weekend shows each day by singing the national anthem, and country music recording artist Aaron Watson and his Orphans of the Brazos Band rocked the crowds each day with a mid-show concert.

After the air show, it returned to "business as usual" on board the air station.

The Fleet and Family Support Center presented "Sex Signals," as part of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month in late April. "Sex Signals" is an interactive play that uses humor and audience participation to empower personnel with knowledge that they can use to help prevent sexual assault.

"The truth of sexual assault is that you could be sitting next to someone who was assaulted and not even know it because they didn't report it," said Cmdr. Scott Wilmot, NAS Kingsville executive officer, to the military and civilian personnel gathered at the Captain's Club to watch the interactive



NAS Kingsville's fitness complex is named in honor of Petty Officer Ronchester Santiago who lost his life when USS Cole (DDG 67) was attacked by suicide bombers. Here, his parents Simona and Rogelio, alongside Capt. Mark McLaughlin, unveil his photo and plaque which hangs at the front of the \$12.7 million facility. (File photo)

play.

The end of April saw several members of the NAS Kingsville Team retire. Command Master Chief AW/SW/FMF) Charlie Ratliff, our senior enlisted leader, retired April 20, leaving behind a legacy of Sailors who have succeeded in their Navy careers.

Air Boss Lt. Cmdr. Dave Anderson also retired from the U.S. Navy. "(At Air Operations), I've been fortunate to serve with the greatest Sailors I have ever have the privilege of standing alongside during my 20 years of service."

Frances Baker retired from civil service after serving 30 years at the NAS Kingsville Security Department. Baker had provided visitors to the base their first impression of the command and its people. Her cheerful greeting and inviting smile had greeted thousands of customers at the air station Pass and Tag office.

*see Review on next page*



NAS Kingsville's newly refurbished Navy Gateway Inn and Suites opened its doors June 1. This fall, NGIS managers received word that they had earned the Zumwalt award for excellence. (File photo)

**Review from previous page**

A T-45 Goshawk from Training Air Wing TWO went down near Encino, Texas, at the end of May. The two pilots safely ejected and were airlifted back to Kingsville.

NAS Kingsville firefighters arrived on scene, and with the assistance from the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, were able to find the wreckage in a remote area.

NAS Kingsville's new fitness center partially opened May 5. And the new Navy Gateway Inns and Suites opened June 1. Ribbon cutting ceremonies for both facilities were held on June 7.

The ribbon was cut on the \$12.7 million Fitness Complex named in honor of Petty Officer Ronchester Santiago by his parents Simona and Rogelio. And, a photo of their son and a plaque dedicating the new fitness center to their son's memory was unveiled.

The base opened its doors to more than 250 Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadets during the first two weeks of June. The cadets from throughout South Texas were attending a two-week Summer Leadership Camp and the students not only toured the air station but also partook in an orienteering exercise at South Field.

NAS Kingsville's newest member of the team and senior enlisted leader reported aboard in June. Command Master Chief (EXW/SW) Randy Foust, his wife Sara, and their children were warmly welcomed not only on station but also in the city of Kingsville.

Throughout the summer the base collected school supplies for those in need through Operation School Supplies. And, the base participated in the Feds Feed Families food drive, which kicked off in June and ran through the end of August. Donations totaling nearly 4,600 pounds of food items were collected and brought to the local food pantry.

Twenty teams of four teed-it-up for the

annual Navy Ball Golf Tournament presented by the Kingsville Navy League June 29, at L.E. Ramey golf course in Kingsville. Team Air Operations took top honors and pretty much tamed the course by turning in a 20-under par 52. The event raised more than \$5,000, which defrays costs for the air station's annual Navy Birthday Ball.

The skies were set ablaze aboard NAS Kingsville July 4. There was food, fun and fireworks for the annual Independence Day celebration and the marking of the air station's

70th anniversary of its commissioning. More than 700 people attended the event sponsored by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department and held at the Captain's Club. The festivities began at dusk with the Patriot Guard Riders of South Texas group ride around the air station.

August brought word that NAS Kingsville's new NGI&S was awarded the coveted Zumwalt Award with a rating of five stars.

"The 5-star Zumwalt award is the highest honor that is given for an outstanding NGIS operation," said CSCM (SW/AW) Fidel Medina, combined bachelor housing department head. "I've been in the Navy for almost 28 years and this is the first time one of my facilities has earned this rating. I am very excited to receive this award."

Everyone took a moment on Sept. 11, to remember those who lost their lives on that day in 2001. Aboard NAS Kingsville, following morning colors, about 100 people took part in a Freedom Walk, which began at the headquarters building flagpole and ended with a touching ceremony at McFall Memorial Chapel.

The month of September was recognized as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and the air station held an all hands call to continue efforts to prevent Sailors from



The base participated in the Feds Feed Families food drive collecting nearly 4,600 pounds of food items for the local food pantry. (File photo)



The Honorable Juan Garcia, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) was the guest speaker for the NAS Kingsville Navy Ball. Pictured here, Capt. Mark McLaughlin presents him with a plaque commemorating the occasion. (File photo)



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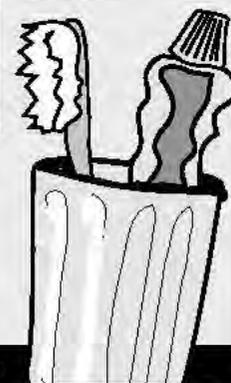
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## Review from page 9

making suicide a choice to relieve the pain from stress, challenges and difficulties they may be facing.

“We are asking you to ACT – ask, care, treat,” said MAC (SW) Bill Worthen, suicide prevention coordinator. “Pay attention to what people are saying to prevent a potential tragedy.”

At the end of September, NAS Kingsville was designated as a “StormReady Community” by the National Weather Service. The base joined 128 other Texas communities currently designated and became the first military installation in South Texas to achieve StormReady-status.

“Obtaining ‘StormReady’ status for the command is something we have been working toward for some time now,” said Monette Walker, NAS Kingsville emergency manager. “This recognition is certainly a team award because reaching this goal took the combined efforts of all NAS Kingsville departments and tenant activities. Gaining ‘StormReady’ status shows that all NAS Kingsville activities know what is required to react and respond to weather contingencies in an effective and coordinated manner.”

A nationwide bell-ringing ceremony was held Oct. 12, marking the Navy’s 237th birthday, and a ceremony to honor the memory of native-son Petty Officer Ronchester Santiago was held that afternoon

at his grave at Santa Gertrudis Memorial Cemetery. Santiago was one of 17 Sailors killed when USS Cole (DDG 67) was attacked by suicide bombers while it harbored and refueled in the Yemen port of Aden Oct. 12, 2000.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) the Honorable Juan M. Garcia III was the featured speaker at NAS Kingsville’s annual Navy Birthday Ball, which was held Oct. 13, at the Captain’s Club. More than 200 shipmates and guests turned out for the annual ball. It not only celebrated the Navy’s 237th birthday, but it was also dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the commissioning of NAS Kingsville.

During his remarks, Garcia spoke about his latest program, the 21st Century Sailor and Marine Initiative, which combines a set of new and existing objectives and policies, in an effort to maximize Sailor and Marine readiness. The initiative seeks to ensure all Sailors and Marines are mentally and physically sound, while providing the awareness, skills and support needed to excel long after they’ve hung up their uniforms.

NAS Kingsville Sailors participated in several events honoring veterans on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, including the annual Bishop Elementary School “Salute to Veterans,” Ricardo Elementary and Middle



A historic announcement was made at the end of November by officials from the Department of Defense, Department of Navy, E.On Climate & Renewables North America, and Petronila Wind Farm of a signing of a memorandum of agreement to allow the developer to build and operate new wind turbines in Nueces County, Texas, while working to protect the Navy’s ability to continue its training mission in South Texas. (File photo)

ET1(SCW/SW) Dominic Scavo and ET1 Sam Sanchez carry boxes loaded with collected toys for the annual Toys for Tots campaign. They were just two of many “elves” who worked at Santa’s Workshop packaging and distributing gifts to give to needy families during the annual campaign. According to Lisa Bockholt, area campaign coordinator, this year’s event was able to provide gifts for nearly 2,500 children in the local area. Sanchez served as NAS Kingsville’s volunteer coordinator for the campaign. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)



School’s annual salute, and the annual parade throughout downtown Kingsville.

About 50 personnel representing NAS Kingsville volunteered during the annual King Ranch “Ranch Hand Breakfast” held Nov. 17. Volunteers cooked, served, manned the warmers and parked thousands of cars.

The end of the month saw a historic announcement from officials from the Department of Defense, Department of Navy, E.On Climate & Renewables North America, and Petronila Wind Farm of a signing of a memorandum of agreement to allow the developer to build and operate new wind turbines in Nueces County, Texas, while working to protect the Navy’s ability to continue its training mission at NAS Kingsville and NAS Corpus Christi. Representatives from each organization participated in a ceremony and base tour to commemorate the agreement.

“The Navy is at the forefront of alternative energy use and production, and the Navy supports such projects when they are compatible with our mission,” said Rear Adm. Jack Scorby, Commander, Navy Region Southeast. “The agreement will enable this wind turbine project to move forward while putting measures in place that work to preserve vital pilot training capability at NAS Kingsville and NAS Corpus Christi.”

Kingsville personnel participated in the

annual La Posada Parade through downtown Kingsville Dec. 1. NAS Kingsville Ground Electronics personnel set up the judges’ sound system and base personnel entered several floats in the parade, including the Junior Enlisted Association “float,” a U.S. Army Reserve deuce-and-a-half; the Branch Health Clinic’s USNS Comfort; the Chief Petty Officers Association’s “Support our Troops” float; and the command sleigh supporting the annual Toys for Tots Campaign.

The year ended with the start of the holiday season and thoughts of sharing, giving and spending time with loved ones. Operation Shipmate, managed by the Chaplain’s Office, collected nonperishable food items and monetary donations so that junior Sailors could enjoy full traditional holiday meals.

And, NAS Kingsville Sailors could be found in Santa’s Workshop. The local Toys for Tots Campaign kicked off in October, and NAS Kingsville Sailors and civilians served as elves collecting toys from generous base personnel. They spent two weeks in December in Santa’s Workshop packaging gifts and handing them out to local needy families.

We look forward to another exciting year in 2013. With more events to celebrate and continued construction to “leave the ranch better than we found it!”

All the best for a happy and healthy new year!

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