



# Flying K

Operation School Supplies begins July 16. Turn to page 5 for details.

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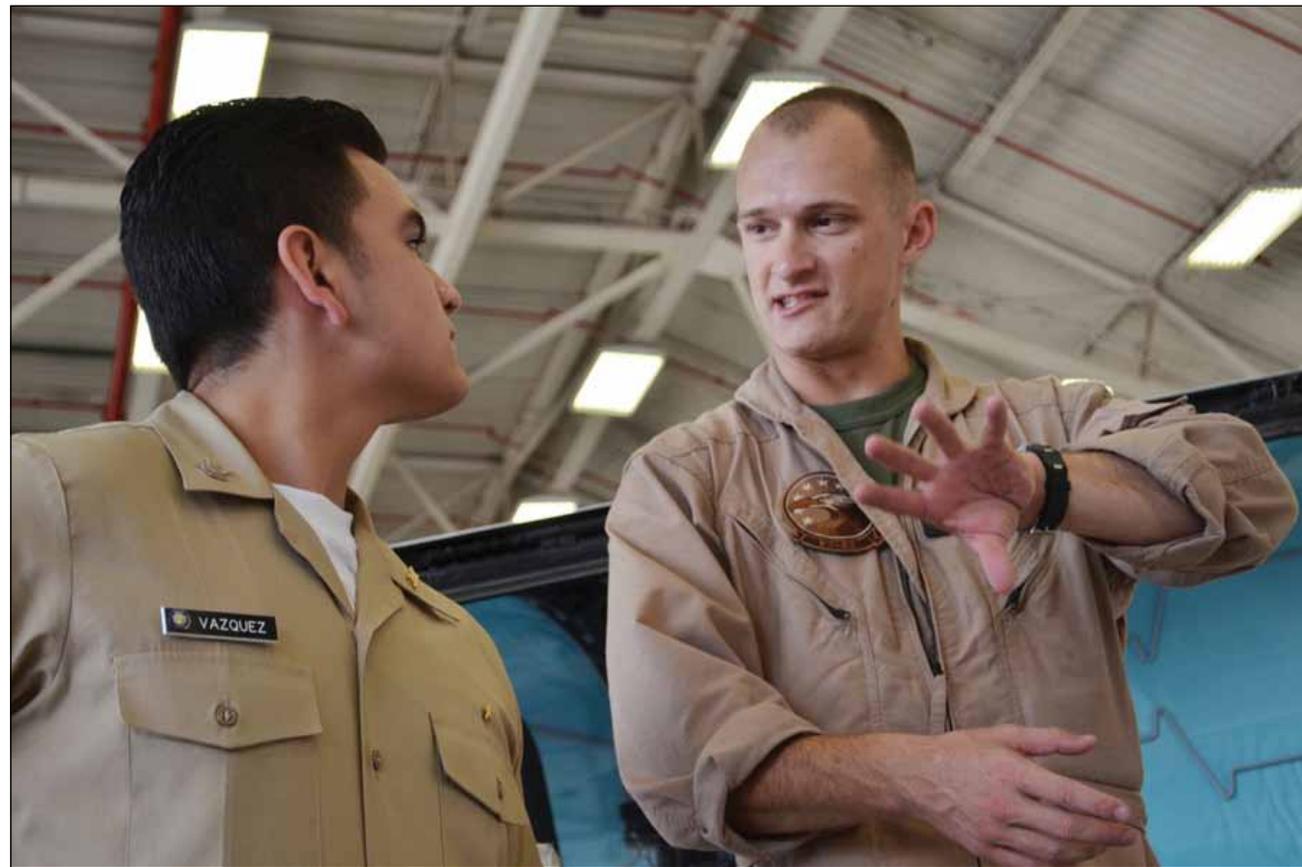
Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

www.cnic.navy.mil/kingsville

June 29, 2012



**NAS Kingsville's Independence Day celebration will be held July 4, from 7 to 10 p.m., at the Captain's Club. Games & activities for kids of all ages will be available, as well as free food & water, & live entertainment by Country Artist Beau Walker. Fireworks begin about 9 p.m. ... And, don't miss out on the City/Air Station softball rematch at 5 p.m. at Kleberg Park.**



Marine 1st Lt. Michael Frazier, right, talks to an NJROTC cadet about Naval aviation. He also provided the cadets a look into the cockpit of a T-45 Goshawk at the squadron hangar.

## NAS Kingsville welcomes South Texas NJROTC

**By Jon Gagné**  
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

NAS Kingsville opened its doors to more than 250 Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) Cadets during the first two weeks of June. The visits included cadets from Mayde Creek High School in Houston and cadets from through

South Texas attending a two-week Summer Leadership Camp on the campus of Texas A&M University Kingsville.

Over the last five years NAS Kingsville has become a popular installation to visit for the cadets, all high school students. The big draw for the cadets is the opportunity to see Navy jets and meet flight students going through training, as well as the facilities behind the scenes that provide crucial support services for the training air wing.

"Conducting tours for these high school kids is great," said Training Air Wing TWO Strike Operations Officer Lt. Cmdr. Chris Marlar. "What impresses me the most about these kids is that they all seem focused on their futures and that they have a genuine interest in what we do. That makes these tours fun for us, too."

Historically, April through June are the peak months for tours and visits to the air station for high school NJROTC programs. While some high school students are already enjoying their summer breaks, these students are still active in their NJROTC programs – learning skills that will help them years down the road.

"Our cadets love to come to NAS Kingsville," said Mayde Creek High School Senior Science Instructor Capt. (Ret) James

Kilpatrick. "They enjoy visiting the air traffic control tower and the radar room just as much as they do the jets at the squadrons and the flight simulators. It's an eye-opening experience for them – especially when they're interacting with Sailors close to their own age."

The Mayde Creek cadets visited June 12 and toured Air Operations, the squadron hangar and the Ground Training complex. The Summer Leadership Camp, which had 100 cadets visit on June 7 and over 150 cadets visit on June 14, had a slightly different itinerary.

"We include an orienteering challenge for the kids when we come to NAS Kingsville," said Summer Leadership Coordinator Capt. (Ret) Jeff Carlson. "The air station has allowed us to use a portion of South Field to conduct this training, and we send our cadets out with a compass and a map and see if they can navigate their way through the challenge."

Temperatures reached nearly 100 degrees both days the cadets were aboard NAS Kingsville, but they didn't seem to be bothered by the heat. Their tour guides, 13 members of the NAS Kingsville Junior

*see NJROTC on page 7*

## Feds Feed Families food drive now underway

NAS Kingsville is participating in the Feds Feed Families food drive, which kicked off the beginning of June and will run through the end of August.

The NAS Kingsville Religious Ministries team has placed boxes through the air station to collect nonperishable food items. The food drive is for all Federal employees and families, and is to help meet growing needs resulting from the economic downturn and expand the impact on existing organizations.

During summer months, school nutrition programs are not available to serve children meals. And, recent donations to nationwide food banks have declined, though demand has increased. The Feds Feed Families food drive addresses the need for replenishment during the summer months.

The Department of Defense set a goal to collect 2 million pounds of nonperishable food items to distribute throughout food banks on a local level, nationwide.

Suggested donations include canned goods, multigrain cereals, juices, condiments, snack foods, hygiene items, paper products and household items.

"We have a great opportunity to help give back to our community and to all the communities nationwide," said Lt. Mark Haley, NAS Kingsville Chaplain.

All items collected aboard the air station will be donated to local food banks in Kingsville, Corpus Christi, Alice, and throughout Kenedy County.

For more information, contact the Chaplain's office at 516-6618.

## From the Bridge



Capt. Mark McLaughlin  
Commanding Officer



Greetings Team Kingsville,

Well, I'm back!

I'm sending out to all of Team Kingsville my heartfelt "thank you" for doing what you do each and every day in support of the Fleet, Fighter and Family. Having been out of the country for the past two weeks, it is certainly nice to get home and even more impressive to see that the base never missed a beat during my absence. Well done to all and thank you.

Upon my return I learned of the passing of Mr. Lupe Moncivais. Many of you probably don't recognize the name nor can place the face, but you will now; he was our Postmaster here at NAS Kingsville for many years. All alone for hours on end in the very small post office on the first deck of the headquarters building, Mr. Moncivais was always there to handle the mail, and offer you a mint Lifesaver during your visit. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Moncivais family. He will be missed.

We have a big week ahead with the 4th of July celebration next Wednesday. All are encouraged to attend the many festivities that will be held here, including our annual fireworks display that evening. As a reminder, Wednesday the 4th is an observed national holiday so enjoy your time off; however, I request you take into consideration that we

have to finish the week with full workdays on Thursday and Friday. So during your holiday, ensure you are safe in your activities and remember that I need each and every one of you back to work the next day focused on our mission.

Finally, I'd like to welcome aboard our new Command Master Chief to NAS

Kingsville. He is CMDCM Randy Foust, but to all, just call him Master Chief! He has arrived from Guam and will fit in very well here. Show him around your spaces within the next few weeks and let's ensure he gets the full South Texas welcome.

Until Next Time~Skipper Mac

## MCPON: Sailors, families think safety first during summer

By MCC(SW/AW) Sonya Ansarov  
Office of the MCPON

Summertime means fun in the sun, vacations and a myriad of outdoor activities, and the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) wants Sailors and families to think safety first.

"Each year the Navy loses service members to senseless and avoidable mishaps, and the summer season brings the potential for increased risk," said MCPON(SS/SW) Rick D. West.

According to the Naval Safety Center, in 2011, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, 16 Sailors and 15 Marines lost their lives. One in an ATV wreck; three drowned; three during recreational activities; 11 in motor vehicles; and 13 on motorcycles.

"Losing even one Sailor or Marine is too many, especially when most of the incidents can be avoided with the proper planning and training," said West.

Training is the priority when it comes to motorcycle safety. According to Naval Safety Center, motorcycle fatalities increased from six in 2010 to 13 in 2011, which is more than a 100 percent increase.

"Closing the training gap on motorcycle safety needs to be top priority for our lead-

ers," said West. "Personal motor vehicle accidents are the second highest cause of fatalities in our Navy, and motorcycles are the primary casual factor with sports bikes. Command safety representatives play an important role in mitigating this risk by mentoring and educating our Sailors, and more importantly, ensuring they are registered and complete all required motorcycle training."

The Naval Safety Center's summer campaign "Live to Play, Play to Live," also focuses on alcohol awareness, water and boat safety, sexual assault, suicide awareness, and summer sports activities.

"Start planning safety now," said West. "Whether you are on the highways, waterways or in the backyard, safety must come first. And if you drink, don't drive and have a plan to get home."

When traveling long distances, remember to use TRiPS, the on-line, automated risk-assessment tool that helps users recognize and avoid the hazards they face on the highway: fatigue, not buckling up, and driving too far. TRiPS is located at <https://www.nko.navy.mil>.

"You and your families are important to the Navy," said West. "Use the tools the Navy provides and remember to think safety first."

like an all-American hometown, from Harrel's Kingsville Pharmacy and the Rio 7 Movie Theater, to Casino night at the Captain's Club and the newly opened Ronchester M. Santiago Fitness Center.

A few facts about me: I spent 24 years serving as an electronics technician (ET), and the last three as a command master chief (CMC). I have served on four ships and no, none of my COs were Noah. I have also served on one air station (NAS Jacksonville), two tours at Great Lakes, Ill., and two overseas tours. I have served on both coasts, and both overseas tours were on islands: Iceland and Guam.

My family has accompanied me here: Sara, my wife of 22 years, Adam, my son, who has enlisted in the Navy and is waiting to report to boot camp in September, and Ashley, my daughter, who will be attending Texas A&M University - Kingsville this fall.

I have just a few rules: You never know unless you ask. If my door is open, it's open to you -- no matter who you are or what you need. I always "have a minute" so you don't need to ask.

As the summer heats up, I strongly encourage everyone to keep personal operational risk management (ORM) in mind. Weigh the risk against the outcome; always remember alcohol, firearms and fireworks do not mix.

What a great time to be returning to the Continental United States with our country celebrating our nation's 237th birthday in just five days! Two hundred thirty-seven years ago our forefathers took a stand to stop the exploitation of our people; today our brothers and sisters-in-arms are forward-deployed taking that same stance to help other nations break free of their tyrannical oppressors and keep the fight off our sovereign territory.

As we play softball and enjoy our all-American hotdogs and burgers with fireworks, remember the Fourth of July is our day to celebrate, but others are paying for it to be our day always! God bless America and Hoooyah Warriors! Be safe and have fun.

Very Respectfully,  
CMC Foust

## Flying K

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## Deckplate Leadership



CMDCM (EXW/SW)  
Randy Foust  
Command Master Chief



Hello Kingsville Team, Family,

Command Master Chief Randy Foust reporting for duty! Thank you CSCM Medina for your service to this terrific command.

I wanted to take this time to let you know I have arrived and am looking forward to working with each one of you on base as well as in the community. My family and I rolled into town recently, to find the awesome team at outdoor recreation patiently waiting to help us park our travel trailer for the next month or two, until we can find a home. I have already met lots of happy and helpful Sailors and civilians as I started the check-in process.

I look forward to learning about Kingsville, both the Air Station and the city. Both have proven to be friendly and warm, just



This paper is published for people like Rosalinda Ramirez, emergency dispatch responder. Ramirez lives in Premont and has been a dispatcher aboard NAS Kingsville for 2 years.

# Public Works employees honor memory of former coworker

Public Works employees planted a tree last week in front of Bldg. 4711 honoring their coworker Robert "Bobby" Castellano who passed away May 23.

He was an environmental protection specialist who began his federal career three years ago as a water/waste-water operator making an immediate contribution to the Public Works team. Castellano recommended water system modifications that improved the NAS Kingsville drinking water quality, bringing it into compliance with state drinking water standards.



Castellano

Castellano was a quick learner and a great asset to the Public Works' Environmental Division. He was instrumental in collecting information to finalize the Facility Response Plan and Spill Control and Countermeasures Plan. He developed databases to simplify the waste disposal process; submitted projects for funding; and prepared

the scopes of work for two incidental spills that had contaminated the ground. Castellano also helped his division prepare for a recent Environmental Assessment Audit and state hazardous waste inspection.

Castellano was an invaluable asset to the station, a great person to work with, and a very dedicated and hardworking employee, according to Norma Barrera, his supervisor.

The 32-year old is survived by his wife and four children.

Below, Public Works employees dig a hole as Chaplain Mark Haley looks on. From left are Juan Cantu; Robert Castellano, Bobby's father; Norma Barrera; Tish Knerr; and Lt. Cmdr. Eric Hass, public works officer. Right, employees place the tree they are planting as Robert Castellano, Bobby's father, looks on. (Photos by Fifi Kieschnick)



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## In the Break



**Capt. Joe Evans  
Commander  
Training Air Wing TWO**



Greetings NAS Kingsville and Training Air Wing TWO,

June is already flying by, the 4th of July is nearly upon us, and boy is it ever hot!

I hope some of you got out last weekend to MWR's back-to-back extravaganza of activities. Casino night was last Friday at the Captain's Club. It was followed by the Cardboard Regatta at the pool on Saturday. Those are both two big ticket events. Of course, the not-to-miss event is coming up this next week - the 4th of July. If the activities planned are anything like last year's event, this will be the only place to be -- right here on board NAS Kingsville, to watch the fireworks, enjoy the entertainment, and proudly celebrate our nation's 236th birthday. My family can't wait! If you don't have plans, make plans to be on board NAS Kingsville on the 4th.

Earlier this week, we finished a Carrier Qualification detachment out in Jacksonville, Fla. At the time of this posting, the

detachment was not finished and had just relocated to Virginia Beach, Va., because of the weather. All the same, I congratulate all of our new Tailhookers. They had some challenging weather from the outer fringes of Tropical Storm Debby, which made for interesting operations exercising maximum flexibility. Well done to those who got the qual, as well as those unsung heroes that made the qual happen.

Finally, our June winging is this Friday, June 29. Stop by the Captain's Club and congratulate our newest aviators. Wingings are central to why this command exists. In fact, it is the only reason why Training Air Wing TWO and NAS Kingsville exist. Each and every winging should be a celebration of our daily work, our commitment, and of our profession. Regardless what our trade or occupation is on this base, we all provide meaningful input into the training of Navy pilots. In the end, we are all doing our part to protect U.S. vital interests (i.e., security and values) by providing Naval Aviators to the fleet. So, come to the winging and celebrate the ceremony as well as your commitment, and that of your coworkers, to our 236 year-old nation.

*"You know that it's summer in Kingsville when the Mesquite trees are whistlin' for the dogs."* -- Anonymous.

Best to all and stay hydrated,  
"Joe Bags" Evans

## 21 Naval officers promoted in single ceremony

By Capt. Rashaad Jamal, USMC  
VT-22 PAO

Cmdr. Darren B. Guenther, commanding officer of Training Squadron TWENTY-TWO (VT-22), presided over the promotions of 21 Naval officers at NAS Kingsville's Captain's Club on June 1.

Among the promotees were 19 students who were advanced to the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade, and two instructor pilots who were advanced to Navy Lieutenant and a Marine Corps Captain, respectively.

Ranging from as far west as Fresno, Calif., to as far east as Miami, Fla., the majority of those promoted hail from Texas and the New York City area. Among the promo-

tees are 11 U.S. Naval Academy graduates.

In his remarks, Guenther highlighted the importance of the oath that the students were taking, and offered them words of wisdom to take forward into their careers.

Lt. Col. Scott D. Schoeman, VT-22 executive officer, administered the oath of office to now Capt. Gregory S. Clement, a Kingsville native, who recently received his Wings of Gold and is an instructor pilot with the squadron.

Following the promotion ceremony, a retirement and farewell ceremony was held for Lt. Cmdr. Shawn "Catbox" Inman.

For more photos of the event, turn to page 6.



Cmdr. Darren Guenther, VT-22 commanding officer addresses the officers about to be promoted, offering words of wisdom to take forward into their careers. (Photo by Lt. Dylan Krapes)

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## Operation School Supplies will run July 16 through Aug. 3

Operation School Supply, a program designed to benefit military and DoD families, will be held July 16 through Aug. 3.

Jeanie Alexander, the NAS Kingsville school liaison officer, will place boxes at the Santiago Fitness Center, Branch Health Clinic Kingsville, Navy Exchange and Commissary to collect school supplies for those in need.

Supplies needed include: Crayons, Kleenex, pocket folders, construction paper, glue, blunt scissors, #2 pencils, wide rule spiral notebooks, glue sticks, rulers, binders, ink pens, highlighters, 8-tab dividers, composition books and backpacks.

Supplies will be distributed at the Chaplain's Office Aug. 3 through 10. For more information, contact Jeanie Alexander at (361) 675-0112.

## Kingsville symphony offers virtual fireworks on July 1

The Kingsville Symphony Orchestra will provide a patriotic celebration with virtual fireworks on Sunday, July 1, beginning at 3 p.m. The celebration will be held at Texas A&M University-Kingsville's Jones Auditorium at 855 N. Armstrong St.

Admission is free for active-duty military, Veterans and children under the age of 12. Ticket prices range in price from \$10 to \$30.

For more information, visit [www.kingsvillesymphony.org](http://www.kingsvillesymphony.org) or call (361) 593-2804.

## NHC Corpus Christi receives Surgeon General Blue H Award

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi (NHCCC) celebrated its seventh consecutive Gold Star level Blue H - Navy Surgeon General Health Promotion and Wellness Award June 21.

Capt. Bill Davidson, acting commanding officer, presented the pennant and annual streamer to Dr. Sam Rivera, wellness department head, who accepted the honor on behalf of the staff.

The Blue H, managed by the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center on behalf of the Navy surgeon general, encourages and rewards the promotion of health in Navy and Marine Corps organizations. Three versions of the award, Fleet, Medical and Semper Fit Center, each have three levels of recognition, Bronze Anchor, Silver Eagle and Gold Star.

The competition's Medical category that NHCCC began participating in 2004 recognizes excellence in clinical primary prevention, community health promotion and medical staff health in Navy medical organizations. Some of the health topics assessed include alcohol and drug abuse prevention; injury prevention; nutrition; physical fitness; sexual health; psychological health like stress management and suicide prevention; tobacco cessation; and weight management.

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# A photo worth a thousand words shows support

By MC3 Randy J. Savarese  
Enterprise Carrier Strike Group

Aviation ordnancemen (AO) assigned to aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65) and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 1 came together June 22 for a photo on the flight deck spelling out the name of a young boy diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Dyrk Burcie was three years old when he was diagnosed with pediatric liver cancer, and despite nine rounds of chemotherapy and a liver transplant, his prognosis is still grim.

The photo is part of what has become a spontaneous campaign intended to bring some happiness and comfort to his family during their time of need.

This unique campaign began with one act of kindness from the Dallas Fire Department, where Dameon Burcie, Dyrk's father, works.

To show support for their fellow fire fighter, Dameon's coworkers got together and took a photo with personnel and fire trucks forming the shape of the boy's name. This thoughtful gesture spread to other fire departments, which began creating their own photos.

Enterprise became involved when AOAN Julian Medina, a forklift technician assigned to weapons department's G-1 division, received an e-mail from his brother, a Dallas fire fighter who works with Dameon Burcie. The letter described the boy's story and asked if something similar could be done aboard the aircraft carrier.

"When my brother e-mailed me the story, I wanted to get involved," said Medina. "That's when I (brought the idea to) Chief Warrant Officer James Yager, and he took it from there."

"Medina approached me with a story



Aviation ordnancemen stand together for a photo on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65) to spell out "Dyrk", the name of a young boy from Texas diagnosed with terminal pediatric cancer. Enterprise is deployed to the U.S. 5th fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by MC3 Randy J. Savarese)

of a young boy from Dallas who was dying from cancer, and asked me if we could do something," said Chief Warrant Officer James Yager, air gunner with weapons department's G-1 division. "So I contacted Aviation Ordnancemen from the ship's company and the air wing and got them together to do this photo on the flight deck to send it to the family."

With a helicopter already in the air on a routine flight, the group of AOs had just 45 minutes to form the letters that would spell out Dyrk's name using only a drawing from Yager. Approximately 300 AOs showed up to help. The outpouring of participation in this touching tribute was felt by everyone

involved in the spelling of his name.

"It's an awesome feeling to know you're helping someone," said Medina. "Even though it was just a 45-minute [photo] shoot for us on the flight deck, everyone knew what it was for and knew it was going to make a big impact on this one child's life."

A photo, which was born out of a basic desire to bring some sense of happiness to a child's life, spread quickly through the ranks of fire departments in Texas and has now touched down on the flight deck of Enterprise.

Though one of Enterprise's own Sailors is connected to Dyrk's father, Yager believes this shared experience also highlights

the brotherhood of those who serve and protect every American.

"Ever since 9/11 I just feel like the military, the fire department and police have become more of a tight-knit group," said Yager. "We all support each other and we're all out to accomplish the same goals. This was definitely an instance where we could all come together to make a difference in someone's life."

"Anything like this, if he was my child and I got this kind of support from people, I know I would appreciate it," said Yager. "I have a soft spot in my heart for children and I thought this would be a good thing to do for him and his family."

*In the Break from page 4*



Cmdr. Darren B. Guenther, commanding officer of VT-22, congratulates Lt. j.g. Nicholas Bernard on his promotion to his current rank. Pictured left, Cmdr. Darren B. Guenther presides over the promotions of 21 Naval and Marine Corps officers at NAS Kingsville's Captain's Club on June 1. (Photos by Lt. Dylan Krapes)

**NJROTC from page 1**

Enlisted Association (JEA), were impressed with the cadets' enthusiasm.

"When I asked for volunteers to help with these tours nearly every member of the JEA stepped up," said AC2 Joshua Hight, who coordinated the volunteer tour guides. "We were happy to help out the public affairs office – and show the cadets what we do here at NAS Kingsville."

Tour assistance included the NAS Kingsville Air Operations Department, Training Air Wing TWO, the NAS Kingsville Fire & Emergency Services Department and Safety Office, and the Ground Training Complex.

Pictured right, AC1 (AW) Phillip Ford explains how Navy air traffic controllers track aircraft at the Approach Control Radar Facility.

Below, Airman Joseph Appling explains how the Flight Planning Branch of Air Operations assists pilots in plotting their flight routes. (Photos by Jon Gagné)



Pictured middle right, cadets turn-in their navigational maps to senior NJROTC personnel upon completing the orienteering challenge at South Field.

Pictured right, a Summer Leadership Camp instructor goes over the navigation instructions with cadets before they head out with the maps and compasses.

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Active Duty Welcome

## Prepare now before hurricane season heats up

June marks the start of the Atlantic hurricane season and if you haven't begun preparing for the storm season, the time to prepare is now, before the season heats up, according to the commander of the Naval Safety Center.

Rear Adm. Brian C. Prindle, commander, Naval Safety Center, says preparations should include the whole family during the hurricane season, which continues through the end of November.

"While the forecast calls for a relatively light hurricane season, it only takes one storm making landfall on our coast to wreak havoc," Prindle said. "The time to prepare for a hurricane is now, not the day before a storm hits when store shelves are bare and checkout lines are long."

There have already been four named storms this season, most recently Tropical Storm Debby has been sending torrential rains to Florida.

According to Monette Walker, NAS Kingsville emergency manager, the most important thing to consider as a Sailor is to prepare your family for a hurricane before one arrives.

"Develop and communicate a plan for your family on where to meet what to bring, and what preparations will be needed upon evacuating the area," Walker said. "Also consider what to do if you are unable to help your family members prepare to evacuate due to unforeseen circumstances.

"Contact your family members outside the affected area early to tell them your plans, because cell phones may go down as the storm approaches and communication may become minimal," she added.

The National Hurricane Center advises there are two stages to hurricane safety. Prepare for a storm well ahead of time and then act on those preparations when alerted by emergency officials. The preparedness stage starts now with having a basic disaster kit on hand, including items such as: water, non-perishable food, flashlight and batteries, manual can opener and solar cell phone charger

Once it appears likely that a hurricane landfall is imminent, add items such as prescription medications, glasses, pet food and extra water, cash or traveler's checks, and important family documents.

Ensure you have your important documents ready to go as you evacuate. Some of these documents include your insurance paperwork, pet vaccinations, daily medications, emergency kits, and maps to travel along a safe route.

"Involve the entire family in disaster plans as well, and know where you will all evacuate to should it become necessary. A little planning now will ensure the safety of your family with fewer headaches later," Prindle said.

The dangers posed by a hurricane are not just high winds, but also heavy rains and flooding and tornadoes. Tropical storm Beryl, which made landfall in Jacksonville, Fla., last month proved that even smaller storms can cause problems. It weakened to a slow-moving tropical depression soon after making landfall, but heavy rainfall caused flash flooding up the eastern seaboard. The storm is blamed for four fatalities, with one person still missing.



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**Supporting** -- Jeff Vielock, Fidelity Technologies Site Manager at NAS Kingsville, presents a \$1,000 check to Maj. Daniel Rose on behalf of the Fidelity Technologies Corp. and the Kingsville Navy League for sponsorship of the 2012 Goshawk Ball. The annual event was held June 16 in Corpus Christi. (Contributed photo by Maj. David Adams)

*Have you met ?.....*

## Mike Sparks

Mike Sparks is NAS Kingsville's new explosives safety officer (ESO).

"I provide oversight to a wide variety of programs designed for the safe handling, use, storage, and transportation of ammunition and explosives," Sparks said about his job.

He may be new to Team Kingsville, but is not new to the field of explosives and safety.

Before coming to Kingsville, he worked for Navy Munitions Command-CONUS East Division in Yorktown, Va. Prior to that he worked at the Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, Weapons Department until the base closed in 2010. And, he served 24 years in the Navy as an aviation ordnanceman before retiring in 1998 as a chief warrant officer 4.

Sparks says if there's one thing you should know about him it's that he is very happy to be a part of the Navy family and Team Kingsville.

"I have several short term goals," Sparks said. "I want to be a good team member; get out and meet all the folks who use arms, ammunition, and explosives as part of their daily jobs; and provide quality service to the base."

Long term, he says his goal is to be the best ESO in the region.

Sparks and his wife are looking to buy a home in Kingsville.

"I am married to the love of my life, Melissa, and our kids are grown and out of the



Sparks

house," Sparks added.

His likes and dislikes?

"I really like the way the state of Texas treats its veterans and like great Texas barbecue," Sparks says. "But, I dislike not being closer to the grandkids, so my wife and I could spend time spoiling them."

## Resilience helps Sailors, families navigate rough times

Navy leadership has implemented the Operational Stress Control (OSC) program to help Sailors and their families recognize and navigate stress, said Navy officials, recently.

According to Capt. Kurt Scott, director, Navy Behavioral Health, the Navy's goal is to help individuals identify stressors and develop the skills and tools to be resilient and handle the curveballs life may throw.

Deployment work-ups, a sick child, four-section duty, marital trouble can all cause stress levels to rise. Stress is a fact of life but resiliency helps make stress manageable.

"Stress is normal and can help you excel and succeed, but there is a point when stress may impact your ability to meet life's challenges," said Scott.

OSC defines resilience as the capacity to withstand, recover, grow, and adapt in the face of stressors and changing demands.

Scott discussed four skills that can help Sailors and their families improve resilience.

- Maintain your body for its unique optimal performance. Balanced and nutritious meals with moderate portions help fuel the body. Getting enough sleep is critical to

physical and emotional well being. Regular exercise helps you physically and improves your mood.

- Develop positive relationships. Nurturing at least one trusted friendship can help individuals achieve personal and professional success.

"A friend can provide support, influence personal growth and provide a source of strength during difficult times," said Scott.

- Manage your finances - Don't let them manage you.

"Financial strain is a top stressor. It can cause personality changes in an individual and has been linked to depression which can impact duty performance and interpersonal relationships," said Scott. Fleet and Family Support Centers, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and command financial specialists can help Sailors examine their finances and develop a budget.

- Consider spiritual wellness. "Talking with a mentor, trusted advisor or chaplain can be a great outlet for stress reduction and resiliency.

When stress becomes overbearing to your well-being, ask for assistance.

"Asking for help is a sign of strength and

see *Resilience* on page 10

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**Morale, Welfare & Recreation**

**Softball champions --**

The NAS Kingsville softball league ended earlier this month, with the championship game held June 18. Winners of the league is the team fielded by Training Squadron 22, pictured right. Congratulations to: Ens. Charlie Choate, Ens. Spenser Olsen, Ens. Matt Seymour, 1st Lt. Kurt Wrinkle, Ens. Matt Burch, Ens. Shannon Anderson, Ens. Joe Reardon, Lt. Cody Dowd, Lt.j.g. Rich Tiberio, Lt. Johan Suyderhoud, Lt. Matt Suyderhoud, Maj. Wes Deaver, 1st Lt. James Campbell, Ens. Mike Burnell, Ens. Chris Jibilian, and Ens. Jake Hawley. The Border Patrol team, pictured below, came in second. Championship game score was 8-2. (Courtesy photos by Kristin Lokken)



**Dodgeball --** Corey Buchanan (left) from Morale, Welfare and Recreation, dodges a ball thrown by 1st Lt. Marshall Clinkscales (right) of VT-22. The MonStarz of MWR won this match seven games to six. The NAS Kingsville dodgeball league started earlier this month. Games are played Tuesday evenings at the Santiago Fitness Center gymnasium. For more information about the league and other sporting activities, call (361) 516-6494. (Courtesy photo by Kristin Lokken)

**Punt, pass, kick contest open to youth**

Young pro-football fans will have the opportunity to exhibit their football skills when NAS Kingsville hosts an NFL Punt Pass & Kick Competition on Tuesday, July 17, beginning at 1 p.m. The competition is free and open to boys and girls ages 6 to 15.

The completion allows youngsters to showcase their talents in punting, passing, and kicking with scores based on distance and accuracy. Age classification is as of Dec. 31, of the current year. Children will compete in 5 age divisions. Top boys and girls finishers in each age group will advance to the sectional competition, with potential to advance to a team championship with the Houston Astros organization.

For information call Kristin at (361) 516-6494. Entry forms are available online at NFLPPK.com or can be picked up at the fitness center.

**Resilience from page 9**

a commitment to yourself to perform at your optimal level," said Scott. "Friends, families and coworkers can be your support network, but there may be times when someone with more experience, knowledge and skill is better suited to provide the help you need."

The OSC Continuum can help individuals determine what level of support is needed. The continuum is a color-coded guide for Sailors and leaders to measure their stress as it relates to one of four color-coded zones: green is ready, yellow is reacting, orange is injured and red is ill.

"The green zone is where we want to be but the green zone is not stress free," said Scott. "It means you have the skills and the tools you need to really be able to manage what life is throwing at you. Learning from life lessons makes you stronger and more resilient - and that is our goal." (From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs)

**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  
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