

Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas

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NEWS RELEASE

Vehicle crash at NAS Kingsville main gate claims six lives

By Jon Gagné, NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

NAS KINGSVILLE, Texas – A vehicle traveling at a high speed in an attempt to flee from Texas law enforcement crashed into the main gate at NAS Kingsville last night. Six people died in the accident; no NAS Kingsville or Texas law enforcement personnel were injured. The crash occurred at about 11:15 p.m.

The vehicle, a GMC Sierra extended cab pick-up truck, was being chased by Kingsville Police and U.S. Border Patrol personnel when it approached the main entry point to the air station on General Cavazos Blvd. The gate sentry, a Navy civilian police officer, attempted to stop the vehicle prior to it entering the base, but the driver sped past the officer. The sentry then contacted the security guard manning the inside front gate to the base, directing him to deploy the command's Final Denial Barrier, which is designed to prevent vehicles from unauthorized access to the air station.

The driver of the vehicle did not slow down and crashed into the barrier at a high rate of speed.

There were 15 people in the truck; 10 were crammed inside the cab and five were in the bed of the truck under a tarp.

GATE ACCIDENT -2-

NAS Kingsville Fire & Emergency Rescue personnel responded within minutes to the crash site and used the “jaws of life” to extract victims from the wreckage. Personnel from the Kingsville Police Department, U.S. Border Patrol, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Kleberg County Sheriff’s Office, and Kleberg County Coroner were also on scene.

There were six confirmed fatalities at the scene of the crash; injured personnel were taken via ambulance or HALO Flight to local hospitals.

The investigation of the incident is being led by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The U.S. Border Patrol is investigating the passengers as undocumented immigrants and providing status updates of injured victims.

The NAS Kingsville front gate, at Gen. Cavazos Blvd., has been re-opened to INBOUND traffic ONLY from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Caesar Street gate will remain open to both INBOUND and ALL OUTBOUND traffic 24-hours a day until further notice.