

Training Air Wing 2 Completes 1 Million Hours in T-45 Goshawk

By [Chief of Naval Air Training](#) Public Affairs, July 2, 2024



Captain Aaron Rybar, commander, Training Air Wing – 2, addresses the crowd during a commemorative ceremony onboard Naval Air Station Kingsville, July 2. *U.S. Navy | Ensign Alan Wang*

KINGSVILLE, Texas – Representatives from Boeing, Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA), Training Air Wing (TAW) 2, the city of Kingsville and more met onboard Naval Air Station Kingsville to commemorate one million hours cumulatively flown by the fleet of T-45 Goshawks assigned to TAW-2, July 2.

Three commemorative plaques were presented by Boeing to CNATRA, TAW-2 and the city of Kingsville during a short ceremony on the flightline. Capt. Aaron Rybar, Commander,

Training Air Wing – 2, received one of the commemorative plaques on behalf of the local training wing. Notably, the one-million-hour milestone does not include flight time for T-45 Goshawks assigned to TAW-1, located in Meridian, Mississippi.

“On May 1st, 1992, the first class of flight instructors from VT-21 assigned to fly [train] the next generation of Naval Aviators in the new T-45A Goshawk began their training in the T-45.” said Rybar. “On 26 February, 2024, 30 years and one month after the Navy went full operational capability [with the] T-45 aircraft, Lt. Cmdr. Thomas ‘Sock’ Cruz, from VT-22, operating aircraft 267, BuNo 165067, on a basic fighter maneuver [training] event, crossed over the one-millionth flight hour in the T-45 here at NAS Kingsville Texas.”

Rear Admiral Rich Brophy, Chief of Naval Air Training, commands all five naval air training wings and has led the Naval Air Training Command (NATRACOM) since July 2022. Brophy addressed the crowd after Rybar, discussing the importance of the T-45 in training Naval Aviators over the last three decades, said, “A strong national defense starts with how we project our power. From the United States Navy standpoint, we project power with carrier air wings. And our carrier air wings are trained right here in Kingsville. This is the heart, the heart of the United States Navy. And the number-one battering ram of the United States Navy is a carrier air wing,” Brophy said. “So, when you reflect on the million-hour mark, think about that for a second, that’s 114 years of continuous flying.”

The ceremony tied together a community of men and women that have supported T-45 operations in South Texas for over three decades. Mayor Sam Fugate was present to receive recognition for the one millionth hour on behalf of the city of Kingsville, which has supported generations of Naval Aviators since the base was founded in 1942 as an auxiliary air station.

“There’s nothing like feeling apart of the community, and this community does it to the Nth degree,” said Brophy. “So, thank you mayor, thank you Dick [Dick Messbarger, Executive Director at Kingsville], and thank you all that have leaned in to keep Kingsville operating and to support our Navy family.”

CNATRA’s mission is to train, mentor and deliver the highest quality Naval Aviators who prevail in competition, crisis, and conflict. Headquartered at NAS Corpus Christi, CNATRA comprises five training air wings in Florida, Mississippi and Texas, which are home to 17 training squadrons. In addition, CNATRA oversees the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron the Blue Angels and the training curriculum for all fleet replacement squadrons.