

# A bit of home cooking; Military Moms provide Navy pilots with food and support

By DK McDONALD The Daily News | Posted: Sunday, January 24, 2016 1:08 am



## SUPPORT ON THE FLIGHT LINE

Tri-State Military Moms, a local military and military family support group, provided a home-cooked breakfast to more than 100 U.S. Navy pilots and support personnel participating in flight training exercises from the Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport through March. “It’s awesome that the community is reaching out to us,” said Ensign Wilson Dang. “It’s really great that they took the time to make us a home-cooked meal.”

BULLHEAD CITY — For nearly 180 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel participating in flight training at the Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport, a home-cooked meal is a sign of support and of welcome.

“We really appreciate not just the food, but the support from the community,” said Lt. Cmdr. Jack Bauer, squadron commander from U.S. Navy Training Wing 4, Corpus Christi, Texas. “It means a lot to us.”

More than a dozen volunteers with Tri-State Military Moms created and served a hearty mix of breakfast and lunch burritos, fresh fruit cups, cookies, and more on Saturday for more than 100 Navy pilots and support personnel participating in flight training exercises from the Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport. The training rotation concludes in March.

“Three months is a long time to go without a home cooked meal,” said Cindy Frizelle, TSMM president. “Everyone in our group have family members serving in the military. Supplying the breakfast helps them show their support. It’s also our way of saying thank you for their service.”

Lt. Danielle Lawson said, “I remember the Military Moms from last year. This is a fantastic thing they do. We really appreciate all the food and support, and it is really nice to see all the friendly faces.”

Second Lieutenant Zach Duncavage said, “They are awesome. Everyone has made us feel welcome.”

Beth Richardson, TSMM vice president, said the military moms get as much out of providing the breakfast as they give.

“It’s so nice for the moms to have the opportunity to feel like they are taking care of their own kids,” she said.

Nikki Coutts, TSMM member, agreed.

“I have two children in the Navy, one in Japan and one on the U.S.S. Truman,” she said. “I’m hoping my boys have someone to look after them too while I’m not around.”

When word spread of the effort to bring a bit of home to the pilots, donations for the breakfast started coming in, Richardson said. The organization plans four more breakfasts for the pilots before their training rotation ends in March.

“This is such a great community,” she said. “We had a tremendous response for this, within a couple of hours of our announcement. Moms made the burritos and the fruit cups and we got a lot of donations for water.”

This is the second year Landmark Aviation has provided the facilities and logistics support for the Navy personnel while they train from January through March. The Navy chose the Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport because it requires good weather for this stage of pilot training, said Jeremy Keating, airport director.

“The weather here is great for training,” said Bauer. “Because there are a lot of clear days, we can get in a lot of flights. It’s a huge plus that the community is extremely welcoming. We’re pleased to be back.”