



**MARINE AVIATION**  
CENTENNIAL

Celebrating 100 Years of Marine Aviation

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## Marine aviation accepts F-35B Lightning II jet into fleet at Eglin AFB

LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @GESANTYUSMC

**EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.** — A century after 1st Lt. Alfred A. Cunningham took his first flight in 1912, Marine Corps aviation introduced the F-35B Lightning II aircraft into its fleet. The short takeoff vertical landing variant combined with fifth generation capabilities is a breakthrough in itself, matching the importance of the first Marine aviator and starting a new chapter in Marine Corps aviation history.

2nd Marine Aircraft Wing's Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501 hosted the ceremony inducting the F-35B Lightning II multirole, joint strike fighter, into the Marine Corps aviation arsenal at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Friday.



LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

**U.S. Representative Jeff Miller (FL-1), Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., and Lockheed Martin CEO Robert Stevens stand for the playing of the national anthem at the Marine Corps' F-35B Lightning II Rollout Ceremony at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Friday.**

Gen. Joseph Dunford, the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, stated at the rollout ceremony that for the first time in aviation history, the most lethal fighter characteristics came together on a single platform. A list of the aircraft's abilities include supersonic speed, radar-evading stealth, extreme agility and short takeoff vertical landing capability.

"It's innovation like that represented here today which has kept Marine aviation ready and relevant for the last 100 years," said Dunford.

The new aircraft was on display at the VMFAT-

See F-35B page A7

## New simulator allows Prowler pilots to train like they fight

LANCE CPL. STEPHEN T. STEWART

MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @STSTEWARTUSMC

Marines and civilians held a celebration marking the first day of the now fully operational upgraded Prowler simulator at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Feb. 22.

The 2F-185 simulator is the first simulator aboard MCAS Cherry Point for the EA-6B Prowler Improved Capability III and provides better training capabilities for ICAP III pilots. The EA-6B Prowler ICAP II was upgraded to the ICAP III in 2010.

The simulator was first owned by the Navy, who decided in 2006 that the \$16 million simulator was no longer needed.

That same year, the Marine Corps decided to adopt the simulator and "yanked it from the jaws of the Defense Reutilization and Management Office," said Barry Fetzer, deputy director of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing's Aviation Training Systems. DRMO is an organization that disposes of surplus military equipment.

Fetzer said the Marine Corps needs the more up to date and enhanced training capabilities the weapons system trainer could offer.

Lt. Gen. John G. Castellaw, deputy commandant of Marine Corps Aviation in 2007, started the process of moving the simulator to MCAS Cherry Point.

Fetzer said after Castellaw signed the memo the Marines went to work.

"In a matter of a few months, they got the required headquarters endorsements to take possession of and relocate the 2F-185," Fetzer said.

The Marine Corps was able to relocate the simulator to a temporary storage facility in California where it received a much needed technology upgrade.

In 2009 the simulator was moved in several hundred pieces, some weighing several tons, to MCAS Cherry Point.

Fetzer said, because of the superb cooperation between Naval Air Systems Command Aircraft Program Office, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, and MCAS Cherry Point personnel, a plan

See SIMULATOR page A7

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See page B1 for photos  
and story



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LANCE CPL. ANDREA CLEOPATRA DICKERSON

**Master Sgt. Jason Vernam, an aircraft maintenance chief with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 2 (Forward), kisses his daughter, Jaydin, while also embracing his son, Jansen, outside the Training and Education building at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point after returning from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. "Being able to talk to my family on Skype and over the phone made the deployment go very smoothly," he said. "Now that I'm back, we have to catch up on hugs, kisses and swimming."**

## MWHS-2 Marines return from Afghanistan

LANCE CPL. ANDREA CLEOPATRA DICKERSON

MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @ACLEOPATRAUSMC

More than 90 Marines and Sailors with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 2 Forward, returned to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Thursday after completing a year-long deployment in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

The unit reunited with their friends and family during a reception at the Training and Education building aboard the air station. There, troops and their families shared mixed emotions about the deployment.

While deployed, the support squadron made it a priority to take care of any administrative issues such as pay problems their Marines and Sailors had. They also managed supply transactions, handled billeting and provided internal logistics for the wing headquarters, said Maj. Kyrl A. Erickson, who served as MWHS-2 (Fwd.)'s commanding officer.

"I'm very proud of the job they did," he said. "Our focus was to take some of the pressure off of wing headquarters so they could provide the best aviation support possible."

During pre-deployment exercises, the Marines and Sailors underwent extensive training tailored to each individual job, said Lt. Col. Thomas J. Witezak, commanding officer of MWHS-2.

"I am excited to have my husband home," said Misty Ash, spouse of 1st Lt. Logan P. Ash, a supply officer with MWHS-2 (Fwd.).

Misty said this deployment was very hard for the family because of the length of time her husband spent in Afghanistan.

"This was our first deployment since having children. Our daughter Addison is excited to see him," she said.

"We are very excited to have our son home," said Corey and Paula Wagner, who made the trip from Nebraska to welcome their son home. "To make the holidays more enjoyable for Ethan, we sent him Christmas in a box."

Inside the care package, his parents included a small tree, stockings and a nativity scene so he could have a small piece of home with him.

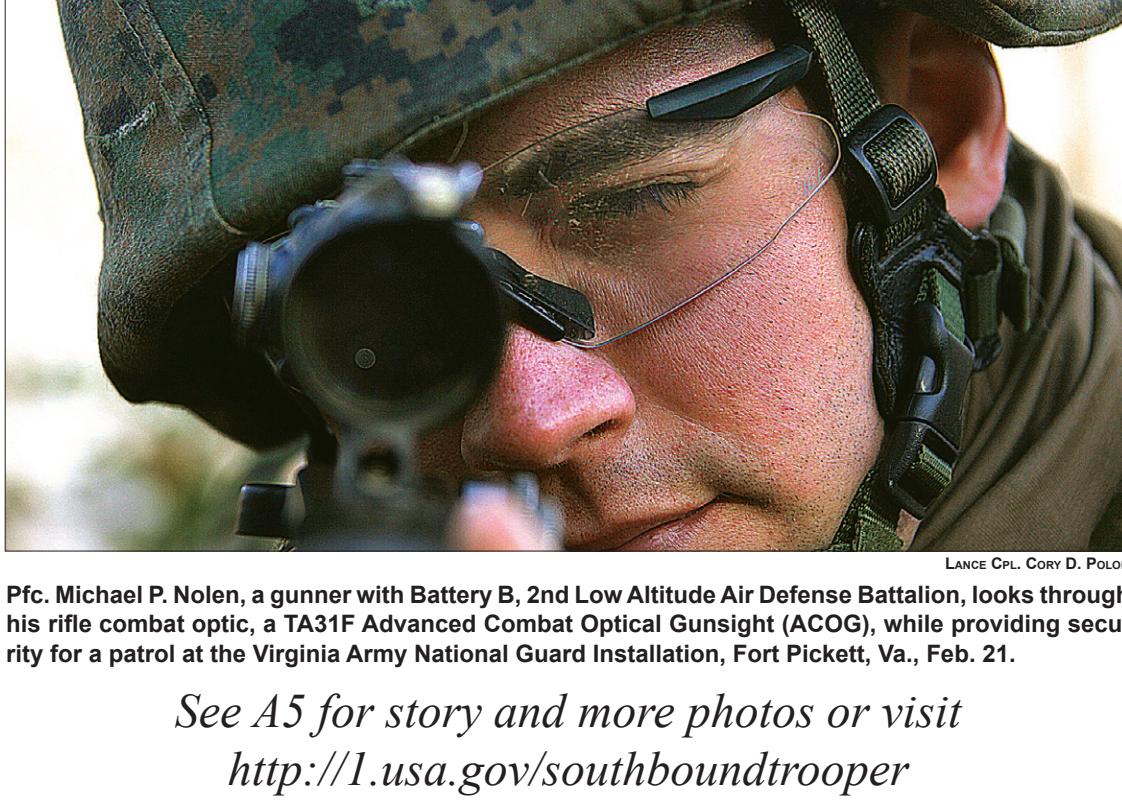
Like the Wagners, many other families traveled from all over to be there for their loved ones when they returned.

"We drove four hours from Greenville, S.C., because we wanted to show our grandson that we are very proud of his accomplishments," said Frances and Dean Brown. Their grandson, Sgt. Richard C. Abercrombie, is a warehouse clerk with MWHS-2 (Fwd.).

The Browns said that they support their grandson in every way possible. They say he is more like a son to them because they raised him.

"I'm very glad to be back, I missed my grandparents so much," said Abercrombie. "Now that I'm back, it is definitely family time."

## 2nd LAAD Marines sight-in at Fort Pickett



Pfc. Michael P. Nolen, a gunner with Battery B, 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, looks through his rifle combat optic, a TA31F Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight (ACOG), while providing security for a patrol at the Virginia Army National Guard Installation, Fort Pickett, Va., Feb. 21.

See A5 for story and more photos or visit  
<http://1.usa.gov/southboundtrooper>



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# Chaplain's Corner : The Wheel of Faithfulness

CMDR. JAMES GOODBOW

2nd MAW

Thousands of years ago God told the prophet Jeremiah of the Land of New Hope (18:1-11).

To describe that land, God told Jeremiah to go down to a potter's house to see how a potter works with clay. Jeremiah followed God's direction and walked south of the City of Jerusalem to the center of the pottery industry.

The art of pottery has basically remained unchanged for thousands of years. Today, the finest pottery you can buy is not mass produced - it is handmade. The potter works with clay just about the same way as the ancient potter did thousands of years ago. The potter takes soft putty-like clay and begins to beat it, shape it and mold it.

Then she throws it on what is called a revolving wheel.

While that wheel is being turned the potter pulls and shapes it until finally that soft mass of putty-like material begins to take shape and form to become a beautiful finished work of superb pottery.

God used this real life example to show Jeremiah how God works with us.

The potter demonstrates how God shapes and molds us until we become a beautiful vessel fit not just for earthly use but also for eternal use.

The focus of the story is not so much on the clay or the wheel but instead on the potter. It is the potter who makes the clay useful. It is the potter who gives the clay its form and its function.

Imagine that we are the clay and God is the potter and life is the wheel.

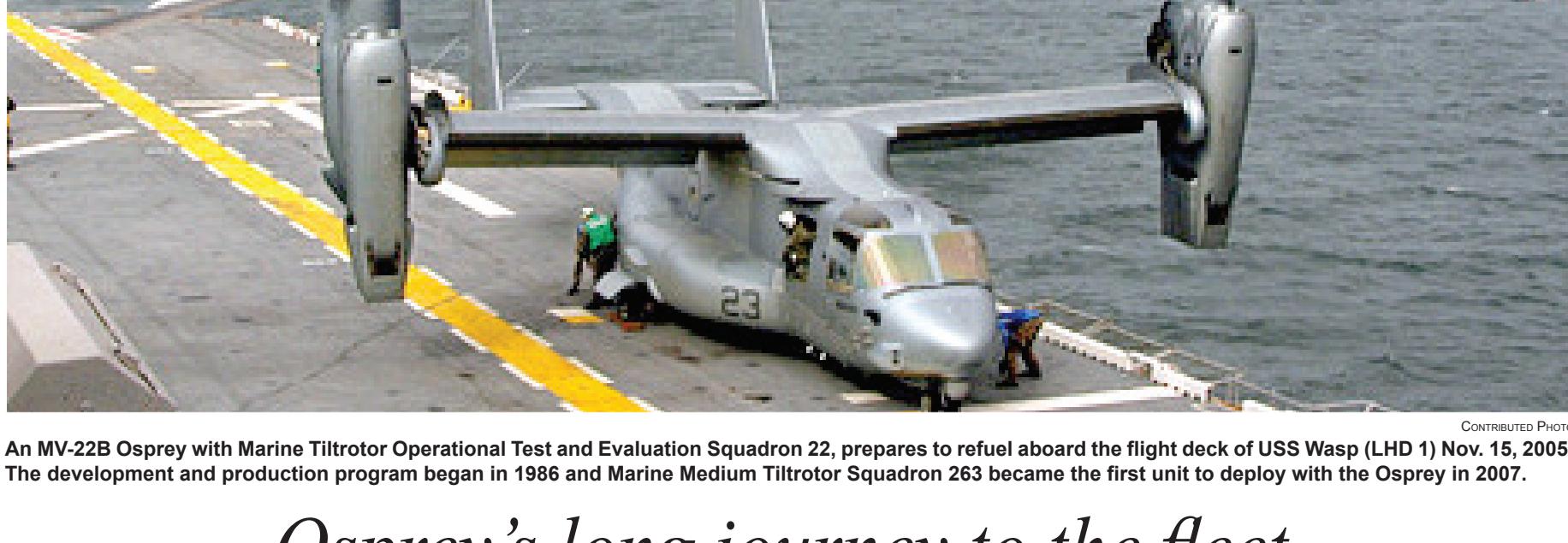
With God shaping and molding our life, there is hope for anyone no matter how far he/she may have crossed over to the wrong side.

This parable describes God dealing with us in a life transforming way. How? God is always working on you and me. God never stops! We can see that in verse six.

"Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel." God is the potter of our lives. Every day just like the clay

See CHAPLAIN page A7

## Celebrating 100 years of Marine Corps aviation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An MV-22B Osprey with Marine Tiltrotor Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron 22, prepares to refuel aboard the flight deck of USS Wasp (LHD 1) Nov. 15, 2005. The development and production program began in 1986 and Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263 became the first unit to deploy with the Osprey in 2007.

### Osprey's long journey to the fleet

LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

MCAS CHERRY POINT

The MV-22 Osprey is a new aircraft with a long story. NASA, the Army and numerous corporations worked to create an aircraft that could land like a helicopter and fly like a plane since the 1970's. In September 2007, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263 became the first Marine squadron to deploy to combat with this capability.

"The Marine Corps had identified the need to develop a future replacement for the CH-46 in the 1970's," said Benjamin H. Kristy, a curator at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. "The decision for the Marine Corps to pursue a tiltrotor aircraft was the result of several factors including the need to find a replacement for the CH-46, the maturation of previous tilt-rotor/tilt-wing technology demonstrators and a real-world military situation which could not be met by the current capabilities of the aircraft in the fleet."

One such situation occurred in 1980 when Operation Eagle Claw launched to rescue hostages during the Iran Hostage Crisis. The operation failed when two aircraft collided, caught fire and killed several service members. According to Kristy, proponents of the MV-22 contend if the aircraft were available then, the planning and execution would have been simpler and reduced the chances of an accident.

"The benefits of helicopters are their ability to take off

and land vertically, not requiring a long runway," said Col. Christopher C. Seymour, commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 26 and a former test pilot of the aircraft. "The primary weakness of helicopters is their limited speed, range and altitude envelope. Airplanes, on the other hand, have much greater speed, range and altitude capability.

"The Osprey combines the capabilities of both types of aircraft giving us unprecedented operational and tactical advantages."

The Osprey development and production program was in full swing by 1986. Technical and cost challenges prevented the Osprey from entering combat service for 20 more years.

Kristy explained the Osprey development team overcame several challenges on its way to the assembly line. One issue addressed was power settling. All helicopters are susceptible to a potentially disastrous aerodynamic condition when descending where the propellers of the aircraft are pushing on their own downwash. Because the air is descending, it cannot provide lift, causing the aircraft to fall.

Another issue was the fly-by-wire design. According to Kristy, older aircraft required hydraulics where if a pilot worked his controls, one mechanical device after another would interact to move the rudder on the tail or any other part of the aircraft. On the Osprey, however, when the pilot moves the stick, a computer interprets

the input and an electrical impulse is sent to the parts of the aircraft involved. Kristy said the programming required to make the computer interpret data and send the impulses is very sophisticated.

Both issues caused losses during the research and development program but were overcome. The Osprey not only has a good safety record today, it has the best record of any rotorcraft, according to Seymour.

"Since 2007, we've deployed MV-22B squadrons three times to Iraq, four times to Afghanistan, and we're ready to launch our fourth Marine Expeditionary Unit armed with an MV-22B core aviation combat element," said Seymour. "During this time the MV-22B has accumulated more than 130,000 flight hours without a single combat loss. If my son were a Marine, I'd want him supported by the MV-22B Osprey."

The MV-22B's abilities to land like a helicopter and fly like an airplane safely marks the beginning of a new age on the battlefield.

"The predictions about how the Osprey can help reshape the battle-space for the ground commander thanks to its range and speed have been born out," Kristy explained. "I think we are just seeing the beginning of what the Osprey can do and how the Marine Corps will find ways of utilizing those capabilities to good effect on the field of battle."

## The Windsock

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## Flyby

**Highlighting Cherry Point's Warriors**



**Lance Cpl. Walter Givan III**

**Job Title:** Facilities Manager

**Unit:** Marine Aircraft Group 14

**Hometown:** Selma, Ala.

**Age:** 25

**Date Joined:** March 30, 2009

While Marines across the air station are hard at work, Lance Cpl. Walter Givan III, a facilities maintenance manager with Marine Air Group 14, ensures the buildings and hangars they work in are properly maintained.

"As the facilities maintenance manager, I am responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of approximately 50 buildings," said Givan. "I work closely with civilian contractors to ensure building repairs get made in a timely manner," he said.

"It's hard keeping an eye on all the buildings," he said. "The hardest part of my job is staying on top of all of the maintenance requests that I submit."

He maintains buildings such as barracks, hangars and storage facilities by performing fire safety system inspections and reconciling minor plumbing and repair issues.

Givan says he enjoys his job because he likes to interact with other Marines and ensure their problems get resolved.

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**REMEMBER TO RECYCLE**

# 2nd LAAD, Canadians share training field

## Southbound Trooper exercise ends with Marine, Canadian bilateral evolution

LANCE CPL. CORY D. POLOM

MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @CoryPolom

**VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD INSTALLATION FORT PICKETT, Va.** – After finishing a series of refresher exercises, Marines with Battery B, 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, began bilateral training with the 36th Canadian Brigade Feb. 20, as part of Exercise South Bound Trooper here.

The Marines and their Canadian counterparts are executing field scenarios using a Canadian training system called “Weapon Effects Simulator.”

“This is a chance for us to showcase our skills and the way we conduct ourselves on the battlefield,” said 1st Sgt. Marcus Martinez, first sergeant of Battery B. “We will also learn how the Canadian Army does everything and maybe even learn a bit about ways to improve our tactics.”

On today’s battlefields, the Marine Corps is accustomed to conducting combined operations, said Martinez, and the goal of South Bound Trooper is to reinforce the tactics used with allied forces.

This “Weapons Effects Simulator” system follows the same principles as laser tag with a vest worn by each combatant, linked by a computer and GPS system that tells the participant when they are hit, as well as the severity of the wound or if they have been killed, said Canadian Maj. Michael J. Gervais, deputy commanding officer of 36th Canadian Brigade Group.

The gear is only a small part of this exercise and the most important aspect is familiarizing the troops with their coalition partners, added Gervais.

“This is the first time we have worked with a Marine land section,” he said. “The Marines of LAAD have shown us a lot of different tactics we can utilize, and that is what this exercise is supposed to bring around to us.”

“Seeing how the Marines do their job prepares us for possible integration during deployments in the future,” said Gervais.

“By working with the Canadians over the last week, we have been able to get extra work on our two main missions, which are ground-based air defense and providing security posts,” said Capt. Jonathan M. Trizila, commanding officer of Battery B.

“This exercise has given us a means to hone our skills on a much larger unit level,” Trizila said. “We usually have to simulate different events happening when training on our own.”

Trizila said everyone, from lance corporals to staff noncommissioned officers, is learning a great deal during the exercise.

“Working with the Canadians lets us see the bigger picture about tactics they use,” said Cpl. Demingo Lara, a section leader with Battery B. “This event makes Bravo Battery a better team of Marines.”



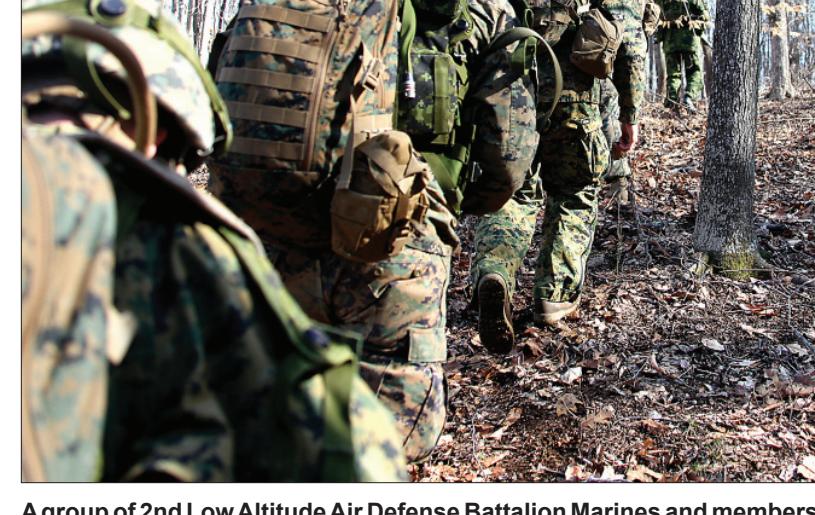
PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. CORY D. POLOM  
A Marine with Battery B, 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, carries a FIM-92 Stinger Missile system while he patrols a road aboard Virginia Army National Guard Installation Fort Pickett, Va., Feb. 21.



Lance Cpl. Joshua B. Stewart, a team leader with Battery B, 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, provides security for a patrol aboard Virginia Army National Guard Installation Fort Pickett, Va., Feb. 21. The Marines supported the 36th Canadian Brigade Group during a simulated humanitarian mission to a village in support of exercise South Bound Trooper. “Working with the Canadians lets us see the bigger picture about tactics they use,” said Cpl. Demingo Lara, a section leader with Battery B. “This event makes Bravo Battery a better team of Marines.”



A group of 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion Marines and members of the 36th Canadian Brigade work together to paddle their assault boat across a river aboard Virginia Army National Guard Installation Fort Pickett, Va., Feb. 21. The group moved through the woods to a simulated village on a peace keeping mission in support of exercise South Bound Trooper.



A group of 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion Marines and members of the 36th Canadian Brigade patrol through the woods aboard Virginia Army National Guard Installation Fort Pickett, Va., Feb. 21.

# Wounded warriors commence 2012 Marine Corps Trials with ceremony



PFC. TREVON PERACCA

The Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment kicked off the 2012 Marine Corps Trials opening ceremony at the Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton Track, Feb. 16. More than 300 wounded, ill and injured Marines, Marine veterans and international service members will participate in the second annual Marine Corps Trials Feb. 16-21 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. The event, hosted by Wounded Warrior Regiment, will include individual and team competition in sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball, swimming, cycling, shooting, archery and track and field. Four teams – east, west, veteran and international – will go head-to-head for team gold. The international team has military athletes from seven nations, including the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Australia, Germany Columbia and the Netherlands.

## **SGT. HEIDI AGOSTINI**

MARINE CORPS WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** — The Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment kicked off the 2012 Marine Corps Trials with an opening ceremony, Feb. 16, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

More than 300 wounded, ill or injured Marines, Marine veterans and international service members will participate in the second annual Marine Corps Trials Feb. 16 through 21.

"Our Marine Corps Trials are both clinical and competition," said Col. Jay J. Kral, the Wounded Warrior Regiment executive officer. "Everyone here will receive world-class coaching over the next week."

Several notable volunteer coaches are devoting their time and expertise with the athletes, including Olympic Gold medalist swimmer Sheila Taormina, Olympic triathlete Victor Plata, and nationally-ranked University of Oregon track and field thrower, Brittany Hinchcliffe.

"Camp Pendleton is privileged to host the Trials for the second year, and we're proud of the role that we've played in not only these games, but in preparation of our veterans and Marine team for the Warrior Games that will be held later this year in Colorado Springs, Colo.," said Col. Nicholas F. Marano, the base commanding officer.

The regiment will select 50 Marines, veteran and active, as members of the All-Marine team for the Warrior Games, a competition between all branches of services in Colorado Springs, Colo., early May.

"The veterans and Marines last year went on to win the most medals in Colorado with the fewest number of athletes, clearly living up to the Marine Corps motto of 'the few, the proud,'" Marano said.

Cpl. Manuel Jimenez, from New Britain, Conn., is participating in the trials for the second year. The 23-year-old competed in track last year and will compete in swimming, track and sitting volleyball this year. Jimenez, an above-elbow amputee, advises first time competitors to enjoy the trials and continue to be athletic.

"If you don't leave this year with something, come back next year and show those guys what you've learned," Jimenez said. "The sky's the limit. Don't give up on yourself. If you have the fire that lights inside you as all Marines do, you can accomplish anything you want."

The Trials brings together allies and friends from the field of battle where they fought and bled together, to the field of fitness in Southern California.

"We fight together," Kral said. "We fight oppression. We fight radical, fanatic evil, perverted beliefs. We fight drug cartels together. We fight fascism. We fight for right and we fight for freedom."

Kral said off the battlefield, these athletes fight personal battles, fighting limitations and amputations, to see when their eyes fail, to move when their bodies are tired.

"Our bodies get better," Kral said. "Our minds get better. We win. 'Etiam in Pugna.' Still in the fight. We will always be, still in the fight, cause we are warriors."



# DEVIL DOG STRENGTH

**PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI**

**Top Photo-** Marine Attack Squadron 231 Marines put all their strength into pulling Humvees during the Feats of Strength competition Feb. 21. In this month's competition, two Marines pulled Humvees while a third stopped the vehicle for the fourth to retrieve tires from the sides of the course.

Maj. Ryan Hough, maintenance officer with VMA-231, said the competition is a monthly contest between the elements of VMA-231. Other squadrons can challenge VMA-231 for the A. A. Cunning Ham Trophy, which is awarded to whichever shop wins the Feats of Strength competition.

**Right Photo -** Cpl. Alexandre Robidoux, a powerline mechanic for Marine Attack Squadron 231, struggles to pull a Humvee during the squadron's Feats of Strength competition Feb. 21. The maintenance shops and the pilots each broke into teams of four for the Humvee Pull competition. The Flight E Seat Shop won the competition and will go on to face another squadron from Marine Aircraft Group 14 for the A. A. Cunning Ham Trophy.





LOCKHEED MARTIN

Maj. Richard Rusnok is seen in the cockpit of an F-35B Joint Strike Fighter during initial sea trials aboard USS Wasp (LHD 1) in Oct. 2011. The John H. Glenn Squadron of the Marine Corps Aviation Association selected Rusnok as test pilot of the year for his role in the successful embarkation and deployment of more than 250 people and 140,000 pounds of supplies and equipment accompanying two F-35B test aircraft on USS Wasp (LHD 1).

## Marine major selected as F-35B test pilot of the year

### JSF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

**NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, PATUXENT RIVER, Md.** — The test pilot responsible for leading the planning effort for the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter's initial sea trials in October received accolades for his leadership during a ceremony here, Feb. 16.

The John H. Glenn squadron of the Marine Corps Aviation Association selected Maj. Richard Rusnok as test pilot of the year for his role in the successful embarkation and deployment of more than 250 people and 140,000 pounds of supplies and equipment accompanying two F-35B test aircraft on USS Wasp (LHD 1).

"Major Rusnok was the focal point

for an extremely complex event, and the amount of coordination, thought and planning he put into it was enormous," said Navy Capt. Erik Etz, military director of test and evaluation for F-35 naval variants. "Initial sea trials were a resounding success, and his award is well deserved."

"It's every naval test pilot's dream to be involved with initial ship trials," Rusnok said. "It's such a rare occurrence – a once-in-a-generation opportunity – for us to take a new aircraft to sea."

Rusnok, an operational test liaison, spent almost a year planning the trials.

"It was an incredible opportunity for me to see the plan evolve over time," Rusnok said. "It sounds trite, but nothing I did was noteworthy. I had a lot of support and the

virtually unlimited resources of a talented team."

Rusnok was also one of four test pilots hand-selected to demonstrate the Marines' amphibious air power with the first short takeoffs and vertical landings on USS Wasp.

"It was really satisfying to see the payoff of all the hard work we did, like the Field Carrier Landing Practices with the Wasp crew," Rusnok said. "Flying at sea felt like coming home again."

"I was surprised and happy to be selected," Rusnok said.

This year, Rusnok will transition to Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., where operational testing on the F-35B will commence.

Rusnok was among three Marines honored at the squadron's 7th Annual Acquisition Awards Banquet. As Test Pilot of the Year, he will be considered for the national Commandant of the Marine Corps' Award for Acquisition Excellence, to be announced by the national MCAA organization in May.

The F-35B is the Marine variant of the Joint Strike Fighter aircraft. It is capable of short takeoffs and vertical landings for use on amphibious ships or expeditionary airfields to provide air power to the Marine Air-Ground Task Force. Initial ship trials for the F-35B began Oct. 3 on USS Wasp. The F-35B is undergoing test and evaluation at NAS Patuxent River prior to delivery to the fleet.

## F-35B from page A1

501 hangar for military leaders, government officials and other guests to view.

VMFAT-501 will also be the first Marine Corps unit to begin training for and with the F-35B. Eglin AFB has already constructed the F-35 Academic Training Center and in the near future will begin training, throughout all military branches, maintainers and pilots on the aircraft.

"501 is on the forefront of one of the most significant transition periods Marine aviation has ever known," said Dunford. "Certainly one of the most important in a long time. Maybe since the introduction of the helicopter."

"We are trying not to waste the time we've been given," said Col. Arthur Tomassetti, the vice commander of the 33rd Fighter Wing, which is responsible for pilot and maintainer training on the F-35 A, B and C models. "We hope that people will be pleased and proud to see the time we've been given to prepare operational readiness has been used to the advantage."

Tomassetti said that VMFAT-501 was approaching the training for the aircraft with a crawl-walk-run approach, and were currently between crawl and walk. He explained the importance of taking their time learning the aircraft and feeding off the constructive feedback from outside sources.

"We could accelerate training," said Tomassetti. "But then we might miss things. It's better to just get it right the first time."

The fifth generation aircraft is slated to replace the Marine Corps' F/A-18 Hornet, AV-8B Harrier and EA-6B Prowler, reducing maintenance costs while ensuring the Marine Corps' tactical air dominance.

Maj. Gen. Jon Davis, the commanding general of 2nd MAW, said that Friday was a very exciting day for the Marine Corps and it's been 60 years in the making. Davis explained that the aircraft means something for more than just the wing side but it is there for the infantrymen as well.

"Thank you all for being witness to this historic event," said Dunford. "Know that the spirit of innovation within Marine aviation is alive and well and lives on today in every Marine before you."

"It will continue to live on here with the Warlords of VMFAT-501 as it has in every clime and place for the last 100 years of Marine aviation. May the next 100 be as memorable."

## CHAPLAIN from page A2

is in the hand of the potter God has His hands on your life and my life.

Invisible hands of a heavenly potter are on the clay of your life molding you, shaping you, forming you, and making you into the creation that our Lord wants you to become.

Never doubt that God has a plan for your life!

I don't care who you are, what your background may be, where you have come from or where you are going; God has a plan and purpose, not only for your life, but for every life. Just as the potter molds and shapes the clay, God wants to Mold and Shape you. Just as the potter has a plan and a purpose for the clay God has a plan and purpose for you.

Do you know what is true about clay? It is only useful in the hands of the potter. We are useful to God when we place ourselves in the hands of God. Just as clay is valuable to the potter, we are valuable to God. Have you ever thought about the fact that God created the world with his hands, but God created us with God's own heart? When God created the world he said, "That's good," but when God created us God said, "That is very good." God values His creatures far more than he values his creation.

The psalmist put it this way in Psalm 8:3-6: "When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers the moon and the stars you have set in place what are mortals that you should think of us, mere humans that you should care for us? For you made us only a little lower than God, and you crowned us with glory and honor."

God, in His own way and time, is working on the world. Life in essence is God's pottery wheel on which you and I are being formed and shaped day by day. In the daily cycle of life, God has placed you on the wheel of His eternal care. This isn't the "Wheel of Fortune," nor is it the "Wheel of Fate." It is the wheel of faithfulness: God's faithfulness to His purpose and plan for your life.

So often, we get frustrated when life takes a twisted turn or the wheel of life seems to turn unfairly. We get discouraged and disillusioned and sometimes even bitter toward God. We start focusing on the wheel and we forget the potter. The potter knows exactly what he is doing. We will not always understand why certain things happen to us. We will not always understand why the wheel of life takes a certain turn. But if the clay of your life is in the hands of God the potter, you can trust our God to mold you and to make you into what the creator wants you to be and do what is best for you. That is exactly what Romans 8:28 means, "God works all things out together for the good of those who love Him."

## SIMULATOR from page A1

was developed and executed to bring the new simulator to MCAS Cherry Point.

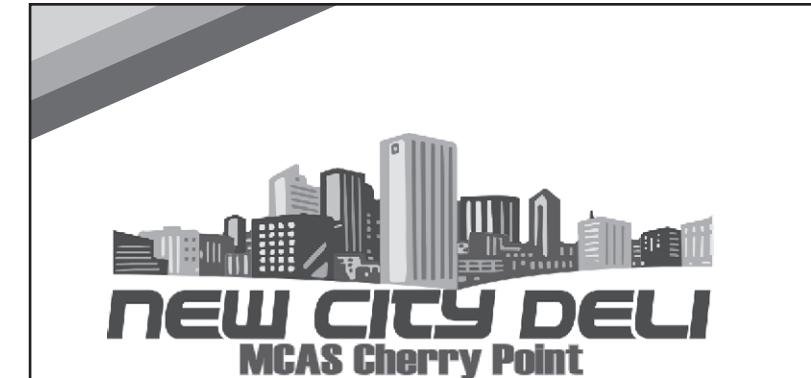
After the simulator was moved to its current location on MCAS Cherry Point it was reassembled, received further upgrades and was tested to make sure it operates like the actual aircraft.

"It is an effective and relevant training system," Fetzer said. It is a training system that will stay with the Marines until the end of the venerable Prowler aircraft itself.

It took a lot of persistence and dedication to achieve this now almost six-year plan said Lt. Col. Ryan Rideout, director of 2nd MAW Aviation Training Systems.

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence," said Rideout reading a quote from former President of the United States Calvin Coolidge. "Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

Rideout went on to say, "The story of this weapon system trainer being here now, in this place, under Marine Corps leadership and management, and ready to train Marine Corps electronic attack warriors, is a story of teamwork and persistence worthy of being told and celebrated."



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# HMM-265 provides support to boots on ground



LANCE CPL. ALYSSA HOFFACKER

**CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 (Reinforced), 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, land on the flight line aboard Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Japan, Feb. 15. The helicopters returned from the central training area where they provided airlift capability to Marines with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 31st MEU.**

**LANCE CPL. ALYSSA HOFFACKER**

III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE / MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC

## MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA, Japan

— More than 10 aircraft with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 (Reinforced), 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit filled the skies simultaneously as they took off from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Japan, Feb. 15.

The purpose of the flights was to provide airlift capability to ground units in the northern training areas of Okinawa.

The aircraft, which included UH-1 Huey, CH-46E Sea Knight, CH-53E Super Stallion and AH-1W Cobra helicopters, departed MCAS Futenma en route to Camp Hansen where they picked up Marines with Company B, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 31st MEU.

Once onboard, the Marines were transported to the cen-

tral training area.

The mass airlift's training value was beneficial to the air crews as well as the infantry Marines being transported, said Cpl. Kevin A. Bruscas, a crew chief with HMM-265 (Rein.), 31st MEU.

"This (training) is about supporting the lone rifleman, standing down there in the mud," said Lt. Col. Damien M. Marsh, the squadron's commanding officer.

Marsh continued to explain how Marine riflemen make up the ground combat element of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

The training also allowed the aviation combat element Marines to continue to prepare for future flying engagements.

"This is a good opportunity for us to train for deployments," said Bruscas. "We do similar exercises often but never on this large of a scale."

"This required a lot from the maintenance crews, scheduling operations and planning on a lot of facets, which today's training would not have been possible without," said Capt. Terry A. Carter Jr., a pilot with the squadron.

With nearly a dozen helicopters in the air simultaneously, HMM-265 (Rein.), 31st MEU was also able to provide pilots with the opportunity to lead a formation of aircraft. This skill set ultimately allows pilots to serve in more demanding roles within the squadron, said Marsh.

"This is the most important training that can prepare (the squadron) for austere environments found throughout the (Asia-)Pacific area of operations," said Carter.

CH-46Es, which have been in the Marine Corps inventory since the Vietnam War, are to be drawn out of the Marine Corps and will be replaced with the MV-22 Osprey tilt rotor aircraft, said Marsh.

# *MEU's aerial live-fire*



SGT. ELYSSA QUESADA

Sgt. Martin Lucero, a scout sniper with 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's maritime raid force, fires at a target from the rear gate of a CH-53E Super Stallion in the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet area of responsibility Feb. 22. The Super Stallion is with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 (Reinforced), 11th MEU. 11th MEU is providing support for maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

# *Lending a helping hand*



CPL. GARRY J. WELCH

Marines and Sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, till land at a child protection and development center in Pattaya, Thailand, Feb. 22. Marines and Sailors cultivated land around the center for the children to use as gardens. The event comes at the conclusion of exercise Cobra Gold 2012. The exercise demonstrates the resolve of the U.S. and participating nations to increase interoperability and promote security and peace throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and remains the nation's force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

# Life&Times

Facebook.com/MCASCherryPoint

February 23, 2012



## Preserving the Legacy

Barbara Tate, a member of the Montford Point Marines Association, attends the Preserving the Legacy memorial program held by the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Chapter of the Montford Point Marine Association at the MCAS Cherry Point Theater Friday.

## Cherry Point community works to rewrite history to include the memories of the Montford Point Marines

LANCE CPL. ANDREA CLEOPATRA DICKERSON

MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @ACLEOPATRAUSMC

Members of the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point community gathered for a celebration commemorating the Montford Point Marines, the first blacks allowed into the Marine Corps, at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Theater Friday.

"There are so many Montford Point Marines that we have stood on the shoulders of from past to present, that have gotten us where we are today," said Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Arnold E. Breckenridge, the secretary of the Cherry Point Chapter of the Montford Point Marine Association.

February is black history month, so it is important to remember the history of black Marines, added Breckenridge.

"The purpose of this event is to recognize our heroes, the Montford Point Marines," said Breckenridge. "Without them paving the way, I would not have been able to obtain the rank of master gunnery sergeant while I was enlisted."

"But more importantly, I would not even have been able to become a Marine," he said.

Although these few made history as the first black Marines, they still went through the trials of the time – segregation, said Gunnery Sgt. Harsheen T. Eady, MCAS Cherry Point's equal opportunity advisor.

"In 1942, the black recruits weren't allowed to go to Parris Island or San Diego, because of segregation," Eady said. "Therefore, Montford Point Base, an all black recruit training camp, was stood up outside of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C."

The Marine Corps was the last military branch to accept blacks after receiving orders from President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941, said Eady. Much like the African-American innovators that joined the other branches of service, black Marines made their mark in history.

"Originally, the Marines were going to be discharged after World War II ended, but they proved they were just as vital to the Marine Corps as all of the other Marines that had ever fought and died for this country," said Eady.

During his opening remarks, Breckenridge recounted

his experiences as a Marine.

"When I was a young Marine at Parris Island, I remember opening up the notebook of information I was given that contained all of the Marine Corps history, from the first commandant to where and how the Corps was made," Breckenridge said. "There was nothing about African Americans."

The Montford Point Marines will now get recognition at various installations across the Corps, said Breckenridge.

"The history of the Marine Corps is being rewritten so the young Marines that come into our Corps will understand what these special men stood for, and what they have contributed to history," Breckenridge said.

"Despite being denied many basic rights, the Montford Point Marines committed to serve our country with selfless patriotism," said Barack Obama, President of the United States. "They embodied the Marine Corps motto of Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful."

"These heroes paved the way for future generations of warriors, regardless of background, to serve in the finest military the world has ever known."

That message was heavily conveyed through the duration of the program.

During the program, attendees sang 'Lift Every Voice and Sing', watched a presentation of the proposed Montford Point Marine Memorial and heard remarks from various speakers.

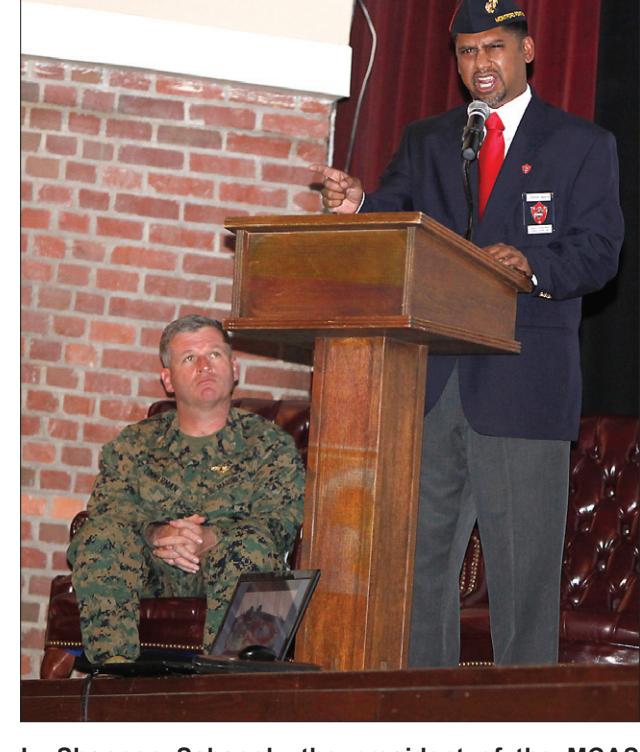
Retired and active duty Marines from all over North Carolina were in attendance at the event.

"It is very inspiring to see all different kinds of Marines present here today," said Eady.

"It's phenomenal to see the members of the Order of the Purple Heart here supporting the cause with the purple heart emblem on their purple ties, alongside the Montford Point Marines Association members with an eagle, globe and anchor etched on their red ties," he said.

It is important for everyone from the upper echelon to retirees and civilians to know the story of the Montford Point Marines, said Breckenridge.

"Every Marine — from private to general — will know the history of those men who crossed the threshold to fight not only the enemy they were soon to know overseas, but



L. Shannon Sabsook, the president of the MCAS Cherry Point Chapter of the Montford Point Marines Association, delivers a motivational speech during the Preserving the Legacy memorial program at the MCAS Cherry Point Theater Friday. The Marine Corps was the last military branch to accept blacks after receiving orders from President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941.

the enemy of racism and segregation in their own country," said General John F. Amos, the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, during his remarks in an inspirational video played during the program.

"We must continue to champion the cause for the preservation of the legacy of the Montford Point Marines," said Dr. James T. Averhart Jr., national president of MPMA.

"This is not just black history, or Marine Corps history. This is American history, and the world should know."



(Above) Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart show their support for the Cherry Point Chapter of the Montford Point Marines Association speech during the Preserving the Legacy memorial program at the MCAS Cherry Point Theater Friday. "It's phenomenal to see the members of the Order of the Purple Heart here supporting the cause," said Gunnery Sgt. Harsheen T. Eady, MCAS Cherry Point's equal opportunity advisor.

(Left) Sixteen-year-old Ashanti Curry recites a poem she wrote about the Montford Point Marines during the Preserving the Legacy memorial program at the MCAS Cherry Point Theater Friday. "It is truly an honor to be at this event and have the opportunity to share my words with the Marines," said Curry.



# CHERRY POINT MESS HALL

## HOURS OF OPERATION

**Monday-Friday**

**Breakfast** 6-8 a.m., **Lunch** 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m.,

**Dinner** 4-6 p.m.

**Saturday-Sunday/Holidays**

**Breakfast/Lunch** 8:30-11:00 a.m.,

**Dinner** 3-5 p.m.

## FAST FOOD LINE

**Monday-Friday**

**Breakfast** 6-8 a.m., **Lunch** 11 a.m.-1 p.m.,

**Dinner** 4-6 p.m.

## Breakfast Menu

Assorted fresh fruit, assorted hot and cold cereals, fried eggs and omelets to order, scrambled eggs and hard cooked eggs, grill special, pancakes, French toast or waffles, breakfast potatoes, breakfast meats, creamed beef or sausage gravy, assorted muffins, breads and breakfast pastries

## Specialty Bar Menu

**Monday** - Grilled Polish sausage, grilled bratwurst, grilled Italian sausage, grilled frankfurters, rolls, French fries, tater tots, baked beans, corn on the cob, chili, cheese sauce, coleslaw, potato chips, corn chips, pretzels

**Tuesday** - Popcorn shrimp, steamed shrimp, buffalo chicken fritter, grilled chicken strips, sizzlin Caesar salad

**Wednesday** - Beef taco meat, chicken enchiladas, bean burrito, Mexican rice, refried beans, Mexican corn, shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, diced tomatoes, chopped onions, sliced jalapenos, taco shells

**Thursday** - Chinese egg rolls, chilled pineapple chunks, teriyaki beef strips, steamed shrimp, grilled chicken strips, pork fried rice, steamed rice, vegetable lo mein with oyster sauce

**Friday** - Ziti/linguine/fettuccine, spaghetti rigatoni, pasta primavera, lasagna, chicken rotini casserole, baked ziti with four cheeses, penne/rigate/rotini, baked Italian sausage meatballs (ground beef), meat sauce, marinara sauce, alfredo sauce

## Weekly Menu

**Thursday March 1**

**Lunch** - Green chili and corn stew, Indian spiced roast chicken, long grain and wild rice, steamed broccoli, harvard beets, chicken with rice soup **Dinner** - Lemon chicken, salisbury steak, oven brown potatoes, spanish rice, sauteed mushrooms and onions, southern style greens, brown gravy, bean with bacon soup

**Friday March 2**

**Lunch** - Baked fish with spinach topping, chicken and cheese enchiladas, golden jewel multigrain blend, yucatan style rice, steamed vegetable medley, herbed green beans, New England fish chowder **Dinner** - Stuffed green peppers, grilled bratwurst, steamed rice, lyonnaise potatoes, sauteed zucchini, German sauerkraut, Louisiana seafood gumbo

**Saturday March 3**

**Lunch** - Mesquite roasted pork loin, chicken provencal, red beans with rice, Italian roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, broccoli polonaise, lentil vegetable soup **Dinner** - Grilled steak, Asian barbecue turkey, baked macaroni with cheese, baked potatoes, steamed baby carrots, asparagus, mulligatawny soup

**Sunday March 4**

**Lunch** - Honey barbequed chicken, vegetable lasagna, fraconia potatoes, Italian vegetable blend, simmered pinto beans, Minnesota wild rice soup **Dinner** - Beef and corn pie, French fried shrimp, French fried fish, tater tots, turnips and bacon, vegetable stir fry

**Monday March 5**

**Lunch** - Open faced steak sandwich, cajun lightning chicken, rice pilaf, green beans nicoise, sauteed summer squash with tomato **Dinner** - vegetarian split pea soup, spaghetti with meat sauce, barbequed spareribs, scalloped potatoes, steamed broccoli

**Tuesday March 6**

**Lunch** - Louisiana chicken and sausage gumbo, southern fried catfish fillets, turkey with vegetable primavera, roasted zucchini, potatoes au gratin, calico cabbage, hush puppies **Dinner** - Tomato noodle soup, yankee pot roast, casablanca vegetable stew, oven browned potatoes, steamed rice, brown gravy, corn on the cob, sweet sour greens

**Wednesday March 7**

**Lunch** - Hearty winter vegetable soup, maple mustard pork loin, chicken parmesan, whipped sweet potatoes, penne rigate noodles, marinara sauce, ratatouille, broccoli, cheese and rice, breadsticks **Dinner** - Chicken tortilla soup, Texas barbequed beef brisket, baked tuna and noodles, baked macaroni and cheese, vegetable stir fry, beans fiesta

# Nutrition facts:

## MARINE CORPS TRAINING & EDUCATION COMMAND

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO

**Fluids** – Adequate fluid intake prior to activity is vital, particularly if the activity will be for a long duration or in a hot or humid environment.

**Thirst mechanism** – A substantial level of dehydration can occur before one feels “thirsty.” Therefore, fluid intake should be 8 to 12 ounces 15 minutes before the event, and 3 to 4 ounces every 10 to 15 minutes during the activity. Afterwards, one should take in 16 ounces of fluid for every pound of bodyweight lost.

**Prolonged activities** – For endurance activities lasting less than 60 minutes, water should be the primary fluid replacement. After one hour of activity, sports drinks can be beneficial in restoring fluid levels.

**Fluid replacements** – The best fluid replacement drink is one that tastes good, does not cause gastrointestinal distress, promotes rapid fluid absorption, and provides energy (8 ounces of sports drink should provide between 14 and 19 grams of carbohydrate, about 56 to 76 calories per serving.)

**General recommendations** – Meals other than the pre-activity meal eaten on the same day should not be skipped. They should follow the basic principles discussed earlier.

**Liquid meals** – Liquid meals have some advantages over solid meals for pre-activity nutrition. They have a high carbohydrate content, have no bulk, are easily digested and assimilated, and may be more practical than a solid meal. Most liquid meals are high in carbohydrates, low in protein and fat, and may have added vitamins and minerals.

**Eating during activities** – There is no need to consume anything during most types of endurance activities except possibly carbohydrates and water. Carbohydrates taken during these activities may help delay the onset of fatigue, while water is critical to regulate body temperature.

**Eating after activities** – Carbohydrates and fat are the main nutrients used during exercise and can be replaced easily from foods. For those individuals performing daily physical endurance events, their post-activity meal should have a balance of carbohydrates and protein. This will help replenish the muscle stores of glucose (glycogen) necessary for continued daily training at high intensity, as well as promote muscle growth and sustainment of lean body mass.

**Fluid and meal intake based on activity**

## Station gym hours

**Devil Dog Gym:** 466-2713/4420/4192

Monday - Thursday: 3:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Friday: 3:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday: 8am-6pm, Sunday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Hancock Fitness Center:** 466-4018

Monday - Thursday: 5:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday: 5:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed weekends and holidays

**Marine Dome:** 466-2566

Monday - Thursday: 5 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday: 5 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Weekends and holidays: 1 - 5 p.m.

**Eating on the “run”** – There are nutritional choices of high-carbohydrate and low-fat foods that can be easily bought, prepared, or packed. Those factors should be taken into consideration when eating food while doing a physical event.



## The General Election is Tuesday, Nov. 6

Registering to vote takes less time than it takes to fill your gas tank. Contact a voting officer today! If you are unsure who your Unit Voting Officer is, contact the Installation Voter Assistance Office. The office is located inside the DEERS/RAPIDS office in building 298. Cpl. Kent Holtberg is available to assist you during normal working hours at 466-3243, and via email at [vote.mcascherrypoint@USMC.mil](mailto:vote.mcascherrypoint@USMC.mil). Your vote counts!

# From the clinic: No-show effects on access to medical care at Naval Health Clinic

Did you know that patients failing to show up for medical appointments affects your access to medical care at the Naval Health Clinic?

An appointment no-show occurs when a patient misses their scheduled appointment and does not call the facility prior to the appointment time to cancel. In December, there were 8,178 scheduled medical appointments for beneficiaries at the clinic. Of those appointments, 645 patients did not show for their scheduled appointments.

An appointment no-show affects us all, particularly:

1. The patient who missed the appointment does not get the care they need.
2. The patient who could have used the appointment

time if it was available.

3. The physician or provider who was fully staffed and prepared just to see you!

It is imperative patients arrive on time and complete scheduled medical appointments. At the clinic, we realize things happen! If you cannot make your appointment, simply call the facility and cancel the appointment in advance, so another patient is afforded the opportunity to use that appointment time. Don't let your neighbor down by limiting access to needed healthcare!

Please remember Naval Health Clinic Cherry Point is an appointment based clinic. To schedule or cancel an appointment, please call 466-0921. We look forward to your next visit!

## TRICARE ONLINE

For more information visit:

[www.tricare.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy)

[www.tricare.mil/homedelivery](http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery)

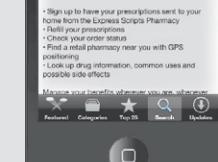
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**NOW SHOWING**

**Thursday, March 1**

6:00pm - We Bought A Zoo PG

**Friday, March 2**

5:00pm - Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close PG 13

8:00pm - Contraband R

**Saturday, March 3**

3:00pm - Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close PG 13

6:00pm - One For The Money PG 13

8:00pm - Contraband R

**Sunday, March 4 - Sneak Preview**

3:00pm - John Carter PG 13

**Tuesday, March 6**

6:00pm - The Wild G

**MOVIE SYNOPSIS**

We Bought A Zoo - Starring: Matt Damon, Colin Ford, Thomas Haden Church. Benjamin Mee is a recently-widowed father who moves his family to a beautiful estate miles outside the city. The only catch is that the estate is also a dilapidated zoo replete with 200 animals, and the purchase of the home is conditional on the new owner keeping the zoo and its entire staff. The Mee family subsequently sets out to rebuild and refurbish the zoo to its former glory, making new friends along the way.

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close - Starring: Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock, Thomas Horn. Oskar is convinced that his father, who died in the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, has left a final message for him hidden somewhere in the city. Feeling disconnected from his grieving mother and driven by a relentlessly active mind that refuses to believe in things that can't be observed, Oskar begins searching New York City for the lock that fits a mysterious key he found in his father's closet.

Contraband - Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale, Ben Foster. Chris Farraday long ago abandoned his life of crime, but after his brother-in-law, Andy, botches a drug deal for his ruthless boss, Tim Briggs, Chris is forced back into doing what he does best - running contraband - to settle Andy's debt.

One For The Money - Starring: Katherine Heigl, Jason O'Mara, Daniel Sunjata. A proud, born-and-bred Jersey girl, Stephanie Plum's got plenty of attitude, even if she's been out of work for the last six months and just lost her car to a debt collector. Desperate for some fast cash, Stephanie turns to her last resort: convincing her sleazy cousin to give her a job at his bail bonding company as a recovery agent.

John Carter - Starring: Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins, Thomas Haden Church. War-weary, former military captain John Carter is inexplicably transported to Mars where he becomes reluctantly embroiled in a conflict of epic proportions amongst the inhabitants of the planet, including Tars Tarkas and the captivating Princess Dejah Thoris. In a world on the brink of collapse, Carter rediscovered his humanity when he realizes that the survival of Barsoom and its people rests in his hands.

The Wild - Animation - Starring the voices of: Jena Malone, Jim Belushi, Eddie Izzard. A handful of zoo animals leave behind their well-protected environment for the streets of the big city.

Movies are subject to change without notice

# THE LOCAL BUZZ

## Announcements

► Indicates new announcement

### OSC Auction

The Cherry Point Officers' Spouses Club will host a "Time, Talent, and Treasures" auction at the Havelock Tourist and Event Center March 16.

All proceeds generated at this event benefit local and military communities through scholarships, assistance grants and individual unit contributions.

The Cherry Point Officers' Spouses Club was originally founded in the early 1950s as the Officers' Wives' Club, a social club whose primary function was to promote fellowship and support for its members.

For more information about the auction and OSC visit <http://www.cherrypoinosc.org>.

### MARSOC Screening

Headquarters Marine Corps will be hosting Marine Forces Special Operations Command screening for Active Duty Marines and Sailors interested in MARSOC at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point March 29.

For more information contact your career planner or visit <http://1.usa.gov/marsocscreening> for screening requirements.

### Tax Center Open

The Cherry Point tax center is open for business until April 17. Walk-in hours are 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Clients are accepted Wednesday from 4:30-7:30 p.m. by appointment only.

Services are offered to active-duty and retired service members.

The Tax Center location has changed this year and is now in building 298, near the library and down the hall from the DEERS/ RAPIDS office. This is an IRS sponsored tax center where all Marines preparing taxes are trained and certified by the IRS.

Free preparation services for basic federal and state tax returns is provided.

For more information call the Tax Center at 466-2001.

### ► Hope for the Warriors

Hope for the Warriors is announcing early registration for the 7th annual Run for the Warriors.

The race will be held at Jacksonville High School

## Monthly and Weekly Events

### Courage to Change

Cherry Point and Havelock Courage to Change is a support group for friends and families of people who suffer from alcoholism.

Meetings are held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Havelock, Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

For more information, call 241-6155 or 670-6236.

### AA Beginners Meeting

There are two weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings aboard the air station. The meetings are held Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m.

The meetings take place in Room 208 of Building 229, in the same building as the tax center, next to the Cherry Tree House.

For more information, call 447-2109.

### Al-Anon Family Group Meeting

There are Al-Anon family group

meetings Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. for family members and friends of individuals who may have alcohol problems. The meetings are held at Havelock First Baptist Church.

For more information, call 447-8063 or 447-2109.

### Together For Life

The "Together for Life" one-day premarital seminar is held for active duty personnel age 26 and under, within 90 days of marriage.

Please call the chapel at 466-4000 for more information.

### Domestic Violence Victims

A support group for victims of domestic violence is provided by the Carteret County Domestic Violence Program.

The group meetings are held every Wednesday at 6 p.m.

For more information, call 728-3788.

### Marine Corps League Meetings

The Cherry Point Detachment of the Marine Corps League meets the third Tuesday of each month at Miller's Landing at 7 p.m.

For more information, call 515-1175.

### Disabled Veterans

Chapter 26 of the Disabled American Veterans meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Senior Center in Havelock at 7 p.m.

For information, contact Cris Young at 259-3427.

### Enlisted spouses club

The Cherry Point Enlisted Spouses Club meets on the first Thursday of every month in building 3452. The Enlisted Spouses Club is a social/service organization open to the spouses of enlisted service members.

For information call 626-4319 or visit <http://www.cherrypointesc.org>

### Sexual Assault

This procedure is not to replace calling 911 if you are in immediate danger. Immediately call 665-4713, which is monitored 24/7. The person answering the call will help you decide the next steps to take. You may remain anonymous.

### Severe Weather and Force Protection Information

Cherry Point personnel call 466-3093. FRC East personnel call 464-8333. DDCN personnel call 466-4083.

## Dry runs

*Be observant of behavior that appears to be preparation for terrorist activity, such as mapping out routes, playing out scenarios with other people, monitoring military facilities, timing traffic lights or traffic flow, or any other suspicious activities.*



OPERATION EAGLE EYES

## Marine and Family Programs

### Marine, Family Programs Office Numbers

The Family Member Employment Program, Transition Assistance Management Program, Relocation Assistance Program and accredited financial counselors can be reached at 466-4201.

- Child Development Resource and Referral – 466-3595.

### Now in Building 87

- Exceptional Family Member Program – 466-3305.
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program – 466-5490.
- Substance Abuse Counseling – 466-7568.
- New Parent Support Program – 466-3651.
- Family Advocacy Program – 466-3264.

### Library – 466-3552.

### LifeLong Learning – 466-3500.

### Military Family Life Consultant – 876-8016.

### Retired Activities – 466-5548.

### Budget for Baby

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offers Budget for Baby classes.

To register call 466-2031.

### Breastfeeding Class

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offers free breastfeeding classes to expectant mothers. The purpose of the class is to help prepare the mother to be ready and confident to breastfeed once the baby arrives.

To register call 466-2031.

### Veterans' Assistance

A representative from the Veterans Affairs Office visits Cherry Point each Thursday in building 4335. Call 466-4201 for assistance.

## OFF Limits

### MCAS CHERRY POINT AREA

#### 98 CENT ONLY STORE

#### (BIG DADDY) WESLEY'S GROCERY

#### COASTAL SMOKE SHOP

#### EXPRESSIONS

#### FRIDAY'S NIGHT CLUB (AKA CLUB INSOMNIA, CLUB CLASSICS, INFINITY LOUNGE)

#### H&D EXPRESS AKA CITGO

#### NADINE'S FOOD MART

#### SUPER EXPRESSWAY

#### TOBACCO OUTLET (HAVELOCK AND NEW BERN)

#### TOBACCO SHOP & GIFTS (BEAUFORT AND NEW BERN)

#### TOBACCO TOWN

#### TOBACCO SHOP (NEWPORT, N.C.)

#### TWIN RIVERS (NOT THE MALL)

#### WHITE SANDS CONVENIENCE STORE

## MCB CAMP LEJEUNE AREA

#### BELFAST QUICK MART

#### BELL AUTO SALVAGE II

#### BOTTA BOOMS

#### CASH-N-ADVANCE

#### CJ'S QUICK MART

#### CLUB MICKEY'S

#### COASTAL SMOKE SHOP

#### DASH-IN

#### DISCOUNT TOBACCO

#### D'S DRIVE THRU

#### D'S QUICK MART

#### DOLL HOUSE

#### EASY MONEY CATALOG SALES

#### EXPRESS WAY

#### FANTASIES

#### HIP HOP AND HOOKAHS

#### ILLUSIONS

#### JACKSONVILLE SPEEDWAY AUTO PARTS

#### KINGS DRIVE THRU

#### KWIK STOP MART

#### LAIRD'S AUTO & TRUCK CENTER

#### MILITARY CIRCUIT OF JACKSONVILLE

#### MOE'S MART

#### NASH MARKET

#### ONE STOP SHOP

#### PAR TECH

#### PLAYHOUSE

#### PLEASURE PALACE

#### PRIVATE PLEASURES (AKA CARRIAGE HOUSE)

#### RACEWAY AUTO PARTS

#### REFLECTION PHOTO

#### REID'S MART

#### SMOKERS POST

#### SOUTHERN COMFORT

#### SMITTY'S R&R

#### SPEED MART

#### TALK OF THE TOWN II

#### TENDER TOUCH (AKA BABY DOLLS)

#### TOBACCO ALLEY

#### TOBACCO AND MORE

#### TOBACCO CLUB

#### TOBACCO FOR LESS

#### TOBACCO HOUSE CIGARETTE CENTER

#### TOBACCO LEAF

#### VERONA QUICK STOP

#### VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES

## OUTSIDE AREAS

#### CARLAND

#### CENTENNIAL ENTERPRISES, INC.

#### STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMPANY

#### JOSHUA EXPERIENCE/ CLUB ACCESS

**NEXT UP...****SPRINT CUP**

Race: Subway Fresh Fit 500  
Where: Phoenix International Raceway  
When: Sunday, 2:30 p.m. (ET)  
TV: FOX  
2011 Winner: Jeff Gordon (right)

**NATIONWIDE SERIES**

Race: Bashas' Supermarkets 200  
Where: Phoenix International Raceway  
When: Saturday, 4:00 p.m. (ET)  
TV: ESPN 2  
2011 Winner: Kyle Busch

**CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS**

Race: Kroger 250  
Where: Martinsville Speedway  
When: March 31, 1:00 p.m. (ET)  
TV: SPEED  
2011 Winner: Johnny Sauter

# NASCAR INSIDER

By RICK MINTER / Universal Uclick



John King drives the No. 7 Toyota to win Friday's Camping World Truck Series NextEra Energy Resources 250 at Daytona International Speedway. (NASCAR photo)

## King, Buescher best veteran drivers in respective upsets

**N**ot one, but two young drivers scored stunning upsets in their respective races at Daytona International Speedway last week.

John King, a 23-year-old Camping World Truck Series driver with just seven previous starts in the series – and not one of them on a restrictor-plate track in any division – steered his way past one wreck after another to win on Friday night.

Then in Saturday's Nationwide Series race, which included 12 Sprint Cup regulars, 21-year-old James Buescher entered Turn 3 on the final lap in 11th place but came away with the win after the veterans in front of him crashed out.

King's was the biggest upset of the two.

"The expectations were just to finish," said King, whose best previous Truck Series finish was a 15th in his debut at Bristol in 2010. "We did miss some wrecks. It wasn't until we made it into the top five on restarts that I thought, 'Man, this could happen, this could get going.' There were a couple uncertainties with a couple green-white-checkereds we had to

encounter, but we made it happen."

The win is the third overall of King's career.

"This is it," he said. "I've won one dirt late model race and one late model stock race. It's unbelievable."

Veteran Truck Series driver Todd Bodine said he told his rookie teammate to be sure to savor his special night.

"He's such a good kid," Bodine said. "He's so polite and nice, and he's a heck of a race car driver."

"I talked to him before the race and I told him, 'John, just don't do anything and you're going to be there at the end.' Sure enough, that's what happened. I am so happy for him and everybody at Red Horse Racing has worked their guts out for the last two months on all three of these speedway trucks."

Buescher, a Truck Series regular and part-time Nationwide campaigner, had a fast car in practice but few drafting partners when it came down to the closing laps of Saturday's Nationwide Series race.

But that may have been a blessing, because those ahead of him on the final lap wound up wrecking



James Buescher, driver of the No. 30 Chevrolet, celebrates after winning Saturday's Nationwide Series DRIVE4COPD 300 at Daytona. (NASCAR photo)

along with their drafting partners, clearing a path for Buescher to follow to the finish line.

"I was just trying to do everything I could to stay in the top 10 with no drafting help," he said. "They all piled up in front of me, and we made it through."

"It's hard to describe the feeling when you make it through the wreck and you're the only guy. You don't see anybody in front of you coming to the checkered flag."

It's pretty incredible. Definitely will never forget it."

Like Friday's winner King, Buescher has yet to amass much of a trophy collection.

"Only other time I won here at Daytona was in the ARCA series," he said of his 2009 triumph. "Only win I can remember after that was [later that season] at Kentucky in the ARCA series."

"I think that was the last time I won a race."

**NOTEBOOK****Pastrana readies for NASCAR**

Danica Patrick isn't the only high-profile motorsports competitor making a major commitment to NASCAR this year: Motocross and rally racing star Travis Pastrana was at Daytona International Speedway last week to talk about his plans to move to NASCAR, plans that were put on hold last year because of a shattered ankle he suffered attempting a tricky motorcycle maneuver at the X Games.

Pastrana, with his shaggy hair, easy smile and legions of fans, will team with Michael Waltrip Racing to run a mix of at least seven Nationwide and 11 K&N Pro Series races this season. His first K&N race will be at Bristol Motor Speedway on March 17, with the first Nationwide on April 27 at Richmond International Raceway.

"We were looking to get 20 races in the Nationwide Series, but with the sponsorship – we've got it really good through K&N, Boost Mobile and Samsung – they've agreed to do seven rounds," he said. "We'll hit seven rounds and still have the goal of hitting 20 races."

He said the main thing he wants to communicate is that, like Patrick, he's committed to NASCAR.

"We're not doing any of the freestyle motocross or any of that stuff," he said. "This is where I want to be. With the help of Waltrip Racing – those guys are putting me in good cars – we're ready to get out there and really try to do the best that we can in this sport."

He said he's hoping that by voicing his commitment to NASCAR racing, as well as working hard on the track in races and test sessions, he can pick up the backing needed to expand his schedule.

"Instead of waiting for the sponsors to come to us, we're going to get out there and show them that we're ready to go race," he said. "We'll see what we can get for the rest of the season."

He said he's well aware of the challenge ahead.

"For me, the perception of NASCAR was never that it was going to be easy, for sure," he said. "I've done a lot of different sports, and every sport, no matter how similar it is or seems, there's always been challenges that as a spectator, you'll never really understand."

His comments about his early test sessions sounded like the scene from "Days of Thunder," where the veteran crew chief taught the open-wheel driver that charging too hard had its consequences in the form of excessive tire wear that eventually slowed speeds.

"Coming to NASCAR, I was surprised that the harder that I tried to drive, the worse my results ended up," Pastrana said. "It wasn't necessarily that my lap times weren't as good, but the tires fall off, especially in the short track stuff."

Just as Marcos Ambrose did in leaving a successful career in Australia to start over in NASCAR, Pastrana is giving up a sure thing for a new challenge, one he's not afraid to take on.

"Coming to NASCAR, I have more to lose than to gain as far as publicity or whatever," he said. "If I don't succeed in this, that will be marked more than anything [as] the guy that didn't make it in NASCAR."

"For me, it's not about what other people think, it's not about doing stuff because of the money or the fame or whatever. It's been an awesome ride, but I just want to challenge myself."

"I want to go out there and I know it's not going to come quick and I know it's not going to come easy, but I want to win some races."

## 'What's not to like?': Danica Patrick embraces ups and downs of scrutiny

At some point, nearly every high-profile driver will say they'd like to get to a point where their every move isn't scrutinized by fans and the media. But Danica Patrick, who seemingly has had her every move documented from Day One at Daytona, said she doesn't mind the scrutiny. In fact, she seems to relish the attention that comes with being an attractive female driver in a male-dominated sport.

"I enjoy being unique," she said. "I enjoy it all. I really do. I chose to look at the positives that come with it instead of the negatives, but it is a balance."

That was evident on Saturday in the Nationwide Series race, where she started on the pole but wrecked in mid-race and avoided the cameras and reporters afterward.

"The ups are really good and the downs are sure disappointing," she said, adding that overall, all is well.

"What's not to like?" she said. "I'm followed well, and I have lots of great fans, and I'm always so grateful when people write nice things about me."

"I feel good. The people that don't, I also respect that perspective as well."

One particular incident during Speedweeks showed just how intensive the scrutiny is on Patrick. After she wrecked in Thursday's Gatorade Duel, an in-car camera showed her taking her hands off the steering wheel just before she slammed into the wall, as she was taught to do in IndyCar racing. But some wondered whether she was covering her eyes just before impact, something that had she done might have been interpreted as a sign of weakness.

It was a question she seemed glad to answer, so she could put the issue to rest.



Danica Patrick, driver of the No. 7 Chevrolet, stands on the grid prior to the start of Saturday's Nationwide Series DRIVE4COPD 300 at Daytona International Speedway. (NASCAR photo)

"I would be happy to clear that up," she said. "In Indy cars we learn to take the hands off the wheel because ... I've had plenty of times where I have bruised my thumb, my bones, on the wheel. I was trained to, when there is no saving it and no hope, you let go. That is what I did."

And she said she did not cover her eyes.

"I wasn't covering my eyes, but yes I did close them as I got to the wall," she said. "I didn't want my eyes to pop out of my head."

She also sounded like a NASCAR veteran when answering a question with a phrase all too familiar

to those who follow the sport.

Asked about the pack racing and wrecking at Daytona, she said: "It is what it is."

Patrick's meeting with the media last Thursday, like lots of other similar sessions in the past, saw questions about everything Danica, from her strong handshake to her Twitter activity.

Throughout, she maintained the big smile, the confident demeanor and showed courtesy to the questioners, even pointing out how nice it was for one to thank her for the answer even before she delivered it.

## NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

**4** Sprint Cup victories at Phoenix International Raceway by Jimmie Johnson, top among all drivers

**22** Different winners in 31 Sprint Cup races at Phoenix International Raceway

**262** Most laps led by a Cup winner at Phoenix (Dale Earnhardt Sr., who in 1990 passed polesitter Rusty Wallace, the only other driver to lead that race, on Lap 51 of 312)

**8** Nationwide Series victories at Phoenix International Raceway by Jack Roush, top among car owners