

FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 14 Issue 12

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

June 25, 2012

Devil Dogs sniff out drugs

Marines conduct
counternarcotics
searches





NMMC presents educational outreach program during Marine Week Cleveland

Children attended a National Museum of the Marine Corps educational outreach program

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Cleveland taken over during Marine Week Cleveland opening ceremony

More than 750 Marines were in Cleveland June 11-17 displaying Marine aircraft, interacting with and educating the public on the values and character of the Marine Corps.

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MWSG-37 bids farewell

Former commanding officer of MWSG-37 spoke in memory of the actions and impact the squadron has had on the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

For full story, click [Click HERE for more photos](#)

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Maj. Gen. Andrew O'Donnell Jr.
Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



Col. Frank A. Richie
Commanding Officer
MCAS Miramar

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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office. Comments or questions should be directed to 858-577-6000.

Military children receive commissary scholarship

By Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner



Charlotte Orren gives thanks to the Defense Commissary Agency, the Fisher House Foundation and Reynolds Consumer Products for sponsoring a scholarship that was awarded to her during a ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., June 20. Orren was one of seven military children who earned the scholarship by writing an essay and volunteering in their communities.



Col. Frank A. Richie, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, congratulates seven military children who each earned a \$1,500 scholarship sponsored by the Commissary aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., June 20. Recipients were required to write an essay about who they would put into a 21st Century Mount Rushmore and to volunteer to make a difference in their communities.

ON THE COVER:

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Keller, a machine gunner with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment and native of Charles City, Va., searches the surrounding area for activity while providing security for Marines conducting narcotics searches in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 4. (Photo by Cpl. Isaac Lamberth)

Marine Corps *rolls out* military vehicles for Marine Week Cleveland

By Lance Cpl. Michelle Piehl



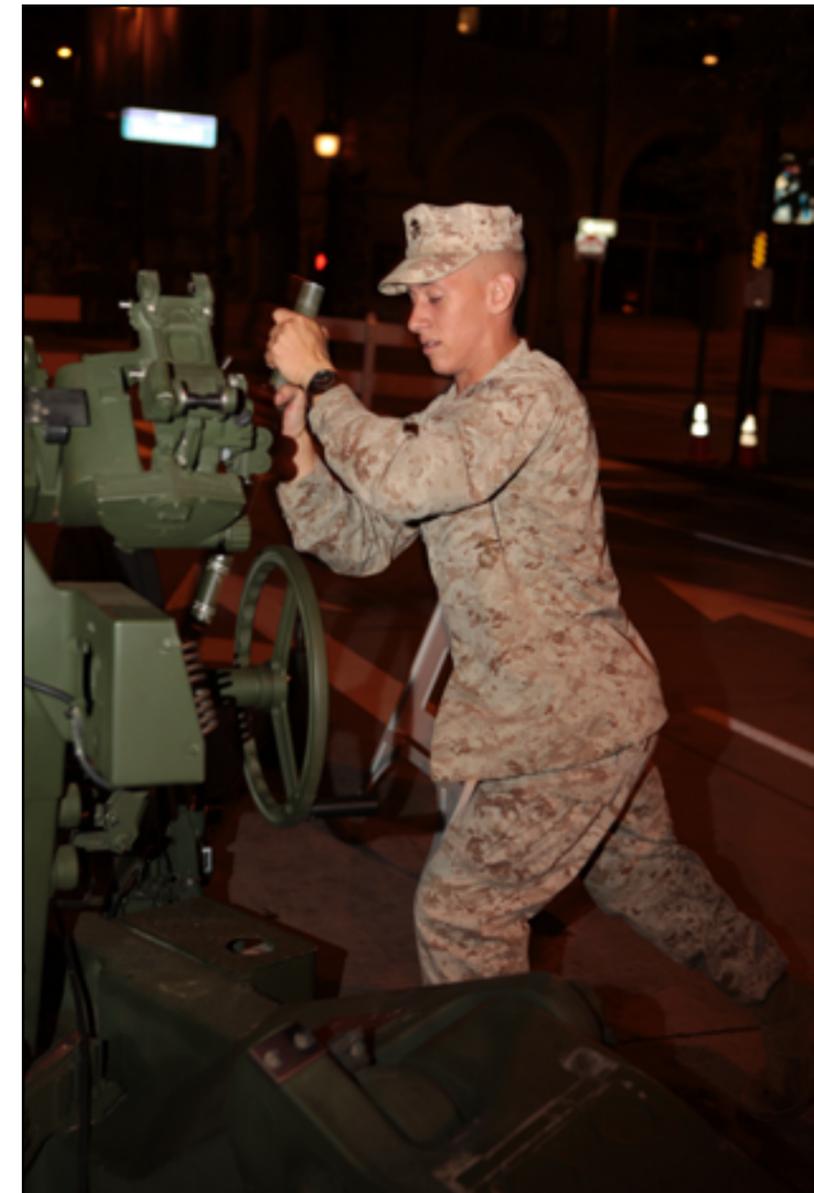
A Marine Corps M1A1 Abrams tank is positioned in Public Square in downtown Cleveland just before sunrise, June 11. Curious passers-by had the opportunity to witness the maneuverability of several military machines during the set-up of the static display for Marine Week Cleveland, June 11-17. A total of 37 military vehicles convoyed through downtown Cleveland. In addition to the 21 present-day vehicles, 16 Vietnam-era vehicles were staged throughout the area. More than 750 Marines participated in Marine Week Cleveland. The city of Cleveland provided tremendous support to the Marines as they drove their vehicles through the streets, according to 1st Sgt. Ryan Legg, a first sergeant with 4th Landing Support Battalion, based in Vienna, Ohio. Legg complimented the efforts of the city of Cleveland in support of Marine Week. "The city of Cleveland has been very good to us," he said.



Marine Corps Humvees enter Public Square in downtown Cleveland early in the morning June 11 in preparation for Marine Week Cleveland, June 11-17. The Humvees were part of a static display of vehicles set up in the heart of downtown for Marine Week. The Public Square static display is accompanied by an exhibit in Gateway Plaza. Marines drove 37 vehicles, including M1A1 Abrams tanks, light armored vehicles and other military vehicles, through the streets of Cleveland. Bringing the vehicles into the city "was flawless" thanks in large part to the support provided by Cleveland, said 1st Sgt. Ryan Legg, a first sergeant with 4th Landing Support Battalion based in Vienna, Ohio. Several demonstrations and displays were set up as part of Marine Week to give the community a greater understanding of the Corps' capabilities. More than 750 Marines participated in Marine Week Cleveland.



Sgt. Sammy R. Allan, a Nashville, Tenn., native with 14th Marine Regiment based in Huntsville, Ala., sits inside of a high-mobility artillery rocket system June 11 after the vehicle was staged in Public Square in downtown Cleveland in preparation for Marine week Cleveland June 11-17. In addition to the 21 present-day vehicles staged at static displays throughout downtown Cleveland, 16 Vietnam vehicles were also on display. More than 750 Marines participated in Marine Week Cleveland. The city of Cleveland provided tremendous support to the Marines as they drove their vehicles through the streets, according to 1st Sgt. Ryan Legg, a 1st sergeant with 4th Landing Support Battalion, based in Vienna, Ohio. Marine Week Cleveland received a warm welcome from Cleveland officials. "The city of Cleveland has been very good to us," said Legg.



Sgt. Travis C. Burch, a member of the 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion out of Tampa, Fla., demonstrates priming a M777A2 medium towed howitzer during a static display in Public Square in downtown Cleveland, June 11. The weapon joined other tactical ground vehicles and aircraft staged throughout the city in support of Marine Week Cleveland June 11-17. Even before Marine Week officially started, passers-by on their way to work were already examining the display in the heart of downtown. "I think it's such a nice thing, to show us what they do for us, how they protect us and the liberties that we hold so dear," said Kim Dennis, a Cleveland native.



Mark Comora, president of Fortistar LLC, Col. Frank A. Richie, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and the Honorable Jerry Sanders, mayor of San Diego, monitor a generator's start-up progress during the opening ceremony for the Miramar Energy Project aboard MCAS Miramar June 14. The project is a joint venture between the City of San Diego, Fortistar LLC and the air station and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, reduces the energy load on the local grid and moves the air station in the direction of energy independence.



Mark Comora, president of Fortistar LLC, presents Col. Frank A. Richie, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, with a token of appreciation during the opening ceremony for the Miramar Energy Project aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar June 14. The project is a joint venture between the City of San Diego, Fortistar LLC and the air station and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, reduces the energy load on the local grid and moves the air station in the direction of energy independence.

Miramar landfill powers up

Compiled by The Flight Jacket Staff



Brig. Gen. Vincent Coglianesi, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations West, gives the opening remarks during the Miramar Energy Project opening ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, June 14. Using the landfill to power the air station with renewable energy will benefit both the installation and San Diego by converting greenhouse gases from waste into useable power. (Video by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller)

[Click to view video](#)
[Click HERE for more photos](#)

The Miramar Landfill is officially providing more than three megawatt-hours of energy. Generators were started during a ceremony held at the Landfill aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar June 14.

Brig. Gen. Vincent Coglianesi, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations West, Col. Frank A. Richie, commanding officer of MCAS Miramar, the Honorable Jerry Sanders, mayor of San Diego, Mark Comora, president of Fortistar LLC and the Honorable Thomas Hicks, deputy assistant Secretary of the Navy, were present for this historic event.

“Fortistar is proud to have been able to work with [Navy Facilities Southwest] and the City of San Diego help the Marines stationed at MCAS Miramar move toward a more secure energy future by delivering 3.2 MW of electricity directly to the air station,” said Comora. “We are proud to serve those who serve us.”

The concept for this project began in 2007 and developed as a joint venture between the City of San Diego, Fortistar and the air station with a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emission, reduce the energy load on the local energy grid and move the air station in the direction of energy independence. With this opening, the vision is complete.

Through various projects such as this, MCAS Miramar has surpassed the Secretary of the Navy Instruction on energy

efficiency and began working toward the creation of a micro-grid energy system.

While DOD requirements include cutting consumption of brown energy, energy from fossil fuels, to 50 percent by the year 2020, MCAS Miramar officials have already reached 51 percent through a multi-point attack. This attack includes the Landfill project, reclaimed water and solar panels.

Powering the air station with renewable energy will benefit both the installation and San Diego by cutting back on the consumption of fossil fuels.

“Whether we’re afloat or ashore, whether we’re talking about alternative fuels to power the fleet or we’re talking about landfill gas to power our installations – it’s about enhancing our combat capabilities,” said Hicks. “It’s about reducing our vulnerabilities to fuel price shocks and grid instabilities.”

While working to be independent of the electric grid, Miramar will also work as an emergency response center for San Diego in the case of a black-out. Removing MCAS Miramar’s energy consumption will also, make the San Diego grid more reliable.

Starting the generators to the Miramar Landfill is one of many steps the air station is taking to be a self-sufficient “green-machine.” The air station plans on being completely energy self-sufficient by 2017.

National Museum of the Marine Corps Presents educational outreach program during Marine Week Cleveland

By Lance Cpl. Michelle Piehl

CLEVELAND – The National Museum of the Marine Corps presented a family show at the John A. Polonye Community Center in Brook Park June 11.

The NMMC-sponsored early educational outreach program is scheduled to perform at additional centers June 12-15 at 2 p.m. as part of Marine Week Cleveland.

Grade school-aged children and their families participated in an interactive and educational puppet show, followed by a presentation by Marines in historical uniforms and gear since the Corps' birth in 1775.

An appearance was made by Chesty the bulldog, the NMMC mascot. Chesty, sporting desert camouflaged utilities, offered encouragement to audience members as they learned Marine Corps knowledge.

Gwenn Adams, the NMMC public relations chief, described the event as a means to tell the Marine Corps' history in a relevant and family friendly way, as well as showing reciprocal support for Corps and community.

"The museum has been involved with Marine Week since the first year in Chicago, and our participation has grown each year," said Adams. "This year, we are here to bring the history of the Corps to the people of Cleveland."

"I live in the neighborhood, and we started seeing the signs months ago," said Tom Trautman, a Marine veteran and Cleveland native, about Marine Week. "I've been watching the [website] for the schedule of events, so I could share this experience with my son."

Adams explained the importance of educating younger generations about the sacrifices military members make to ensure the freedoms Americans have today.

"If we can educate our young people to the importance of the Marine Corps and other services, we can have a stronger future of people who understand the price and who pays the price," said Adams.

Gunnery Sgt. Gary W. Porter Jr., the NMMC Marine section staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge and a Lawton, Okla., native, has been involved with the program for two years.

To become involved with the program, Marines must request consideration for this unique community relations role.

"My favorite part of the job is this," Porter said in regards to the show. "This is awesome. It gets us out there to interact and to do something very few Marines get to do. You couldn't ask for anything better than this."

[Click HERE for more photos](#)

(Right) Emily Crow, 9, dresses as a colonial-era Marine during a National Museum of the Marine Corps educational outreach program at the John A. Polonye Community Center in Brook Park, Ohio, June 11. The NMMC educational program, run by the National Museum of the Marine Corps, is scheduled to run daily at other recreation centers in the Cleveland community June 12-15 as part of Marine Week Cleveland.

(Lower left) Cpl. James K. Spencer, an operations chief with Marine Corps University, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and Fayetteville, N.C., native, calls children to attention during a National Museum of the Marine Corps educational outreach program at the John A. Polonye Community Center in Brook Park, Ohio, June 11. The program, part of Marine Week Cleveland June 11-17, featured a puppet show and a presentation by Marines in various time-period uniforms.

(Lower right) Marines and representatives from the National Museum of the Marine Corps brought a little history from Virginia to the John A. Polonye Community Center of Brook Park, Ohio. Soundbites from Tom Trautman. (Video by Sgt. Justin M. Martinez)

[Click to view video](#)



Ugly Angels deliver devil dogs

By Cpl. Isaac Lamberth

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class, Jon McDowell, a hospital corpsman with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment and native of Salcha, Alaska, scans the surrounding area for activity while providing security for Marines and members of the Afghan National Interdiction Unit as they conduct a counternarcotics raid in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 4.



“Seeing those guys run out like that, it really gets you all riled up knowing that they’re going into harm’s way,”

Staff Sgt. Hugo Paniagua

aerial observer with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Rolling down the runway on Camp Bastion, Staff Sgt. Hugo Paniagua, an aerial observer with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, makes preparations and adjustments to his .50-caliber machine gun prior to taking off for a counternarcotics operation in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 4.

As his CH-53D Sea Stallion flies into a firing range, he lets loose a burst from the gun, ensuring everything is in working order before heading into a hostile environment.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Paniagua knows all too well the need for a working weapon and the dangers of landing in a combat zone.

During one of the squadron’s first missions of the deployment, a helicopter from the unit came under insurgent fire, wounding a crew member inside. While not present for the mission, the incident lingers in the back of his mind every time he flies into a potential hostile area.

“It really drives the point home that what happens out here is for real,” Paniagua said, “. . . we know that it’s a possibility.”

With that in mind, Paniagua makes final adjustments to his gear and weapon, affectionately named “Terra,” by the squadron armorers. He then scans the ground below, looking for anything that could threaten the helicopter on its way to pick up Marines from 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and members of the Afghan National Interdiction Unit (NIU), a specialized counternarcotics unit.

Arriving at Camp Hanson, Paniagua assists the Marines of 2/9 and NIU aboard. The two Sea Stallions take off and fly to the first targets of the day - two abandoned compounds suspected to be staging areas for narcotics and weapons.

A short distance from the compounds, the helicopters descend, making their final approach.

Landing in a cloud of dust and debris, the Marines and NIU quickly disembark and make their

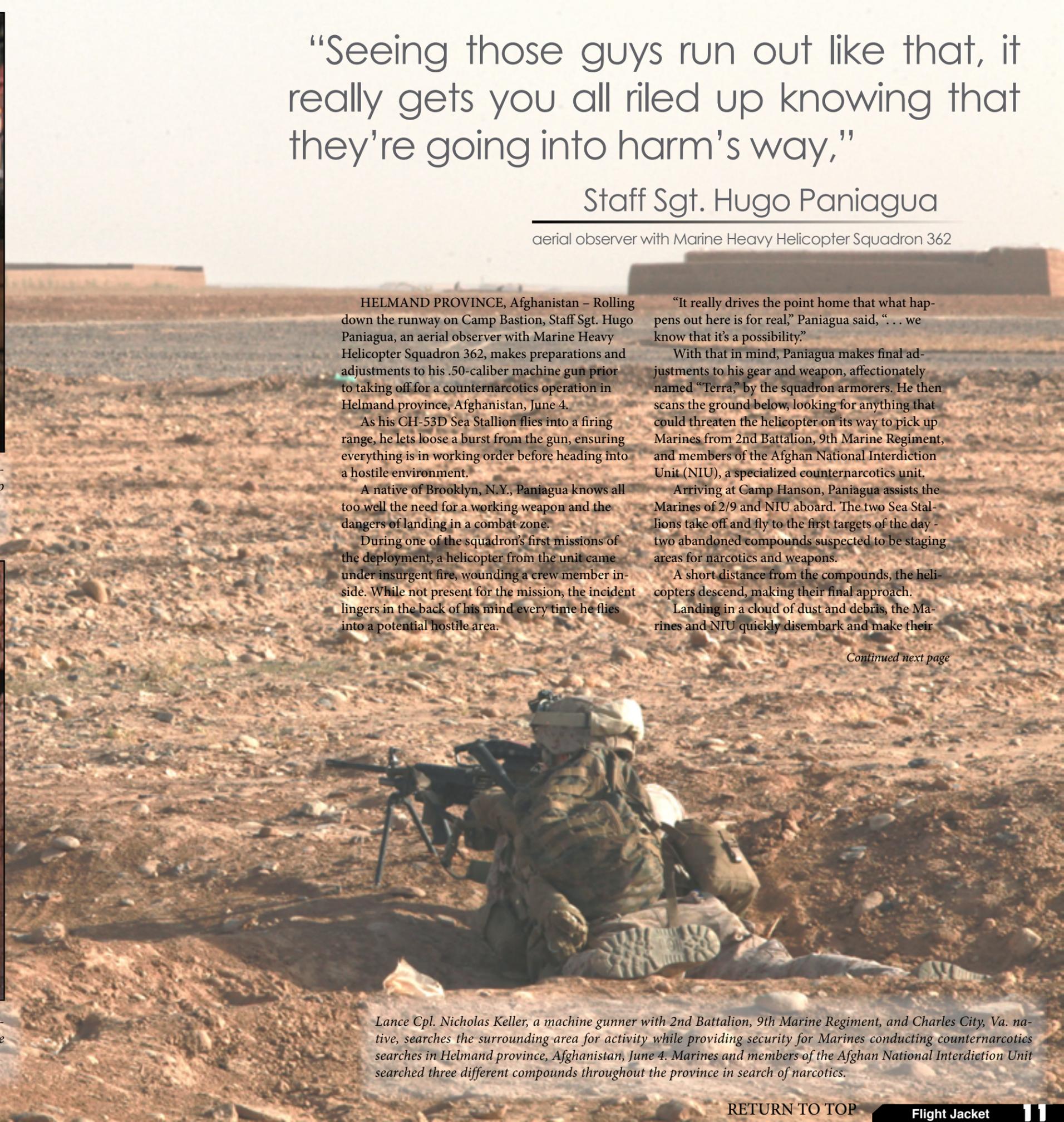
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Marines with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and members of the Afghan National Interdiction Unit, a specialized counternarcotics team, ride in a CH-53D Sea Stallion, with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, to conduct drug raids across Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 4.



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and members of the Afghan National Interdiction Unit, a specialized counternarcotics team, search through bags of hay for narcotics and weapons during their first raid of the day in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 4.



Lance Cpl. Nicholas Keller, a machine gunner with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and Charles City, Va. native, searches the surrounding area for activity while providing security for Marines conducting counternarcotics searches in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 4. Marines and members of the Afghan National Interdiction Unit searched three different compounds throughout the province in search of narcotics.

way to their objectives.

“Seeing those guys run out like that, it really gets you all riled up knowing that they’re going into harm’s way,” Paniagua said. “It’s our job to fly these guys to and from each place and keep them as safe as possible.”

The Marines and NIU search both compounds, but find nothing. Several minutes later, the Sea Stallions land to pick up the Marines and move onto the next target several kilometers away.

1st Lt. Ben Leape, the assistant intelligence officer for 2/9, said having air assets, like the Ugly Angels, to transport them from location to location, has greatly enhanced the unit’s range, allowing them to reach more target areas quickly.

“Having the helos around to take us from place to place while we’re doing these kinds of [operations] is a huge enabler,” said Leape, of Annapolis, M.D. “Without them, we would have to stand on the side and watch and know huge shipments of narcotics are leaving the area.”

By day’s end, the Marines and NIU search three compounds, but do not find any weapons or drugs. As Paniagua takes ‘Terra’ off its firing hinges, he can’t help but be glad the day ended well.

“It’s a good feeling when everyone comes back and nobody gets hurt,” he said.

Sgt. Brian Matthews, a sniper with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment and native of Colorado Springs, Colo., looks through his scope for activity while providing security for Marines and members of the Afghan National Interdiction Unit as they search compounds for weapons and narcotics in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 4.



Click [HERE](#) for more photos



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and members of the Afghan National Interdiction Unit, a specialized counternarcotics team, walk from one compound to another during a narcotics raid in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 4.



Staff Sgt. Hugo Paniagua, an aerial observer with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 and native of Brooklyn, N.Y., scans the surrounding area for activity in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 4. Helicopters from the squadron transported ground units to conduct counterdrug raids.



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and members of the Afghan National Interdiction Unit, a specialized counternarcotics unit, wait to be extracted by two CH-53D Sea Stallions, from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, after completing their third drug raid of the day in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 4. Helicopters from the squadron transported the ground units to and from different areas of the province to conduct counternarcotics operations.

Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson presents the Marine Week Cleveland proclamation to Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, during the Proclamation Ceremony in Cleveland June 11, 2012. Jackson expressed his excitement for the upcoming Marine Week events and officially welcomed the Marines to the city. "I encourage all Clevelanders to join me in recognizing the contribution the United States Marine Corps has made to our nation and to the city of Cleveland."



Cleveland taken over during opening ceremony Marine Week Cleveland

Story by Lance Cpl. Michelle Piehl
Photos by Cpl. Chelsea Flowers

CLEVELAND – More than 750 Marines received a warm welcome in Public Square in downtown Cleveland during the opening ceremony of Marine Week Cleveland June 11.

All Marine Week events are free and open to the public. A schedule of events is located at www.marines.mil/marineweek.

Opening ceremony speakers included Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson, Brook Park Mayor Mark J. Elliott, Lt. Col. Michael P. Hubbard, the Inspector Instructor of the Marine Reserve 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, and Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North.

The weeklong event is a culmination of a yearlong planning process

between the Marine Corps, local government and law enforcement agencies.

This, the fourth Marine Week, features demonstrations of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, Marine Corps military working dogs, Silent Drill Platoon and the Quantico Marine Band. Marines have also coordinated volunteer opportunities in the local community at recreation centers and veterans hospitals.

Additionally, Marine Week Cleveland serves to honor fallen service members through a Vietnam Wall replica at Voinovich Park and Ohio Flags of Honor Memorial, a tribute to the Ohio service members killed during Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

The week will culminate in an amphibious combat demonstration at Burke Lakefront Airport on Saturday and Sunday. This event will showcase the unique capabilities of the Marine Corps in air, on land and at sea.

Marine Week marks the second time Marines have invaded Cleveland. Previously, Marines invaded Edgewater Park on the shores of Lake Erie during a mock invasion in 1959. The current Marine Week Cleveland invasion expects to draw crowds of 75,000 people.

"Marine Week serves to bring the Marine Corps to the people," said Hummer during his opening ceremony remarks. "Cleveland will be the best yet."

Continued next page

Lt. Col. Michael P. Hubbard, instructor with 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson, right, and Brook Park Mayor Mark Elliott, far right, along with three Vietnam veterans, observe the presentation of colors at the opening of the Proclamation Ceremony for Marine Week Cleveland June 11, 2012. During the ceremony, Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, expressed the Marine Corps' excitement about bringing the Corps to life for the people of Cleveland. "Marine Week is our opportunity to bring the Corps to her people, to connect with communities across the country and thank Americans for their unwavering support while demonstrating why the Marine Corps is America's expeditionary force in readiness."



Previous Marine Weeks were held at St. Louis, Boston and Chicago.

He also thanked the American people for their unwavering support for the Marine Corps as America's expeditionary force in readiness.

Operating as a medium for teaching the public on the rich heritage and traditions of the Marine Corps, Marine Week Cleveland works to bring the Corps to the people.

Jeff White, a Marine veteran, brought his 7-year-old grandson to the event.

"It's a nice day, and I wanted to bring my grandson to show him the history of the Marine Corps," said White who spent two years respectively in Okinawa, Japan, and Camp Lejeune, N.C. "It's good for the public and for downtown. It's something I never got to see on the other side."

Events like these encourage the public to gain a greater understanding of military service, White explained.

"It was a good experience," White said regarding his time in the Corps. "You can't explain it unless you've been there. I enjoyed my time."

Pfc. Jason M. Pytel, an avionics technician with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., heard about the event and brought his parents to the opening ceremony while visiting home.

"It shows people what Marines and the military does," said Pytel, a Cleveland native. "It's not all combat. It's an opportunity to get out in the community and give back."

Ohio is home to approximately 9,370 active duty and reserve Marines currently serving stateside and overseas, to include those serving in combat operations in Afghanistan. Ohio is ranked fifth in the nation for recruiting Marines.

Cleveland is home to six recipients of the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government.

The Quantico Marine Band plays the Marines' Hymn at the close of the Proclamation Ceremony of Marine Week Cleveland in Public Square in downtown Cleveland June 11, 2012. The ceremony marked the official kick-off of Marine Week events that will take place from June 11-17. Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson presented Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, with the Marine Week proclamation and officially welcomed the Marines to the city. More than 750 Marines will be in Cleveland all week displaying Marine aircraft, vehicles and equipment, as well as interacting with and educating the public on the values and character of the Marine Corps. One of the culminating events will be a Marine Air Ground Task Force demonstration, which showcases Marines' ability to assault from ship-to-shore via ground and air, June 16-17 at Burke Lakefront Airport.



Members of the crowd applaud for the service of local residents during the Proclamation Ceremony for Marine Week Cleveland June 11, 2012. The ceremony marked the official beginning of events that will run from June 11-17. Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson presented Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, with the Marine Week proclamation and officially welcomed the Marines to the city. More than 750 Marines will be in Cleveland all week displaying Marine aircraft, vehicles and equipment, as well as interacting with and educating the public on the values and character of the Marine Corps. One of the culminating events will be a Marine Air Ground Task Force demonstration, which showcases Marines' ability to assault from ship-to-shore via ground and air, June 16-17 at Burke Lakefront Airport.

Marine Week Cleveland MCMAP demonstration wows crowd

By Lance Cpl. Michelle Piehl



Crystal Rudyak and her sons Alex, 8, and Anthony, 2, discuss martial arts with instructor trainer Staff Sgt. Shurron Thompson, a Coatesville, Penn., native, following a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program demonstration June 12 during Marine Week Cleveland. The Rudyaks traveled from Parma to catch a glimpse of what can be achieved through years of martial arts training. Marine Week Cleveland is scheduled to continue through June 17.

[Click HERE for more photos](#)



Peyton Buildt, 7, poses with Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor trainer Sgt. Daniel Leith, a Livonia, Mich., native, after a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program demonstration in Public Square June 12 during Marine Week Cleveland. Buildt, who came to the event with his aunt, studies martial arts and said he was impressed to see how high the Marines kicked. Marine Week Cleveland is scheduled to continue through June 17.

CLEVELAND – Community members are able to get a unique look into the heart of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program during Marine Week Cleveland, June 11-17.

Techniques ranging from basic punches to complex disarming maneuvers wowed audience members in Public Square during a presentation, June 12.

“It’s nice to see the actual combat they can do with or without weaponry,” said Hillary Duchnowski, a Lakewood native at the demonstration. “It’s wonderful for the community and the city to see what these men and women do every day for their country. It’s very impressive.”

Duchnowski said she believes the sacrifice given by service members to protect American citizens’ freedoms and rights deserves to be recognized.

“It gives us a real picture, a reality check, to see those who put everything on hold and put their lives on the line to protect people they don’t even know,” said Duchnowski, who traveled from Parma to attend the demonstration.

Staff Sgt. Tommy M. Lee, a martial arts instructor trainer at the Martial Arts Center of Excellence in Quantico, Va., fourth degree black belt, and a Hernan, Va., native described the event as a way to show support for the



A passerby stops to snap photos as instructor trainer Staff Sgt. Shurron Thompson, a Coatesville, Penn., native, demonstrates bayonet and rifle submission techniques on fellow instructor trainer Staff Sgt. John Badon, ground, a Lufkin, Texas, native, during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program demonstration in Public Square June 12 during Marine Week Cleveland. Program demonstrations are scheduled to continue Wednesday through Friday at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. during Marine Week.

Cleveland community.

“Cleveland’s 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, was hit pretty hard during combat operations (in Operation Iraqi Freedom),” said Lee. “It’s more of an honor to be out here to show Cleveland the Marine Corps supports them.”

Lee described Marine Week as an opportunity to meet the families and community that provide support for service members, as well as a way to give a sense of safety and comfort to the public.

“When you look at the military, everybody talks about big trucks, big guns and big planes,” said Lee. “A lot of people don’t know about hand-to-hand combat. MCMAP trains not only the physical aspect, but the mental aspect as well.”

Following the demonstration of martial arts techniques, Lee and his fellow trainers opened the floor for a question and answer session for community members.

“The best part so far has been interacting with the public,” said Lee. “Thank you Cleveland.”

The Marine Corps-style martial arts demonstrations are scheduled to continue Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Staff Sgt. Shurron Thompson, left, and Staff Sgt. John Badon, right, both training instructors with the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, demonstrate strikes and counters-to-strikes in a Marine Corps-style martial arts presentation, June 12 during Marine Week Cleveland. The daily presentations are scheduled to continue Wednesday through Friday at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. during Marine Week. Marine Week Cleveland is scheduled to continue through June 17.



MWSG-37 bids farewell

By Lance Cpl. Christopher Johns

After years of service and support, Marine Wing Support Group 37 held a deactivation ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., June 15 as the organization's Marines relocate to different units where their support is still needed.

Current and former commanding officers of MWSG-37 spoke in memory of the actions and impact the squadron has had on the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and the Marine Corps, supporting its aircraft element.

"As an adaptive and living organization, the Marine Corps must respond to current fiscal and organizational realities and position itself for a bright future as America's expeditionary force in readiness," said Col. Drew T. Doolin, the commanding officer for MWSG-37 and a Peotone, Ill., native. "The Commandant's planning guidance of 2010 set the path for our future when he stated that 'we will rebalance our Corps, posture it for the future and aggressively experiment with and implement new capabilities and organizations.' In doing so, change is inevitable."

Reorganization in the Marine Corps, according to Doolin, is nothing new.

The Group was activated July 1, 1953, in Miami as Marine Wing Service Group 37, and then relocated to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro in September 1955. On April 1, 1967, Marine Wing Service Group 37 was reorganized and became Marine Wing Support Group 37.

Ten years later, in 1977, a new program was instituted called Combined Service Support Program. This program transferred all engineering and motor transport Marines and their equipment from 3rd MAW to MWSG-37.

However, constant change is what the Marines with MWSG-37 see throughout daily life.

"Working here has given me a lot of experience, working with higher ranking Marines and at a faster tempo than normal to support four other squadrons is demanding," said Lance Cpl. Guffen Hearst, an administrative clerk with the group and an Atlanta native. "The group is the best thing that could have happened to me career wise. I feel confident that I could go to any other unit and perform well just because of what we do here."

MWSG-37 is responsible for overseeing the performance of Marine Wing Support Squadrons 371, 372, 373 and 374 who provide necessary support to all flying squadrons under 3rd MAW command.

"What is unique about MWSG-37 is that we only have one squadron at MCAS Miramar," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Palmer, the executive officer for the group and an Atlanta native. "The rest are at Camp Pendleton, Yuma and Twentynine Palms, spreading our resources."

Now that the group is deactivating, the support squadrons will be absorbed where they are needed into the Marine Aircraft Groups throughout 3rd MAW.

Though the Marines with MWSG-37 and its subsidiary squadrons are being moved to different MAGs, they will continue to provide the same service.

As the ceremony came to a close the current, and final commanding officer of MWSG-37 had one final point to add.

"As we pause to reflect on the outstanding Marines and sailors who have served so admirably during these many years we look out at these fine Marines before you who represent, the over 2,500, Marines and sailors of MWSG 37, I say 'thank you' for your service," said Doolin. "I am proud to serve with each and every one of you. It has been a pleasure to command alongside the commanders of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing."



Col. Drew T. Doolin, the commanding officer for Marine Wing Support Group 37 and a Peotone, Ill., native, prepares to give his final order to his command to fall out for the final time as MWSG-37, June 15. After the deactivation of the unit, the Marines under its command will be absorbed by various Marine Aircraft Groups throughout 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.



Col. Drew T. Doolin, the commanding officer for Marine Wing Support Group 37 and a Peotone, Ill., native, speaks of the history of MWSG-37 during its deactivation, June 15. As a final point, Doolin added that he was proud to have worked with so many fine Marines and sailors.

[Click HERE for more photos](#)



Retired Capt. Charles Magill received a certificate of appreciation for his services as a pilot in Operation Desert Storm during a celebration held by the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation in San Diego, June 9. The celebration was held to honor the centennial of Marine Corps aviation.



The guests of honor, Thomas "T. Boone" Pickens, right, and wife, Madeliene Pickens, left, receive a gift during a banquet hosted by the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation, June 9. The banquet was held to celebrate the centennial of Marine Corps aviation.

Flying Leathernecks honored during banquet

By Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner

In honor of 100 years of Marine Corps flight, the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation hosted a banquet to recognize aviators from every generation at the Westgate Hotel in San Diego, June 9.

The foundation honored those who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm and the Global War on Terrorism.

Marines recognized each had a significant impact on Marine Corps aviation and helped it progress into what it is today.

Every Marine aviator received recognition for their services and a plaque to honor their legacy.

Two of the aviators recognized were retired Brig. Gen. Frederick "Fritz" Payne, the oldest living fighter pilot, and Patrick Donavon, a Marine first lieutenant and a two-time Navy Cross recipient.

Payne earned his Navy Cross by showing exceptional valor during World War II when he continuously fought Japanese fighters over Guadalcanal. Against the odds, he shot down six Japanese bombers while patrolling hostile territory disregarding his own personal safety.

Donavon earned the Navy Cross when his CH-46 helicopter experienced mechanical difficulties during a medical evacuation Feb. 22, 1969. Donavon returned to base to retrieve a new helicopter when he noticed an enemy rocket launcher. He dispatched his unit's gunship to take out the enemy, leaving the rest of his unit to carry out their mission without gunship protection.

Donavon took attacks from hostile grenades and mortars and brought his fellow Marines to the nearest medical center despite his own injuries and his helicopter's damages. He then returned to hostile territory to evacuate casualties.

Donavon earned a gold star in lieu of a second Navy Cross while serving in Vietnam in April of 1969 while flying a medical evacuation of Marine casualties in a rice paddy when his outfit fell under heavy machine gun fire.

Although the forward section of his unit was hit, he continued through his mission and took the casualties to a hospital in Da Nang, Vietnam. After assessing his damages, he determined he could not fly the same helicopter and switched to an abled one to aid in the mission. This switch enabled him to provide protection for the last helicopter, resulting in the safety of the casualties inside.

Also recognized during the banquet was Sasha Lightfoot. She was presented the Glenn Ferguson Marine Wife Recognition Award for exceptional support to her husband and his unit.

The Centennial of Marine Corps aviation was celebrated to remember and recognize those who have impacted the Corps. It also served as a reminder to new pilots to continue the legacy of those who sacrificed and uphold the highest standards of the Marine Corps and Marine Corps aviators.



Mallory Lewis performs with Lamb Chop during a celebration held by the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation at the Westgate Hotel in San Diego, June 9. The celebration was held to honor the centennial of Marine Corps aviation.



Retired Col. Mike Kurth received a certification of appreciation for his services as a pilot in Operation Desert Storm at a celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Marine Corps aviation at the Westgate Hotel in San Diego, June 9. Kurth was one of six Marines honored for their services during the event.



(Left) Pat Donovan stands as he is honored at a banquet to celebrate the centennial of Marine Corps Aviation hosted by the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation in San Diego, June 9. Donovan was one of six pilots who were commemorated for their services.



(Right) Pat Donovan receives a certificate of appreciation during a banquet held by the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation to celebrate the centennial of Marine Corps Aviation in San Diego, June 9. Donovan was one of six pilots who were commemorated for their services.

A Devil Dog with wings; heroic Vietnam veteran's story

By Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner

A tall man in a black tuxedo and a dark red cummerbund laden with eagle globe and anchors, stands and smiles brightly as a fellow retired Marine hands him a certificate of appreciation. His daughter, in her dress blues, smiles at his side and they together read the framed certificate.

Patrick Donovan, a Vietnam veteran and Marine Corps pilot was commemorated for his services in 1969 during a celebration for the centennial of Marine Corps aviation.

Donovan is a two-time Navy Cross and Purple Heart recipient. He is a humble man who does not boast about his awards and medals. Donovan never forgets about the Marines who worked with him and the corpsman who served aboard the CH-46E Sea Knight he flew.

"It was the crew chiefs - they're the guys who stayed up all night working on the aircraft and during the day missions, so I was able to sleep at night," said Donovan, a Chicago native. "The corpsman, the gunners, the co-pilot; they were the link to the Marines on the ground. Without them, the mission would not have been completed."

In February 1969, 1st Lt. Donovan earned his first Navy Cross during a medical evacuation mission. The unit was under hostile fire, however, Donovan could not abort the

mission knowing there were critically injured Marines on the ground. He made the decision to send his gunship to defend the ground Marines and the undamaged helicopters would continue to evacuate casualties. When Donovan landed, the aircraft was hit by enemy grenades and mortars and sustained shrapnel injuries

Despite the damage to the helicopter and his injuries, he maneuvered the Sea Knight to the nearest medical center. After receiving medical attention and acquiring a new Sea Knight, he continued to enter hostile territory to evacuate casualties.

During the months to follow his courage never wavered. In April 1969 while flying a medical evacuation of Marine casualties in a rice paddy, his outfit fell under heavy machine gun fire.

Although the forward section of his unit was hit, he continued through his mission and took the casualties to a hospital in Da Nang, Vietnam. After assessing his helicopter's damages, he determined he could not fly the same helicopter and switched to an abler one to finish the mission.

This switch enabled him to provide protection for the last helicopter, resulting in the safety of the casualties inside and

earning him his second Navy Cross.

"After months or sometimes years you receive the Navy Cross, you never plan on doing something just to earn an award, all you're thinking about is helping the Marines on the ground," said Donovan.

Donovan has flown more than 700 missions. About half of the missions were difficult, complex missions, he explained.

Now Donovan takes pride in his daughter, Capt. Eileen Donovan, a logistics officer with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 166.

On one occasion, Capt. Donovan had found the same CH-46 her father had flown. She was able to get special permission to fly it at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The bullet holes that were inflicted on the helicopter when he had flown it in combat had been repaired, however, it was exciting that two generations could fly the same aircraft, explained Capt. Donovan.

During this year, the centennial of Marine Corps aviation, Donovan is one of many pilots honored and remembered for their service and contributions to flight in the Marine Corps.

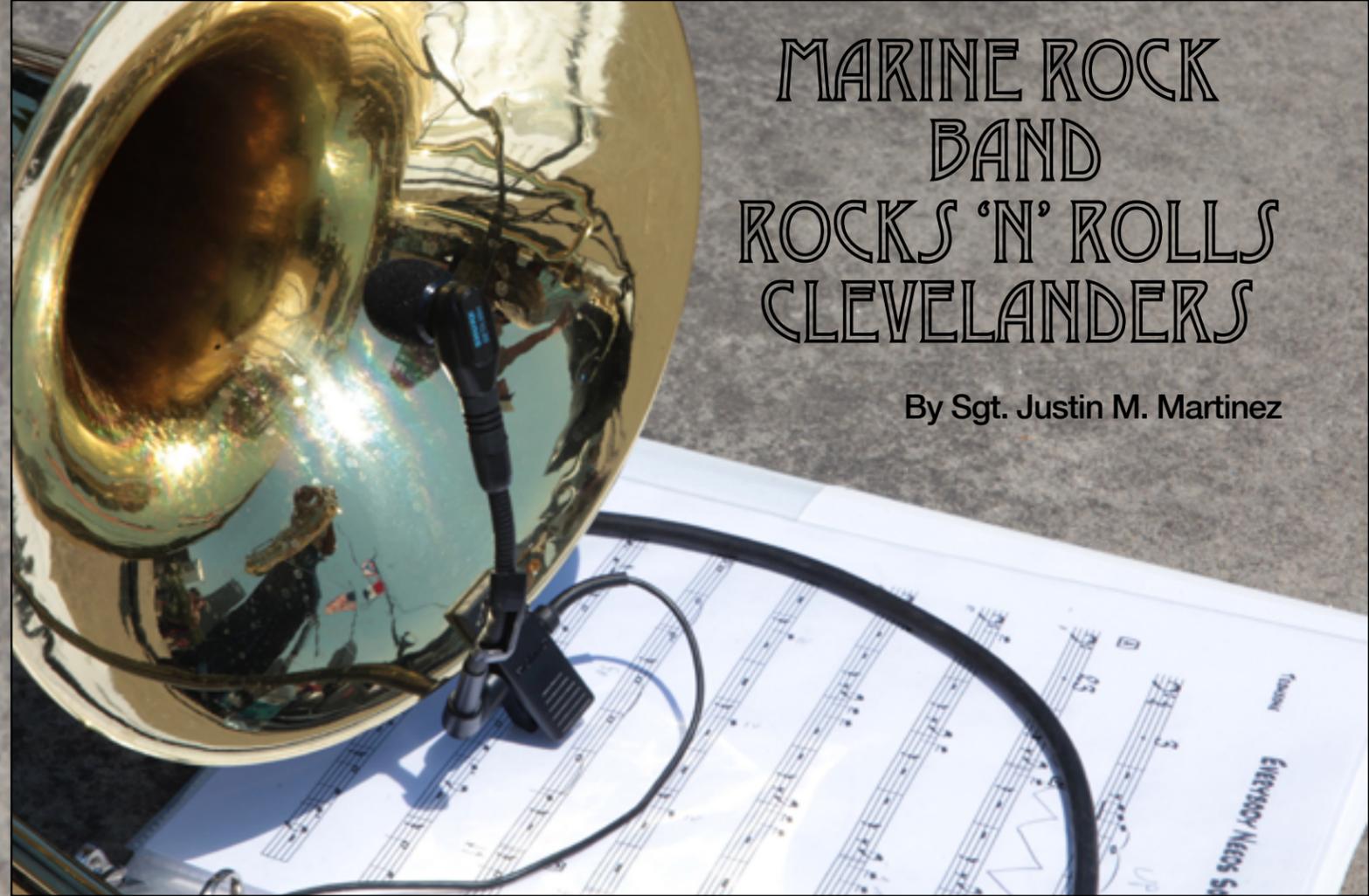


Pat Donovan stands with fellow veteran during a ceremony to honor the centennial of Marine Corps Aviation at the Westgate Hotel in San Diego, June 9. Pat Donovan was one of pilots who were commemorated for their services.



Sgt. Zachary Wendt, a musician with the Marine Corps Base Quantico Band and a Pulaski, Wis., native, sings *Seven Nation Army* by The White Stripes during a rock 'n' roll performance at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland June 11, 2012. The Virginia-based band will showcase its skills around Cleveland to include Public Square and the Indians' baseball game Friday during Marine Week Cleveland, which ends June 17. More than 750 Marines will be in Cleveland all week displaying Marine aircraft, vehicles and equipment, as well as interacting with and educating the public on the values and character of the Marine Corps. One of the culminating events will be a Marine Air Ground Task Force demonstration, which showcases Marines' ability to assault from ship-to-shore via ground and air, June 16-17 at Burke Lakefront Airport.

[Click HERE for more photos](#)



MARINE ROCK BAND ROCKS 'N' ROLLS CLEVELANDERS

By Sgt. Justin M. Martinez

Marine Corps Base Quantico Band Marines, based out of Virginia, prepare for a rock 'n' roll concert at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland June 11, 2012. The band played music from several musical artists such as The Rolling Stones and The Who as part of Marine Week Cleveland, which ends June 17. More than 750 Marines are in Cleveland all week displaying Marine aircraft, vehicles and equipment, as well as interacting with and educating the public on the values and character of the Marine Corps. One of the culminating events will be a Marine Air Ground Task Force demonstration, which showcases Marines' ability to assault from ship-to-shore via ground and air, June 16-17 at Burke Lakefront Airport.

CLEVELAND – The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum houses historical ticket stubs, instruments and photographs inside its pyramid temple of glass, but for local residents of Cleveland two historical icons merged into one outside the glass.

The Marine Corps Base Quantico Band rocked out Key Plaza June 12 with several songs from musical artists such as The Who, The Rolling Stones and Elvis as part of Marine Week Cleveland to help celebrate the community, our country and the Corps.

The museum exists to educate fans, scholars and this week Marines, about the significance of rock 'n' roll music from yesterday to today.

"It's a dream come true to play here at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame," said Sgt. Zachary Wendt, the band's lead singer and a trombonist. "It doesn't matter if it's thousands of people or dozens, when the music gets going I get excited," said the Pulaski, Wis., native.

As the musical tones and strums filtered through the city, some community members were able to turn a routine walk along Alfred Lerner Way into a melodious outing with the family.

"I heard music by The White Stripes – I mean come on – my

niece and I had to stop and check what was going on," said Cleveland Joel Pressman. "I love music, my city and my military. This could be the last chance to have all this here together."

Even though the members of this rock-tribute like band have only been playing together for two months, the hundreds of onlookers noticed their talent and energy during the hour-long harmonious appearance in the rock'n' capital of the world.

"I'm honestly surprised about how good they are," said Andy Vall, a 14-year-old Middleburg Heights student. "I thought Marines were only in Afghanistan fighting in the war for the freedoms we have today."

The Virginia-based band is scheduled to play at multiple venues throughout Marine Week, including Public Square and the Indians' baseball game Friday evening.

More than 750 Marines are in Cleveland displaying Marine aircraft, vehicles and equipment, as well as interacting with and educating the public on the values and character of the Marine Corps. One of the culminating events will be a Marine Air Ground Task Force demonstration, which showcases Marines' ability to assault from ship-to-shore via ground and air June 16-17 at Burke Lakefront Airport.

Troops to teachers presents opportunities for retiring Marines

By Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner

Troops to Teachers offered a class for service members looking to become a teacher after their career in the armed forces aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., June 19.

The class was given to any service member or dependent to provide information and advice on how to begin college education and gaining the credentials needed to become an educator.

Service members are targeted to become educators because of their self-discipline and maturity. Forty percent of new teachers do not make it past their first three years; however this is not true for teachers who have been in the armed forces.

"People who have served have an honest care for the success of their students," said Bill Leitheiser, the Mountain Pacific branch director of Troops to Teachers. "They already want to serve the community, give back and make a difference."

Azusa Pacific University and National University representatives spoke about what each college has to offer. Both colleges listed are accredited for their teaching programs.

Troops to Teachers offers stipends and scholarships for teaching in a low-income school up to \$10,000 on top of the post-9/11 G.I. Bill and financial aid service members can receive.

Troops to Teachers offers counseling and assistance to service members in every state, and helps with credentials needed to become a teacher. The program assists service members in choosing college courses to take while they are enlisted, so when they transition out of the military, service members will be able to begin a new career in teaching.

With the options offered by Troops to Teachers, Marines and sailors can make an easy transition from serving to becoming a teacher as a second career.

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
TROOPS TO TEACHERS



School of Education
Shelley Smith

Dave Bible, a program representative at Azusa Pacific University speaks about what programs the college offers for service members to become teachers as a second career aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., June 20. Representatives from Troops to Teachers and National University also presented the benefits of the programs offered to service members.





Petty Officer 2nd Class Tara Mallari, defensive player with the Women's All Marine Volleyball Team and a Guam native, serves the ball during a practice game aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., June 12. Both the men's and women's teams practice using drills for hitting, blocking, setting, serving and spiking. They also have scrimmage matches to sharpen their skills on the court.

Ready to ace the competition: All Marine Volleyball team trains at Miramar

By Lance Cpl. Christopher Johns

Marines with the All Marine Volleyball Team held a training camp at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., June 12-20.

The camp was in preparation for the 2012 Armed Forces Men's and Women's Indoor Volleyball Championship, which begins June 22 aboard Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill.

The team practiced five days a week, with practices twice a day and one practice on Saturday mornings, explained Peter Cruz, the team's head coach and a Dededo, Guam, native. Practices lasted two to three hours each, with the men's team switching with the women's team.

Both teams practiced using drills for hitting, blocking, setting, serving and spiking. They also held scrimmage matches to sharpen their skills on the court.

"We're here to represent the Marine Corps," said Cpl. Joe Tiltert, a setter for the team and a Buffalo, N.Y., native.

As the Marine team practiced to represent the Marine Corps in the championship, other armed services were training as well.

"Five branches are competing and will be represented," said Cruz. "The Marine Corps, Navy, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard will be competing for the championship. The tournament lasts eight days, one day for practice, then seven days of double-robin matches where each team plays for both genders."

Volleyball is one of the many intramural sports Marines take part in to compete all around the world.

"I didn't know about [the all Marine team] at all until a friend I played intramural volleyball with told me," said 2nd Lt. Amy Peterson, an outside hitter with the women's team and a Raleigh, N.C., native. "This is a great opportunity, it's great physical training and it's here. For the Marines who have played sports before this is a great opportunity to keep playing a sport you love."

As the training camp completed both teams keep one thing in their sights, the championship, and representing the Marine Corps in the upcoming game.



(Left) 2nd Lt. Holly Berger, center, an outside hitter with the Women's All Marine Volleyball Team and a Claremont, Calif., native, spikes the ball during a practice game aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., June 16. The Women's and Men's All Marine Volleyball Team held a training camp in preparation for the 2012 Armed Forces Men's and Women's Indoor Volleyball Championship to take place this weekend aboard Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill.



(Below) Representatives from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar with the 2012 Men and Women's All Marine Volleyball Team pose for a photo aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., June 19. These six Miramar Marines will go with the men's and women's teams to represent the Marine Corps against four other branches of service in the 2012 Armed Forces Men's and Women's Indoor Volleyball Championship to take place this weekend aboard Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill.

HMLA-369 welcomes new commanding officer

Compiled by the Flight Jacket staff

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Clark relinquished command of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 to Lt. Col. Tres Smith in a change of command ceremony held aboard Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 21.

Clark enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1989 while attending the University of Cincinnati. After receiving a bachelors degree in International Affairs and a certificate in Economics, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in June 1992 through the Platoon Leader's Course. Following completion of The Basic School Clark reported to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., for flight training. He was designated a Naval Aviator in February 1995.

Clark reported to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Training Squadron 303 at MCAS Camp Pendleton for initial training in the AH-1W Super Cobra. In October 1995, he joined the HMLA-269 "Gunrunners" at MCAS New River, N.C., where he initially served in the Logistics Department. In March 1997, Clark transferred to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 (Reinforced) for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit's deployment and participation in Operations Joint Guard, Southern Watch and Desert Thunder.

In May 1998, Clark returned to the Gunrunners where he served as the AH-1W NATOPS Officer and Aviation Safety Officer. Upon successful completion of the Weapons and Tactics Instructor course in March 1999 Clark became the director of Safety and Standardization until he began his second deployment with HMM-263 (REIN), 24th MEU. Deployed from February to August 2000, Clark participated in Operation Joint Guardian in Macedonia and Kosovo.

Upon his return, Clark was once again assigned to HMLA-269 as the tactics officer until his departure in October 2000. In the fall of 2000, Clark was selected for the Regional Affairs Officer Pro-

gram (Study Track). He attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., where he received his masters degree in National Security Affairs and earned the designation as an East Asian Regional Affairs Officer in June 2002. Clark was assigned as the executive officer, I Marine Expeditionary Force Liaison Element, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in August 2002. While assigned to I MLE, Clark deployed to the United Kingdom, Kuwait and Iraq for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom while attached to 3rd Commando Brigade Royal Marines, 1st Marine Division and I MEF from January to June 2003. While deployed, I MLE deactivated and Clark became the first executive officer of 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company upon its reactivation in 2003.

In March 2004, Clark joined HMLA-367 "Scarface" at MCAS Camp Pendleton after refreshing in the AH-1W. Clark deployed with Scarface from August 2004 to April 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and was assigned as a detachment officer in charge and the squadron maintenance officer before departing in July 2006. Clark was then assigned to the Marine Air Ground Task Force Staff Training Program in Quantico, Va.

Returning to Marine Aircraft Group 39 in September 2008, Clark deployed to OIF as an Individual Augment to Multi-National Corps - Iraq from December 2008 through June 2009. Returning from his deployment, Clark was assigned as the MAG-39 operations officer through March 2009 and MAG executive officer until January 2011.

Clark's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Air Medal with Strike/Flight numeral 9, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Smith is a graduate of George Mason University and was com-

missioned a second lieutenant in September 1995. Smith subsequently reported to Marine Corps Combat Development Command Quantico, Va., for initial officer training at The Basic School. Following graduation in April 1996, he reported to NAS Pensacola for initial flight training. Smith was designated a Naval Aviator in February 1998 and reported to MCAS Camp Pendleton for initial training in the UH-1N Huey in April 1998.

In September 1998, he reported to MAG-26, MCAS New River, and was subsequently assigned to HMLA-167. In October 1998, Smith deployed with HMM-266 (Rein) to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic during Operation Full Provider for humanitarian assistance following hurricane Georges. Upon his return, Smith served with HMLA-167 before deploying with HMM-266 (Rein), 24th MEU, in April 2001. Upon his return in October 2001, Smith reported back to HMLA-167 and attended WTI in the spring of 2002.

In February 2003, he deployed with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 2 as a 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing augment and participated in OIF from March to May 2003 and subsequently attached to HMLA-269 as a combat replacement. Following his return, Smith completed his tour with HMLA-167 serving as the UH-1N tactics officer until June 2003.

Smith reported to 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and attended Basic Airborne course, Ft. Benning, Ga. While attached to 2nd Recon he served as the forward air controller and air officer for the battalion until June 2004.

Smith then reported to MAWTS-1 where he served as an air officer instructor. After completing his tour in June 2007, Smith reported to Command and Staff College, Marine Corps University in Quantico in July 2007 and received his masters in Military Studies.

In June of 2008, Smith reported to MAG-39 and was assigned to HMLA-369 as the director of Safety and Standardization during a combat deployment to Iraq and converted to the UH-1Y and deployed to support combat operations in Afghanistan. On June 18, 2010, Smith was wounded in action during combat operations in Afghanistan and returned to the United States. In September 2010, he was assigned to HMLAT-303 where he served as the executive officer and UH-1Y flight instructor.

In July 2011, Smith was transferred to the Pentagon to serve as the requirements officer for the Chief of Naval Operations Air Warfare Directorate.

Smith's personal decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with combat distinguishing device, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with strike/flight numeral 5 and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three gold stars.



Lt. Col. Tres Smith



Lt. Col. Ian Clark

MWCS-38 welcomes new commander

Compiled by the Flight Jacket staff

Lt. Col. Wendy Garrity relinquished command of Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38 to Lt. Col. Edward J. Debish in a change of command ceremony held aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, June 21.

Garrity graduated from Norwich University in Northfield, Vt., with a bachelors degree in Criminal Justice. She was commissioned in August of 1994.

Upon graduation from The Basic School and then the Basic Communication Officers Course in 1995, Garrity reported to Combat Service Support Group 3 in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

In February of 1999, Garrity reported to the Communications and Information Systems Officer Course in Quantico, Va., where she served as an instructor. In August 2001, she attended the Command and Control Systems Course in Quantico.

In June of 2002, she reported to 9th Communications Battalion in Camp Pendleton, Calif., where she served as the commanding officer of Charlie Company. In June 2002, she deployed to Bahrain in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In June of 2003, Garrity deployed to Iraq as the officer in charge of Alpha Detachment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In June of 2004, Garrity reported to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) in Camp Pendleton. In 2005, she again deployed to Iraq in support of OIF. Upon her return in 2006, she was selected to attend Intermediate Level School at the Naval Command and Staff College in Newport, R.I.

Upon graduation from the Naval War College in June 2007, Garrity reported to United States Southern Command in Miami, Fla., where she served as the executive officer to the chief of staff. In May 2009, she was reassigned as the Cyber Services Division Chief.

In August 2010, Garrity reported to 3rd Marine Air Wing, MCAS Miramar, to serve with Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38.

Garrity holds a masters degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. She is a joint-qualified officer, whose personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Meritorious Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with one gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Debish was commissioned after graduating from the University of Oklahoma in August 1994. After completing TBS in 1995 and the Basic Communications Officers Course in 1996, he served as the Operational Communications platoon commander for Marine Air Control Squadron 1, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd MAW, at MCAS Camp Pendleton, from October 1995 to December 1998.

From December 1998, he served as the Communications Division Head at Marine Aviation Weapons Tactics Squadron 1 at MCAS Yuma, Ariz.

In July 2002, he was assigned to the 1st Force Service Support Group at Camp Pendleton. He served as the information systems management officer until December 2002. He served as the communications officer for Combat Service Support Battalion - 18 during OIF - 1 from January to July 2003. He also served as the executive officer from August 2003 to May 2004 and commanding officer from June 2004 to June 2005 for Communications Company, 1st FSSG during OIF.

In July 2005, Debish was assigned a joint duty assignment at the Joint Information Operations Warfare Command, US Strategic Command, at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During this assignment, he deployed to Iraq in 2006 and 2007 in support of Joint Task Force - Iraq as an information operations planner. In 2008, he attended and graduated the Joint and Combined Warfighting School at the Joint Force Staff College, Norfolk, Va.

In July 2008, Debish attended the Army's Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he earned a masters in Administration from Central Michigan University.

In July 2009, he was assigned to Combat Development and Integration, Headquarters Marine Corps, where he served as a capabilities and integrations officer and as the deputy branch head for Capabilities Branch, Command and Control Integration Division.

Debish is a joint-qualified officer, whose personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Lt. Col. Edward J. Debish



Lt. Col. Wendy Garrity

WORKING TOGETHER: ARFF, EOD, FIREFIGHTERS TRAIN TOGETHER

By Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner



Marines with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting and a member of the Hazardous Material Team with the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar based San Diego Fire Department put together decontamination pools during a training exercise aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., June 15. ARFF trained with Explosive Ordnance Disposal and the Hazardous Material Team to ensure safety and a timely response when the agencies work together during an emergency.

An old, run down building filled with hazardous chemicals begins to leak as the morning sun rises over the mountainscape. MCAS Miramar Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Hazardous Material teams are called to the site. As the teams prepare to decontaminate the building an IED is discovered.

This was the scenario as ARFF, EOD and air station firefighters conducted this rare joint training.

Chemicals used to make meth-amphetamine could be extremely dangerous and could have negative effects on the health of whoever comes into contact with them. The chemicals have to be tested and disposed of properly to ensure the scene is safe for an investigation to be conducted. Also, the scene has to be thoroughly inspected to ensure there are no hazards that would hinder the agencies from continuing on to an investigation. During the training exercise Marines and firefighters geared up to prepare for hazardous material.

In situations involving IEDs, the EOD robot is the first to go in, explained Staff Sgt. Joshua Summers, an explosive ordnance technician with EOD and a Honolulu native. "We use the robot to do reconnaissance, to help first responders and keep our men safe."

EOD Marines remotely controlled the four camera robots to the sight.

In a combination effort of the robot and a Marine wearing

a bomb suit, EOD was able to successfully remove the IED and secure the building.

Although each agency has hazardous material training, the Hazardous Material Team members are the experts. They share their knowledge with the other agencies and give tips on how to sample each chemical safely and in a more efficient manner.

Members of the hazardous material team instructed ARFF Marines on how to lay out decontamination pools and how to sample chemicals without cross-contamination or contamination of clean surfaces.

In the mock laboratory actual chemicals were used to make it as real as possible for the Marines training.

The enemy is trading in bullets and bombs for everyday chemicals, but with training like this Marines can be prepared for everything, explained Sgt. Jeson Coleman, a Hazardous Material Response Chief with ARFF and a Cleveland native.

Training exercises like this one do not happen often. It is challenging for Marines and firefighters to work together with different chains of command however, training like this ensures an orderly mission when emergencies arise.

Each agency has its own skill set to support each other. Working together ensures the safety of the installation and those who work to keep it secure.



FIRST RESPONDERS TRAIN FOR FUTURE RESPONSE

Video by Sgt. Justin M. Martinez



(Above) Marines with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting secure a gas canister during a training exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., June 15. ARFF trained with Explosive Ordnance Disposal and the Hazardous Material Team to ensure safety and a timely response when the agencies work together during an emergency.

(Right) A Marine with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting takes a sample of red phosphorous during a training exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., June 15. ARFF trained with Explosive Ordnance Disposal and the Hazardous Material Team with San Diego Fire Department, stationed aboard MCAS Miramar, to ensure safety and a timely response when the agencies work together during an emergency.

(Below) A robot is used for reconnaissance to find and clear improvised explosive devices during a training exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., June 15. Explosive Ordnance Disposal worked with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting and the Hazardous Material Team to conduct a joint training exercise.



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Armed Forces Voters Week is June 28 to July 7. This week is dedicated to helping service members and eligible family members register to vote with their home state. Voting assistance officers are assigned to all units and trained to assist voters with registration. Registering now ensures voters will be able to vote in the general election on Nov. 6. For more information, view Marine Administrative Message 327/12 at <http://www.marines.mil/news/messages/Pages/MARADMIN327-12.aspx/>

