

The Windsock

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LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

Sgt. Nathaniel Z. Duarosan, right, a Feds Feed Families volunteer, hands food to Kerry L. Stratton, the local Feds Feed Families program manager, during a food delivery to the Havelock and Cherry Point Ministerial Outreach food bank, July 13. They delivered more than 1,500 pounds of goods to the food bank, which was almost out of supplies.

Cherry Point Marines, civilians rally, collect food for community food banks

LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @ZyckiUSMC

Joining the Feds Feed Families campaign, Marines and civilians here are collecting nonperishable food items for donation to local food banks through Aug. 31.

The air station collected more than 1,500 pounds of food as of July 13 and delivered it to the Havelock and Cherry Point Ministerial Outreach food bank.

President Barack Obama initiated the Feds Feed Families program as a way for federal employees to help families who are not able to take advantage of school meal programs during the summer months.

Donations can be dropped in designated boxes aboard the air station at the Marine Corps Exchange, the Seven Day Store, Miller's Landing and more.

"There's always been a very strong and close relationship between Havelock and Cherry Point," said Kerry L. Stratton, the program manager for the Feds Feed Families campaign aboard Cherry Point. "We're hoping to continue the contributions, kindness and generosity of federal employees for this

next month and half. It continues to strengthen the bond that already exists between Cherry Point and our neighbors."

The food collected from the station goes directly to local families. Caroline Mewborn, the director of the Havelock and Cherry Point Ministerial Outreach, said the donations came just in time because the food bank was running low on supplies. She added the economy has led to increased demand.

"We helped 116 families last month," said Mewborn. "When I first started five years ago, it was between 30 and 40 families, now it's always about 100 every month."

"Any opportunity for us as federal employees to share our good fortune with those less fortunate is a great thing," said Stratton. "We're continuing to get tremendous support from several entities on base."

With collections continuing until Aug. 31, nonperishable foods, hygiene items and household supplies are in the highest demand, according to the program website.

For more information or to volunteer, call Stratton at 466-8136. The official website for the campaign is <http://www.fedsfeedfamilies.gov>.

Ferguson assumes command of Naval Health Clinic, Perez-Lugo bids farewell

LANCE CPL. STEPHEN T. STEWART

MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @STSTEWARTUSMC

Capt. John F. Ferguson assumed command of more than 350 personnel at Naval Health Clinic Cherry Point from Capt. Edgardo Perez-Lugo during a ceremony at Miller's Landing aboard the air station, July 13.

Perez-Lugo will retire after 30 years of service.

In his final address to his Sailors, Perez-Lugo praised their efforts during his tenure as commanding officer.

During Perez-Lugo's tenure, the Naval Health Clinic was named the best ambulatory facility in the nation by the Naval Inspector General Medical and Dental Division. For the first time ever the clinic also received two Navy Surgeon General Health Promotion and Wellness Awards. The clinic was awarded with the silver award in 2010 and the gold award in 2011, according to the public affairs representative for the clinic.

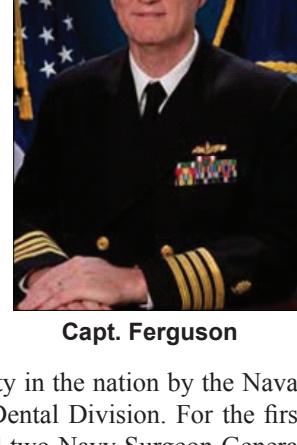
Perez-Lugo attributed the success to the constant strength, dedication and motivation of the Sailors.

Ferguson comes to the clinic after serving as the executive officer at Naval Hospital Rota, Spain.

"I look forward to being a part of the Cherry Point community," he said. "I am honored to be your new commanding officer."

Ferguson's career highlights include a tour as the head of Dental Corps Programs at Navy Recruiting Command Headquarters, and serving as the director for administration at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, 2005-2008, which included a six-month deployment to Expeditionary Medical Facility Kuwait.

Included in Ferguson's personal decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

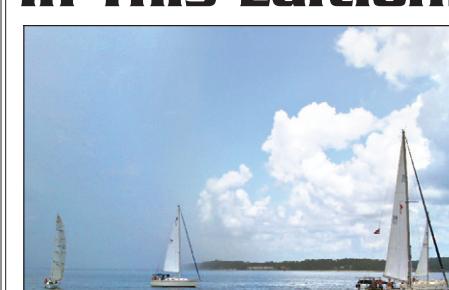


Capt. Ferguson

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See B1 for photos and story



With your smartphone download a QR code reader and scan the code.

Fox assumes MEF command

CPL. BRYAN NYGAARD

MCB CAMP LEJEUNE

FOLLOW @ANGREEVING

Lieutenant Gen. John M. Paxton Jr. transferred authority of II Marine Expeditionary Force to Maj. Gen. Raymond C. Fox during a ceremony aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 13.

Assembled on the parade ground in front of the MEF Headquarters building were 7 platoons of Marines and Sailors under arms representing nearly 60,000 warfighters who encompass the Marine Air-Ground Task Force of II MEF.

More than 300 friends, family and military personnel were in attendance including Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Lt. Gen. Dennis J. Hejlik, commanding general of Marine Corps Forces Command.

Paxton assumed command of II MEF in January

2011 following his tour as the Director of Operations for the Joint Staff in the Pentagon. During his tenure, Paxton guided II MEF as it conducted combat operations in Afghanistan as well as supporting multi-national efforts in Libya as part of Operation Unified Protector and Odyssey Dawn. II MEF was also the key force provider for Exercise Bold Alligator, which revitalized the employment of amphibious tactics through the combined efforts of Navy and Marine Corps operations from the sea.



Maj. Gen. Fox

Paxton will now assume command of Marine Corps Forces Command.



Lt. Gen. Paxton

Paxton thanked the Marines and Sailors he has lead for the past 16 months as well as the Camp Lejeune community.

"When I took the helm, I promised you what Lewis B. Puller used to say, 'You owe your Marines four things: your courage, your candor, your compassion and your commitment,'" said Paxton. "There's not a doubt in my mind that you (pointing to the Marines and Sailors in formation) have given that each and every day, individually and collectively. It's been my honor and privilege to watch you do that."

Fox recently served as the commanding general of Training and Education Command at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Active duty fund drive nets \$31K aboard station

LANCE CPL. ANDREA CLEOPATRA DICKERSON

MCAS CHERRY POINT



Sgt. Maj. Wright

During the course of the past month, Marines and Sailors lent a helping hand to their fellow service members by donating an estimated \$31,000 to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Active Duty Fund Drive as of Sunday.

A final estimation of donations is still being calculated, said Lt. Col. Paul W. Miller, the fund drive manager.

"Even though the drive is over, it's important for people to know they can donate year-round," he said.

In 2011, The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society provided more than \$286,000 dollars to 2,152 families on Cherry Point and more than \$4 million dollars to North Carolina families in financial assistance including quick assist loans, emergency leave travel, disaster recovery assistance, and assistance to wounded warriors, widows and their families.

"I would personally like to thank everyone who donated," said Miller. "The whole point of the fund drive is for Marines and Sailors to help other Marines and Sailors."

Service members can donate online, identifying Cherry Point as their "Base or Station," at <http://bit.ly/hmcrsdonate>.

2nd MAW runners win race



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Retired Navy Rear Adm. Noel Preston presents the Nags Head Woods 5K 1st place trophy for a military team to Lt. Col. Shawn Hermley, commanding officer of Marine Attack Squadron 231, and Capt. Michael Padilla, VMA-231 Harrier pilot, July 13. As the commanding officer of the fastest Marine in the race, Hermley accepted the trophy on behalf of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. Padilla, who also captured overall first place in the Nags Head, N.C., charity race in May, was one of three 2nd MAW Marines who took the team trophy from the reigning champions, members of the U.S. Coast Guard in Elizabeth City, N.C. The other 2nd MAW Marines were 1st Lt. Seth Deaton, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14 (2nd place) and Cpl. Matthew Aguilar, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 2 (3rd place). In addition to the team and individual trophies, the Marines' victory resulted in a \$1,000 donation to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive here. The check and trophies were presented by Preston, who represented the race organization.

Chaplain's Corner: Lose control

Lt. ERIC HAMMEN

MARINE WING HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON 2

As I was driving home the other day, I peered out my window and saw a sign that can put fear into any man or women, "student driver."

As I changed lanes and tried to avoid being the student's first casualty, I looked at the very concerned face in the passenger seat of the vehicle and wondered how bad today's economic times are that someone would subject themselves to that job. Maybe crash pilot was already taken at the temporary job services that day, but either way, my thoughts and prayers were with him.

In all seriousness, isn't it difficult to trust someone, especially when your life is at stake? Or to trust someone when you may have little or no control over the situation? Granted, in the case of the student driver, there is a brake on the passenger side of the car, but there is still a huge amount of trust given to someone he hardly knows.

In fact, in many occupations there is a great amount of trust needed for things to get done. Do we check the airline pilot's resume before we book our flight? Or do we simply

trust that the company will only hire competent individuals to taxi hundreds of individuals daily across the world?

It is the same within the military. Almost every job in the military has an extreme amount of trust involved. From the aircraft mechanic to the parachute rigger, each person has to put their lives in the hands of another person to perform their job.

The question I have for you is that if we are willing to do this so often with someone that we have never met, or don't even know, how can we then not trust the creator of the universe?

In Luke 9, Chapter 24, Jesus states, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it." There is a song with lyrics which brilliantly match this passage and it goes like this, "You say let it go, you say life is waiting for the ones who lose control, you say you will be everything I need, you say if I lose my life, then I'll find my soul." Talk about trust!

What a deep, yet very simple, idea stated here in the scriptures. Are you saying that in order to have true freedom we must lose ourselves? The text here is referring to

salvation and living for God, but isn't this the same principle that everyone follows who has served, or is serving today?

We get orders to go places that we may not want to go (sometimes away from loved ones) and to do things that we may not want to do, but we comply, sacrificing our freedom so others may enjoy theirs.

We put our trust in what this country stands for. We don't see all the moving parts. Sometimes we don't even see the big picture.

Where does all of this leave you? If you are reading this, you are either a service member, have been a service member, or know somebody who is. That means you are putting your trust in an institution that does great things at a high level, but one that is bound to make mistakes and disappoint. If you can do that, why not trust in something bigger than us, something everlasting, something unchanging, and something that will never make mistakes or disappoint?

Trust in the creator, the God of the universe, the only one that can save our life when we give him ours.

The Windsock

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MCAS CHERRY POINT
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PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF
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Fly High

Highlighting Cherry Point's Warriors



CPL. MATTEAU J. ROSS

Job Title: Low altitude air defense gunner
Unit: 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion
Hometown: New Gloucester, Maine

Age: 20

Date Joined: June 14, 2010

Cpl. Mattheau J. Ross is a low altitude air defense gunner with 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion at Cherry Point.

Ross said the foundation of his time here has been focused around knowledge.

"There is a lot out there that we have to know," he said. "And we have to learn it quickly."

Because of the nature of his job, Ross is required to learn about and identify all types of aircraft in a combat zone.

He has to be able to identify the make and model quickly, indicating whether it's enemy or friendly.

Retaining this key knowledge is the most difficult and important part of his job, said Ross.

Additionally, the battalion also has its own communication, motor transportation and ground security, which are all jobs he and his fellow Marines must be proficient at.

"The fact that we have all these different jobs on top of our primary is what I love about 2nd LAAD," said Ross. "We all have to be able to do our job, the job of the Marine next to us and be a rifleman."

Ross has a deployment coming up next year and said he can't wait to get out there and do his job in a forward environment.

"I joined the Marine Corps to travel, go to combat and fight for this country," he said.

Highlight Your Marine or Sailor Superstar

Call or email The Windsock

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466-3542

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE



LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI



LANCE CPL. STEPHEN T. STEWART

Station Fuels Department Marines, Sailor and civilians display the prestigious 2011 American Petroleum Institution Award, after receiving it here in a ceremony July 12. The department completed every task assigned in 2011 while pumping 1.6 million gallons more fuel than in 2010 and maintaining a mishap-free safety record with decreased manpower.

Cherry Point fuel department pumps 1.6 million gallons more fuel with half manpower

LANCE CPL. STEPHEN T. STEWART

MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @STSSTEWARTUSMC

The Station Fuels Department completed every task assigned in 2011 while pumping 1.6 million gallons more fuel than in 2010 and maintaining a mishap-free safety record with decreased manpower.

Top industry leaders from the American Petroleum Institution, a national trade association that represents all aspects of America's oil and natural gas industry, took notice.

The fuels department received the 2011 American Petroleum Institution Award in a ceremony here, July 12.

The fuels department is in charge of handling and maintaining all fueling assets aboard the station. In 2011 they

supported Operation Enduring Freedom rotations, Haiti relief efforts and completed the construction of new refueling points. The fuels department accomplished all of this with limited personnel and without delay.

"Due to budgeting we have had to cut down on the amount of personnel we have working for us," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Matthew S. Studer, the officer-in-charge of station fuels. "We have been able to accomplish more with less, and that's one of the major reasons we were recognized."

The department handled more than 40 million gallons of fuel in 2011 successfully refueling 17,281 aircraft with an average completion time of less than one hour.

"This award is a big deal for us," said Studer. "This

award shows that we work hard, and the Marines and civilians deserve to be recognized. I am extremely proud of my Marines and all they have accomplished."

The department last won the award in 2002 and was most recently the runner up in 2007.

"We have phenomenal Marines and civilians working here and they do an awesome job," said Master Sgt. Robin B. Norwood, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of station fuels. "We put out every day, do our best and work hard."

Norwood said that the fuel department's success continues and they hope to receive the award for fiscal year 2012.

Raven makes maiden voyage in Pacific during Exercise Hamel 2012

CPL. JONATHAN WRIGHT

31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

QUEENSLAND, Australia – Friendly forces describe it as a \$30,000 flying lawnmower with a camera. Enemy forces are likely to have a less light-hearted description of it.

On the 4th of July three Marines of Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, made Marine Corps history as they launched the first Raven unmanned aerial vehicle system in the Pacific Command area here, during Exercise Hamel 2012.

Beginning in the 1990s, the U.S. Department of Defense began utilizing UAV systems in various conflicts across the globe. As a result of its successful application during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, UAVs of all varieties have been in high demand due to its unique advantages on the battlefield.

“If you have a unit about to conduct a raid in a town, the UAV gives them the means to safely scope out the area,” said 2nd Lt. Justin Lenio, assistant intelligence officer with BLT 2/1, 31st MEU. “Without putting the Marines in immediate danger, they are able to get a good grasp of the immediate situation.”

The UAV system Lenio and his Marines launched was the RQ-11B Raven B, used for low altitude day or night surveillance. Equipped with color photo and video cameras with infrared capabilities, the Raven is able to offer detailed intelligence with corresponding coordinates to each transmitted image or video feed. Constructed of a light-weight Kevlar material and designed to stay airborne for up to one and a half hours, the Raven is considered one of the most used UAV systems in the world.

“Due to its size and weight, the system and all accessories can be carried by one or two infantrymen in a deployed environment,” said Sgt. Matthew Sullivan, senior intelligence analyst with BLT 2/1, 31st MEU. “There are better, more accurate UAV systems out there, but the Raven is the easiest to pick up and go with.”

Although the system is proving to be an invaluable asset in overseas combat environments, UAVs have not been previously used by the Marine Corps in its Pacific Command area. Due to other operational commitments, limited frequency allocation, and air space request coordination requirements unique to the Asia-Pacific region, UAVs were not flown in PACOM exercises until its maiden voyage during Exercise Hamel.

After days of bilateral coordination, the Raven system was green-lit to be used during the exercise in the Australian Army’s Shoalwater Bay Training Area after it was determined to be the appropriate training area for such a high tech surveillance system.

“It’s an exciting day, honestly,” said Lenio. “Hopefully our use of the Raven here will pave the way for more flights in PACOM exercises.”

The Raven flown on the 4th of July made two reconnaissance flights during the morning, surveilling the areas surrounding Marine defenses in the vicinity of the Raspberry Creek training area. The Marines of Company G., BLT 2/1, 31st MEU, are preparing to defend against the assault of an Australian reinforced brigade.

Exercise Hamel 2012 is a multi-national training evolution between the U.S. Marine Corps, Australian Army and New Zealand Army, aimed at certifying the Australian 1st Brigade for operational deployment.

The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and is the nation’s force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.



CPL. JONATHAN WRIGHT

2nd Lt. Justin Lenio, assistant intelligence officer with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepares a RQ-11B Raven unmanned aerial vehicle for flight in Queensland, Australia, July 4. This is the first time the Raven UAV system was flown in the Pacific Command area. The UAV is being utilized in support of Exercise Hamel 2012, a multi-national training evolution between the U.S. Marine Corps, Australian Army and New Zealand Army.



CPL. JONATHAN WRIGHT

Cpl. Alexander Young, intelligence analyst with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, controls a RQ-11B Raven, an unmanned aerial vehicle, with a remote control device Queensland, Australia, July 4.

Fun in the sun



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

Gunnery Sgt. Michael J. VanWolput, a maintenance controller with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 366, swims with his son during the squadron's family day at Camp Albemarle, N.C., July 14. HMH-366 holds family days quarterly to enhance family readiness, esprit de corps, and operational readiness.

MARINES, FAMILIES RETREAT FOR SUMMER FUN

LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI
MCAS CHERRY POINT

FOLLOW @ZICKIUSMC

Marines and their families enjoyed a unique day at Camp Albemarle during Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 366's family day, July 14.

HMH-366 holds family days quarterly to enhance family readiness, esprit de corps, and operational readiness.

"Family readiness for us is critical," said Lt. Col. Tim Anderson, the squadron's commanding officer. "If Marines are worried about what's going on with their families, they can't focus on the job at hand. It's important for us to make sure the families are taken care of."

Anderson holds to the philosophy that the more fun a family day is, the stronger the bonding experience. The squadron often schedules family events off the air station to take advantage of as many recreational resources as possible in the local community.

Camp Albemarle is run by the Presbytery of New Hope and holds summer camps for children. Located on Bogue Sound, it boasts amenities including kayaks, canoes, a soccer field, volleyball courts, an alpine tower and recreational tree climbing equipment.

The staff also has an understanding of military life and how a good family day can help a unit.

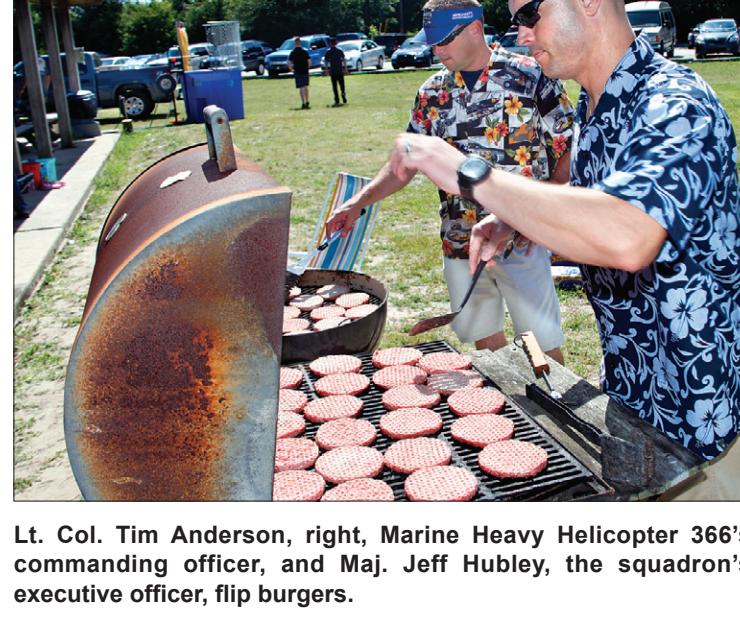
Sarah Smith, an assistant camp director, said she and other staff members have military family ties. She remembers going to unit picnics with her father and feeling like the whole unit was one big extended family.

The squadron also includes its single Marines in the family experience. Lance Cpl. Gabriel Labrada, a CH-53E crew chief and a bachelor, enjoyed himself as well.

"It's nice to get away from base," said Labrada. "They have boats, they have food and paddle boarding and all that. It makes us all feel more like family."



A face painter paints a butterfly on a child's face.



Lt. Col. Tim Anderson, right, Marine Heavy Helicopter 366's commanding officer, and Maj. Jeff Hubley, the squadron's executive officer, flip burgers.



Lance Cpl. Jonathan Howser and Sarah Ramsey enjoy kayaking in Bogue Sound.



Marines attack their watermelons during an eating contest, seeing who could get through three-quarters of a watermelon first.



Marines with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, approach two simulated casualties to be safely recovered, July 9.



TRAP

Javelin Thrust 12

Photos by Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi

(Left) Marines with 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, load onto a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter to retrieve two Marines during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise in the combat center training areas, July 9.



Two CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters take-off after unloading 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment Marines, en route to recover two simulated casualties, July 9.



Seaman Apprentice Garret Minatto, right, hospital corpsman, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, treats a simulated casualty.

Marines teach riot control techniques to West African nations



Sgt. TATUM VAYAVANADA

Lance Corporals Chris C. Holloway, left, Dominic D. Walicki, middle, and Pfc. Kenneth T. Martin, right, assistant crowd control instructors with 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, simulate a riot for the Burkina Faso partners they are training with during Exercise Western Accord 2012. Exercise Western Accord 2012 is a multi-lateral training exercise with West African nations to increase understanding and interoperability and to prevent conflict by enabling Africans to provide for their security and stability. Participating African nations include Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Gambia.

Marines land in Fuji for urban training



SGT. PAUL ROBBINS

Marines with the Maritime Raid Force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, coordinate outer security during a raid at Camp Fuji, Japan, July 9. The raid was part of the Realistic Urban Training Exercise, evaluated by Special Operations Training Group. It is designed to improve the 31st MEU's rapid response capability. The 31st MEU is the United States' force in readiness for the Asia Pacific.



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL OXTON

Marines with the Maritime Raid Force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, use a circular saw to ignite a torch while attempting to breach steel barricades Camp Fuji, Japan, July 9.

R&A from page A1

you," he said. "It's my job, it's what I do. But most importantly, I'm excited to do it!"

Wright's career highlights include service in Iraq as communications chief and senior enlisted advisor of a Border Transition Team from Marine Aircraft Group 11.

He also deployed with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard the USS Bataan, in support of Operation Unified Protector from March 2011 to February 2012.

His personal decorations include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps

Commendation Medal with three gold stars and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal with three gold stars.

Marine awarded Silver Star for heroic actions in Afghanistan

CPL. JEFF DREW

2ND MARINE DIVISION

He watched as five Marines beside him dropped, struck by insurgent machine gun fire. Within seconds, Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Cole joined his brothers as a three-round burst lifted his 200-pound frame and 80 pounds of gear completely off the ground, moved him five feet in the air, and slammed him into the dirt—all in less than half a second.

Cole had taken three rounds into the ceramic plates protecting his body from small-arms fire. He was down, but not wounded. The injured Marines made their way into a nearby canal for cover as Cole provided suppressive fire with his rifle. With half of the Marines on the patrol wounded, they tried calling for extraction on the radio, but couldn't reach anyone. No help was on the way and approximately 20 insurgents entrenched only 30 meters from their position were headed in their direction.

The morning of August 17, 2010 started early for Cole. He woke at 4 a.m. to stand four hours of guard duty. As he finished his time on post, an early morning patrol returned and he helped cook food for them before cleaning his rifle and restocking on water. He heard through the grapevine about another patrol going out soon and he wanted in on the action. In the three and a half weeks that his unit, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, had been in country, Cole had already been on 46 missions, without incident.

The patrol that changed his life consisted of six Marines from his squad as well as a Navy corpsman and three Marines from a Professional Mentor Team, a group primarily responsible for training and working with Afghan National Security Forces. It was a reconnaissance mission—to photograph the local

landscape and populace and learn as much as they could about the area. At 1:30 p.m., the patrol made their way to a location they had been the night before. They spoke with local Afghans and searched mud compounds. Around 3:30 p.m., they left the final compound; the crack of gunfire filled the air and they found themselves in a fight. The patrol was pinned down by heavy enemy fire; five Marines were wounded and they were unable to contact anyone on the radio.

"Thirty minutes into the firefight, I heard screams that the enemy was advancing toward us," Cole said as he recounted his actions that day. "I took a machine gun from my buddy who was shot and gave him my rifle. I put the machine gun in my shoulder and started firing. Then I got up on the road and shot from my hip in a sweeping motion from left to right. I shot 150 rounds off, and as I did, I was shot three more times. A round hit my plates again and two rounds went through my arm."

"This time it felt like a sunburn," Cole said as he remembered the feeling of the rounds penetrating his arm. "My bone vibrated and severed my nerve and blew out the inside of my upper arm, I couldn't feel anything. It spun me around and threw me into the ditch."

Immediately the Marines put a tourniquet on the wounded Cole in an effort to stop the bleeding. The Marines knew they had to move—quickly. They made their way into a nearby compound as enemy fire dug into the mud walls. The enemy was advancing and all Cole could hear were the calls over the radio.

"All channels, anywhere, anything around us that can receive us—we need help now!"

Another tourniquet and a pressure dressing were applied

to his arm, but he was still losing blood—time was running out. Despite his grievous wounds, Cole continued to provide accurate suppressive fire on the enemy making sure the Marines on patrol remained covered and safe.

The sound of attack helicopters broke through the cloud of gunfire. The Marines, running low on ammunition and badly wounded, continued to return fire as their air support offered protection for a medical evacuation. A British CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter landed under heavy fire from the nearby insurgents. The Marines, supporting one another, staggered toward the rescue helicopter in the midst of enemy fire and climbed aboard.

Cole was flown to Camp Bastion where he immediately went into surgery. Nearly 18 hours later he was stabilized. The call that he was injured went out to his family.

After a short stay at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., Cole joined the Wounded Warrior Battalion—East on Camp Lejeune and began the journey to recovery.

Cole was awarded the Silver Star, the Nation's third highest award for valor July 10 for his actions that day. He adamantly admits that he is not a hero and that when he decided to stand up on that road, he was just doing his job.

"I don't think I deserve it," Cole mentioned. "Nothing I did comes close to the Marines I was with. Pinned down in a ditch, wounded, they fought for an hour against an enemy that got within 30 meters. Not once did they waver. This award isn't my award. It's their award and all the guys who we lost who can't wear it now, I'll wear it for them since they can't."



CPL. JEFF DREW



CPL. JEFF DREW

(Left photo) Colonel Kenneth M. DeTrex, the commanding officer of 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, shakes the hand of Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Cole (right) after presenting him with the nation's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star.

(Right photo) The nation's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star Medal, lies in wait, ready to be presented to Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Cole. Cole was awarded the medal July 10 for his selfless actions when his patrol came under enemy fire in Marjah, Afghanistan in August 2010.

Life&Times

Facebook.com/MCASCherryPoint

July 19, 2012

Setting sail

Hancock yacht club host races

MCAS CHERRY POINT

Strong w

difficult Saturday and

Sunday as 14 boats battled in four classes pursuing champion titles in the 48th Annual Hancock Yacht Club Regatta.

into the Spinnaker, Non-Spinnaker, Cruising and the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet classes.

CLASS WINNERS

- Non-Spinnaker: Compass Rose, captained by Mark Brennesholtz
 - Cruising: Bifrost, captained by Newton Collyar
 - Performance Handicap Racing Fleet class: Packer Tacker, captained by Chuck Thompson

Each class participated in three races; a point scale based on finish times determined the winner. As each of the first races ended,

The Hancock Regatta is the largest sailboat race in the area. Competitors travel from as far as Virginia, and represent several

Ed Sanderson, the principle race officer for the Hancock Yacht Club, said the success of the regatta every year is due to the hard

Active duty military, civilians and retirees make up the members of the Harpoon Yacht Club, which includes personnel of all ranks.

of the Hancock Yacht Club, which includes personnel of all ranks from active duty corporal to retired major general.

Collyar, captain of the winning boat Bifrost, said the military dynamic of the yacht club is what makes it unique. He looks forward to the regatta each year to share his knowledge of the sport with potential and up-and-coming nautical enthusiasts. As a retired Harrier pilot, Collyar said he most enjoys mentoring young Marines in the sport.

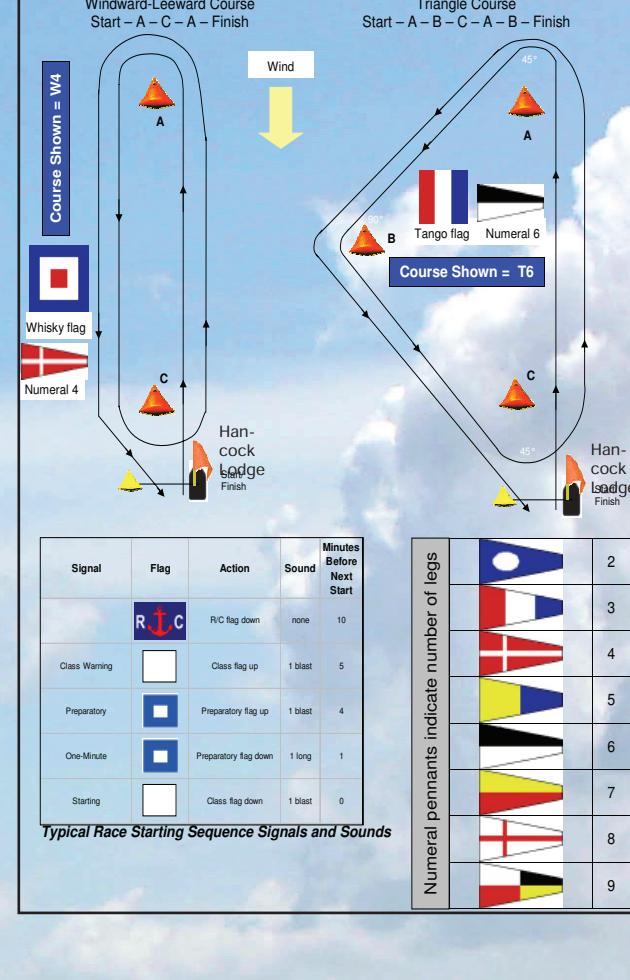


on after starting the sec

and race of the 46th Annual Hancock Regatta on the Neuse River, July 14. There were six vessels racing in this class with "Compass Rose" sail number 41958 finishing in first place.



after crossing the finish line of the first race in first place.



Vessels compete for starting position before the first race begins of the 48th Annual Hancock Regatta on the Neuse River, July 14. Fourteen sailboats from yacht clubs as far as Virginia participated in the regatta this year.

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/Holiday Hours

Breakfast/Lunch 8:30-11 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 - Pasta primavera, lasagna, chicken rotini casserole, baked ziti with four cheeses, meatballs, baked Italian sausage, boiled rigatoni, boiled spaghetti, simmered ziti, simmered linguine, simmered fettuccini, simmered penne rigate, simmered rotini, Italian meat sauce, alfredo sauce, caesar salad bowl, toasted garlic bread and breadsticks

Tuesday - Mediterranean pesto chicken salad, classic grilled chicken caesar salad, classic chef salad, garlic bread sticks

Wednesday - Chicken enchiladas, taco beef filling, burritos, Mexican rice, refried beans with cheese, Mexican corn, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, chopped onions, sliced jalapeno peppers, taco shells, flour tortillas, taco sauce, salsa, sour cream

Thursday - Chinese egg rolls, teriyaki beef strips, steamed shrimp, grilled chicken strips, pork fried rice, steamed rice, lo mein, vegetable with Asian sauce

Friday - Wings of fire, honeyed BBQ wings, teriyaki wings, French fried chicken wings, French fried garlic fries, corn on the cob, baked beans, carrot sticks, celery sticks, blue cheese dressing, ranch dressing

Weekly Menu

Thursday July 19

Lunch - Chicken and dumplings, pasta toscano, steamed rice, steamed vegetable medley, Harvard beets, cream of spinach soup **Dinner** - Mediterranean herb roasted chicken, herbed roast pork loin, mashed potatoes, dirty rice, glazed carrots, steamed broccoli, brown gravy, American bounty vegetable soup

Friday July 20

Lunch - Roast turkey, French fried shrimp, French fried fish, dirty mashed potatoes, green beans, calico cabbage, hush puppies, tartar sauce, cocktail sauce, New England clam chowder

Dinner - Tater tot casserole, baked tomato pork chops, savory baked beans, peas and mushrooms, Manhattan clam chowder

Saturday July 21

Lunch - Baked ziti with four cheeses, arroz con pollo, club spinach, corn O'Brien, toasted garlic bread, smoked ham and cabbage soup **Dinner** - Three bean chili, apple glazed corned beef, shrimp curry, cilantro rice, parsley buttered potatoes, vegetable stir fry, savory summer squash

Sunday July 22

Lunch - Baked fish with butter crumb topping, herbed baked chicken, potatoes au gratin, confetti rice, herbed roasted carrots, balsamic roasted vegetables, tomato soup **Dinner** - Pork chops with smothered onion, chili macaroni, roasted sweet potatoes, French cut green beans, cauliflower combo, Wisconsin cheese soup

Monday July 23

Lunch - Pepper steak, turkey Monterey roast, rosemary red potatoes, steamed rice, wax beans Creole, stewed chick peas and zucchini, southwestern corn chowder **Dinner** - Veal parmesan, tex-mex chicken and rice, penne rigate noodles, scalloped cream corn, broccoli and red peppers, Spanish chorizo and potato soup

Tuesday July 24

Lunch - Linguini with clam sauce, bayou chicken, rissole potatoes, mashed cauliflower, sauteed green beans and mushrooms, beef with vegetables and barley soup **Dinner** - Country fried steaks, baked turkey with noodles, mashed potatoes, creamed ground beef, peas, squash and carrot medley, bean with bacon soup

Wednesday July 25

Lunch - Chicken piccata, bayou jerk pork loin, chipotle roasted sweet potatoes, islander's rice, steamed spinach with garlic, Lyonnaise carrots, mango and black bean salsa, cream of mushroom soup **Dinner** - Hungarian goulash, Creole shrimp, brussels sprout parmesan, corn, chicken tortilla soup

Summer safety tips:

Help dogs beat the heat

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Hot weather can make us all uncomfortable, and it poses special risks for your dog. Keep the following safety concerns in mind as the temperature rises, and follow our tips to keep your dog cool.

Heat Hazards

- If your dog is outside on a hot day, make sure he has a shady spot to rest in. Doghouses are not good shelter during the summer as they can trap heat.
- You may want to fill a child's wading pool with fresh water for your dog to cool off in.
- Never leave your dog in a closed vehicle on a hot day. The temperature inside a car can rise to more than 100 degrees in a matter of minutes.
- Avoid strenuous exercise on extremely hot days. Take walks in the early mornings or evenings, when the sun's heat is less intense.
- Try to avoid prolonged exposure to hot asphalt or sand, which can burn your dog's paws.
- Dogs that are brachycephalic (short-faced), such as Bulldogs, Boxers, Japanese Chins, and Pekingese, have an especially hard time in the heat because they do not pant as efficiently as longer-faced dogs. Keep your brachycephalic dog inside with air-conditioning.

General Health

- Make sure your dog's vaccinations are up to date, especially since dogs tend to stay outdoors longer and come into contact with other animals more during the summer months.
- Keep dogs off of lawns that have been chemically treated or fertilized for 24 hours (or according to package instructions), and away from potentially toxic plants and flowers.
- Keep your dog well-brushed and clean.
- Fleas and ticks, and the mosquitos which carry heartworm disease, are more prevalent in warmer months. Ask your veterinarian for an effective preventive medicine to keep these parasites off your dog.

Beach Tips

- Make sure your dog has a shady spot to rest in and plenty of fresh water.
- Dogs, especially those with short hair, white fur, and pink skin, can sunburn. Limit your dog's exposure during the day and apply sunblock to his ears and nose 30 minutes before going outside.
- Check with a lifeguard for daily water conditions. Dogs are easy targets for sea lice and jellyfish.
- Running on the sand is strenuous exercise. A dog that is out of shape can easily pull a tendon or ligament, so keep a check on your dog's activity.

- Do not let your dog drink seawater; can cause sickness.
- Salt and other minerals in ocean water can damage your dog's coat, so rinse him off at the end of the day.
- Not all beaches permit dogs; check local ordinances before heading out.

Water Safety

- If you're swimming for the first time with your dog, start in shallow water and coax him in by calling his name. Encourage him with toys or treats. Or, let him follow another experienced dog he is friendly with.
- Never throw your dog into the water.

- If your dog begins to paddle with his front legs, lift his hind legs and help him float. He should quickly catch on and keep his back end up.
- Don't let your dog overdo it; swimming is very hard work and he may tire quickly.

- If you have your own pool, make sure your dog knows where the stairs or ladder are located. Be sure that pool covers are firmly in place; dogs have been known to slip in under openings in the covers and drown.
- Never leave your dog unattended in water.

Travel

- By Air – Many airlines will not ship animals during summer months due to dangers caused by hot weather. Some will only allow dogs to fly in the early morning or in the evening. Check with your airlines for specific rules.
- If you do ship a dog, put icepacks or an ice blanket in the dog's crate. (Two-liter soft drink bottles filled with water and frozen work well.) Provide a container of fresh water, as well as a container of frozen water that will thaw over the course of the trip.
- By Car – Keep your dog cool in the car by putting icepacks in his crate. Make sure the crate is well ventilated.
- Put a sunshade on your car windows.
- Bring along fresh water and a bowl, and a tarp or tent so you can set up a shady spot when you stop. Keep a spray bottle filled with water to spritz on your dog to cool him down.

- By RV – A dog's safety should not depend on the air conditioning and generator systems in an RV or motor home. These devices can malfunction, with tragic results.

- If you leave your dog in an RV with the generator running, check it often or have a neighbor monitor it. Some manufacturers have devices that will notify you if the generator should malfunction.

- Never leave an RV or motor home completely shut up, even if the generator and AC are running. Crack a window or door or run the exhaust fan.

- Never leave a dog unattended in a vehicle in the summer months. Heatstroke and death can occur within minutes in warm temperatures.

Heatstroke

Heatstroke can be the serious and often fatal result of a dog's prolonged exposure to excessive heat. Below are the signs of heatstroke and the actions you should take if your dog is overcome.

Early Stages:

- Heavy panting
- Rapid breathing
- Excessive drooling
- Bright red gums and tongue
- Standing 4-square, posting or spreading out in an attempt to maintain balance

Advanced Stages:

- White or blue gums
- Lethargy, unwillingness to move
- Uncontrollable urination or defecation
- Labored, noisy breathing
- Shock

If your dog begins to exhibit signs of heatstroke, you should immediately try to cool the dog down:

- Apply rubbing alcohol to the dog's paw pads.
- Apply ice packs to the groin area.
- Hose down with water.

- Allow the dog to lick ice cubes or drink a small amount of water.

If you cannot get the dog cooled down and you begin to see signs of advanced heatstroke, take the dog to the veterinarian immediately.

Visit Cherry Point online



MARINES
THE FEW. THE PROUD.

LEARN- www.marines.mil/unit/2ndMAW and
www.marines.mil/unit/mcascherrypoint



DISCOVER- www.dvidshub.net/units/mcas-cp



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VIEW- http://www.flickr.com/photos/mcas_cherry_point



PIN- <http://www.pinterest.com/mcascherrypoint>



READ- www.issuu.com/mcascherrypoint

STATION THEATER
E Street

Movie Hotline: 466-3884
Visit us at www.mccscherrypoint.com

Adults only \$4 • Kids (4-12) only \$3
NOW SHOWING

Thursday, July 19

6:00pm - The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel PG 13

Friday, July 20

5:00pm - Madagascar 3 PG

7:15pm - Prometheus R

Saturday, July 21

1:00pm - Madagascar 3 PG

3:15pm - Madagascar 3 PG

5:30pm - The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel PG 13

8:00pm - Prometheus R

Sunday, July 22

1:00pm - Madagascar 3 PG

3:30pm - Prometheus R

Tuesday, July 24

6:00pm - Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring PG 13

Wednesday, July 25

6:00pm - Madagascar 3 PG

MOVIE SYNOPSIS

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel - Starring: Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Penelope Wilton. A group of British retirees decide to "outsource" their retirement to less expensive and seemingly exotic India. Enticed by advertisements for the newly restored Marigold Hotel and bolstered with visions of a life of leisure, they arrive to find the palace a shell of its former self. Though the new environment is less luxurious than imagined, they are forever transformed by their shared experiences, discovering that life and love can begin again when you let go of the past.

Madagascar 3 - Starring the voices of: Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, Jada Pinkett Smith, Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Gloria the Hippo, and Melman the Giraffe are still fighting to get home to their beloved Big Apple and of course, King Julien, Maurice and the Penguins are all along for the comedic adventure. Their journey takes them through Europe where they find the perfect cover: a traveling circus, which they reinvent - Madagascar style.

Prometheus - Starring: Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender, Charlize Theron. A team of explorers discover a clue to the origins of mankind on Earth, leading them on a thrilling journey to the darkest corners of the universe. There, they must fight a terrifying battle to save the future of the human race.

Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring - Starring: Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Orlando Bloom. An innocent hobbit of The Shire journeys with eight companions to the fires of Mount Doom to destroy the One Ring and the dark lord Sauron forever.

Movies are subject to change without notice

THE LOCAL BUZZ

Announcements

► Indicates new announcement

► Acoustic Jazz Piano

James Jarvis will perform his original jazz compositions on an acoustic piano on Friday, Monday, and Wednesday at the Calico Room in downtown Wilmington.

Show starts at 8:30 p.m. for ages 21 or older. Admission is free.

For more information visit <http://bit.ly/jarvisjazz>.

► Carteret County Historian Celebration

A celebration for Ethel Clift Philips, a Carteret County historian and genealogist, will be held Friday at the History Place in Morehead City, N.C., to honor her role in the community.

The celebration is free and open to the public. All ages are welcome to attend.

For more information call Steve Anderson at 247-7533.

Broadway After Dark

Debbie's Angels Productions will host the Broadway After Dark musical Friday-Sunday in Jacksonville, N.C.

Eastern North Carolina's best performers will perform songs from multiple musicals like Chicago, Cabaret and many more.

For ages 18 or older. \$5 at the door. Doors open at 8 p.m.

For more information call 910-333-6717.

African American Lecture Series

Tryon Palace will host LeRae Umfleet, a North Carolina historian, as she presents her lecture "Differing Views, N.C. Women on the Homefront 1860-1865" at 7 p.m. today, at the North Carolina History Center's Cullman Performance Hall.

For more information, call 639-3592.

History Summer Day Camp: Civil War Days

Tryon Palace will host a history summer day camp focusing on the Civil War, Monday.

Campers will start their journey in the early 1800s and see how life changed for families as the war began. The event will include crafts, games, demonstrations, reenactments and more.

The camp is for children grades 3-5. Admission will be \$90. Advance registration is required.

Monthly and Weekly Events

Courage to Change

Cherry Point and Havelock Courage to Change support group is for friends and families of people who suffer from alcoholism. Meetings are held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Havelock, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

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

AA Beginners Meeting

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings aboard the air station are held Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. The meetings take place in Room 208 of Building 229, next to the Cherry Tree House.

For more information, call 447-2109.

Enlisted Spouses Club

The Cherry Point Enlisted Spouses Club meets the first Thursday of every month in building 3452 at 7 p.m. The 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>

Al-Anon Family Group Meeting

Al-Anon family group meetings are held Tuesdays at 8 p.m. for family members and friends of individuals with possible alcohol problems. Meetings are held at Havelock First Baptist Church.

For more information, call 447-8063.

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. Registration is required.

For more information call the chapel at 466-4000.

Domestic Violence Victims

Support groups for victims of domestic violence are 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

Cherry Point's 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 the third Tuesday of each month at the Senior Center in Havelock at 7 p.m.

For information, contact Cris Young at 259-3427.

Cycle Classes

Cycle classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday at the Semper Fit Center aboard the air station at 11 and 11:50 a.m.

For more information, call 466-1147.

Basic Budgeting

Learn basic financial management skills in room 159 of the Training and Education building.

The classes for 2012 will be held today, Aug. 9, Sep. 6, Oct. 11, Nov. 6, and Dec. 6, at 9:00 a.m.

For more information, call 466-4201.

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.

2nd MAW Command Inspector General

466-5038

Station Inspector

466-3449

Fraud, Waste and Abuse

If you know of or suspect any fraud, waste or abuse aboard MCAS Cherry Point, call 466-2016.

This line's automated answering service is available 24/7.

Mobile surveillance

Suspicious persons or vehicles following individuals and observing site operations is a sign of mobile surveillance.

If you notice this type of behavior aboard Cherry Point, contact the Provost Marshal's Office at 466-6366.

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 AND NEW BERN)

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



Mobile surveillance

NEXT UP...**SPRINT CUP**

Race: "Your Hero's Name Here" 400
Where: Indianapolis Motor Speedway
When: July 29, 12 p.m. (ET)
TV: ESPN
2011 Winner: Paul Menard (right)

**NATIONWIDE SERIES**

Race: STP 300
Where: Chicagoland Speedway
When: Sunday, 2 p.m. (ET)
TV: ESPN
2011 Winner: Justin Allgaier

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS

Race: American Ethanol 225
Where: Chicagoland Speedway
When: Saturday, 7:30 p.m. (ET)
TV: SPEED
2011 Winner: Austin Dillon

NASCAR INSIDER

By RICK MINTER / Universal Uclick



Kasey Kahne, driver of the No. 5 Chevrolet, does a burnout after winning Sunday's Sprint Cup race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. (NASCAR photo)

Remarkable turn around after early woes

When Kasey Kahne and his crew chief Kenny Francis took over the No. 5 Chevrolet at Hendrick Motorsports at the beginning of this season, many in NASCAR figured they'd be a pretty sure bet to make the Chase for the Sprint Cup.

After 19 of 26 regular season races, they've lived up to those expectations, but it could have easily gone the other way.

Kahne won at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Sunday, his second win of the season, the other coming in the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte in May. He's now atop the Chase's wild card standings with the two victories and a 12th-place spot in the overall standings.

His current positioning reflects a remarkable turn around from the crashes, driver mistakes and mechanical issues that had him 31st in the standings after the sixth race of the season, at

Martinsville, where he started on the pole but blew an engine and finished 38th.

While the victory at New Hampshire gave him an advantage over the other contenders who have just one win apiece for the two wild card spots, Kahne said in his winner's interview that the pivotal win likely was the one in the 600.

"Charlotte to me was a big turning point for us," he said. "It got our team really excited and going. [The New Hampshire win] is just another bonus. This should give the team some more confidence, myself some more confidence, and carry some momentum into these final [seven regular season races]."

At New Hampshire, Kahne benefited from a miscommunication between Denny Hamlin and his crew chief Darian Grubb. On the race's final pit stop, Grubb called for a four-tire stop,

thinking that was what Hamlin wanted. It wasn't, and while others who changed two tires quickly returned to the track, Hamlin went from the lead to 13th. He charged back to finish second, but was unable to overtake Kahne.

Kahne said that in racing the breaks have a way of evening themselves out, and this time he was a beneficiary.

"You have good luck at times, bad luck at times," he said. "Some of ours wasn't bad luck. At Phoenix it was straight up driver error. We had some bad luck, some straight up mistakes, things to learn from. When you do that or have those mistakes, as long as you're learning from them, you'll be all right."

"But, yeah, the luck changed [at New Hampshire]. We had great luck today. For those guys to miscommunicate, that helped us a ton. I'll take 'em any way we can."

Fellow drivers take 'wait-and-see' stance on Allmendinger

While the NASCAR world awaits the results of tests on A.J. Allmendinger's B sample, Allmendinger's fellow drivers generally are withholding comment about his suspension for failing a drug test.

Allmendinger's publicist has said that the A test of the urine taken at Kentucky Speedway showed a stimulant, and many are wondering if it could have been ingested as part of an energy supplement of some sort that the driver took.

Matt Kenseth said he's among those taking a "wait-and-see" approach.

"I think it'll become probably more clear one way or the other once we hear the rest of the details from his side and from NASCAR's side

— what it was, if we ever find out," he said during his regular media appearance at New Hampshire. "I think everybody hates to see that, from the fans to especially the competitors."

Kenseth said he does like having the drug testing program.

"Obviously, when you're out there racing at 200 miles an hour, you want everybody to be right," he said. "That's what the program is for, so if there was something wrong, you don't want to be out there with somebody if there's something wrong with them."

Kenseth also said he doesn't use supplements.

"I know I've never in my life done an illegal

drug, and I don't use any supplements," he said. "I don't do any of that stuff. I know a lot of people do a lot of different workout stuff, I just don't take any of that stuff."

Carl Edwards said he'd like to see some changes to the testing program.

"I think the drivers need to get together, and we need to have our own group that is paid by us, that works for us, to be here in tandem with the NASCAR drug testers and have them test us at the same time so that we have not just an A and B sample, but an A and B testing facility, and we can all agree on that facility," he said. "I don't think it would be a contentious thing, I think that would remove almost all doubt in any situation of a positive test."

Harvick, wife welcome new son

Between racing at Daytona and New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Kevin Harvick became a new father.

Keelan Paul Harvick was born on July 8, the day after the Daytona race, giving Harvick several days to be with his wife Delana and their son.

He said mom and baby did fine during delivery, even though he didn't get great reviews on his part.

"We went in, and she did a great job, and had a baby within about two hours," Harvick told media at New Hampshire. "Dad waited a little long to get her to the hospital. I was obviously not her favorite person, as they told her they wouldn't give her an epidural. She did good. She had it all natural, no drugs or nothing."

"We had a healthy baby boy, and that was the most important part."

And like many a driver before him, Harvick agreed that family matters far outweigh anything that happens on the race track.

"That was the best moment I've ever got to experience in my life," he said. "It is pretty neat."

In a sign of the times, the Harvicks already have a Twitter account and website in their son's name, even though it'll be years

before he can use them himself.

"Well, Keelan has his own everything because I didn't want some crazy fan getting hold of his Twitter name or his website," he said. "So he has everything that

you could imagine from top to bottom just as more of a personal security... It's more of just kind of protecting him than anything."

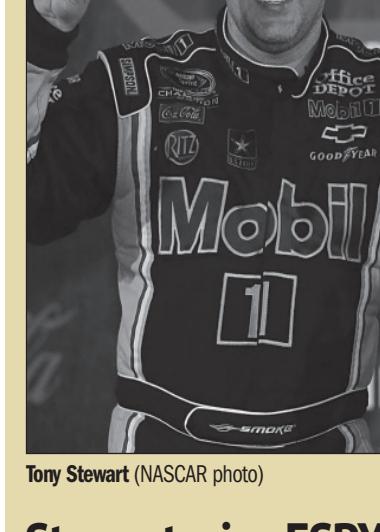
Harvick said that while history shows that

his son is likely to try racing at some point, he's not planning to encourage that.

"We're hoping for golf clubs," he said. "We're hoping that we go in a different direction there. But, whatever he wants to do."

At New Hampshire, Harvick was poised to win Saturday's Nationwide Series race, but he lost the lead to eventual winner Brad Keselowski in the closing laps while trying to pass the slower car of Amber Cope.

In Sunday's 301, he finished eighth to remain sixth in the standings.



Tony Stewart (NASCAR photo)

Stewart wins ESPY

Defending Sprint Cup champion Tony Stewart added an ESPY to his list of accolades. Stewart won the 2012 ESPY for "Best Driver" at the 20th annual ESPY Awards on ESPN, beating four-time IndyCar champion Dario Franchitti, F1 champion Sebastian Vettel and NHRA Top Fuel champ Del Worsham.

SPRINT CUP POINTS

- 1. Matt Kenseth**
707; Leader
- 2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.**
691; behind -16
- 3. Greg Biffle**
667; behind -40
- 4. Jimmie Johnson**
656; behind -51
- 5. Denny Hamlin**
628; behind -79
- 6. Kevin Harvick**
622; behind -85
- 7. Tony Stewart**
618; behind -89
- 8. Martin Truex Jr.**
617; behind -90
- 9. Clint Bowyer**
614; behind -93
- 10. Brad Keselowski**
613; behind -94

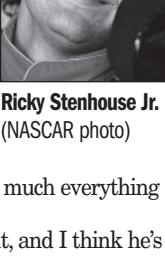
NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

9 Top-10 finishes by rookie Ty Dillon, the most of any driver in the Camping World Truck Series this season

3 Nationwide Series regulars with race wins this season (Austin Dillon has one, Elliott Sadler two and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. three)

5,488 Laps completed this season by Dale Earnhardt Jr. (100 percent of the laps run)

46 Points separating Carl Edwards, 11th in the Sprint Cup standings, and Brad Keselowski, who is 10th



Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (NASCAR photo)