

FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 14 Issue 14

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

July 23, 2012

The first AV-8B Harrier jet

official move from
Kandahar Airfield to
Camp Bastion





VMM-561 deactivates during ceremony

Lt. Col. Warren J. Curry, the commanding officer of VMM-561, gives thanks to Marines and families during the deactivation ceremony for VMM-561 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 6

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

08



Moving in right direction with electric government vehicles

The air station is now home to two new Chevrolet Volt government vehicles that run on electricity from local solar panels.

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

16



On and off drills with HMH-462

Marines with MSOB and a team of the United Arab Emirates Presidential Guard from Special Operations Command exits an aircraft on a Confined Area Landing site aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 11.

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

20



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



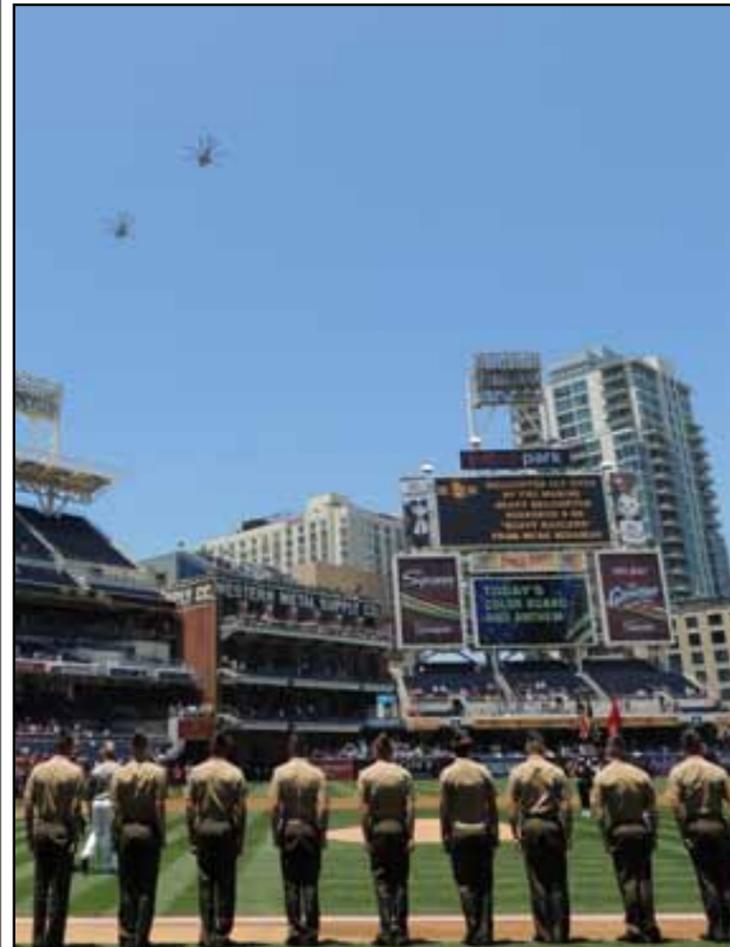
Col. Frank A. Richie
Commanding Officer
MCAS Miramar

Follow us on



The Flight Jacket is published every other Monday. This is an authorized publication for the military services, contents of the Flight Jacket are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Navy or U.S. Marine Corps. It is for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature.

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



Aviation Marines honored at Petco Park

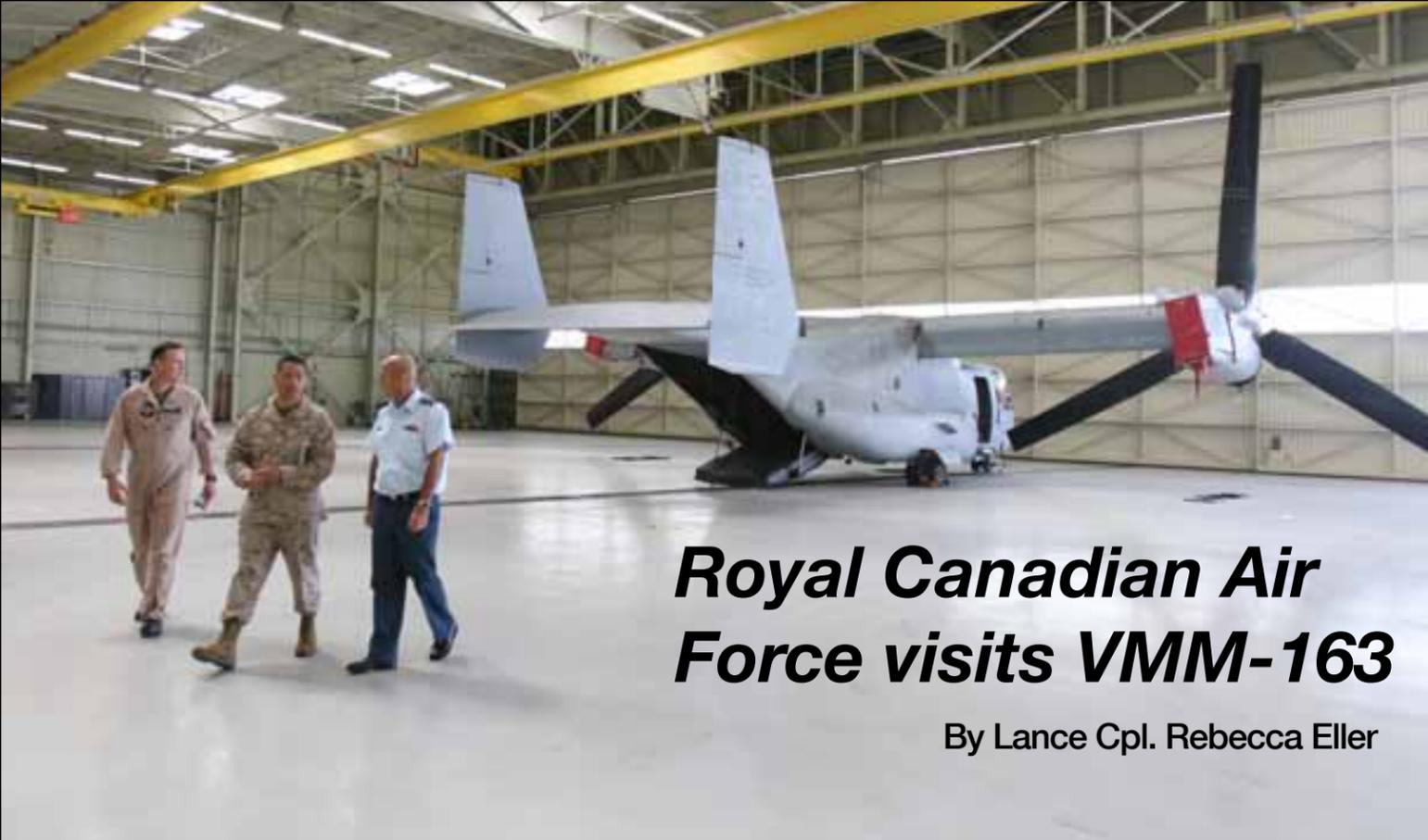
Photos by Cpl. Steven Posy

(Above) Fifty Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing are honored during a pregame-military appreciation ceremony held at Petco Park, San Diego, Calif., July 8, 2012.

(Left) Fifty Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing are honored and stand at the position of attention as two CH-53E "Super Stallions" with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, the "Heavy Haulers", based out of MCAS Miramar, fly over Petco Park, San Diego, Calif., during a pregame-military appreciation ceremony, July 8, 2012.

ON THE COVER:

The first AV-8B Harrier jet from Marine Attack Squadron 211 lands aboard Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, July 1. (Photo by Cpl. Lisa Tourtelot)



Royal Canadian Air Force visits VMM-163

By Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller

Royal Canadian Air Force Maj. Gen. Yvan Blondin, deputy commander of the air staff, tours Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 163 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 18. Blondin visited VMM-163 for information on MV-22 Ospreys as a possible replacement of their current aircraft.



[Click to watch video](#)

Royal Canadian Air Force Maj. Gen. Yvan Blondin, deputy commander of the air staff, center, discusses capabilities of MV-22 Ospreys aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 18. Blondin toured Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 163 to gain information on Ospreys as a possible replacement of their current search and rescue aircraft.

[Click HERE for more photos](#)



Royal Canadian Air Force Maj. Gen. Yvan Blondin, deputy commander of the air staff, center, discusses capabilities of MV-22 Ospreys aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 18. Blondin toured Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 163 to gain information on Ospreys as a possible replacement of their current search and rescue aircraft.

Tennis courts open for Marines, families to play

By Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner



Col. Frank Richie, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station, Calif., hits a tennis ball at the ribbon during a ceremony aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., July 16. Instead of using a ribbon and giant scissors, a bow was attached to red wrapping paper and the commanding officer and his family hit tennis balls at it until it tore to mark the opening of the tennis courts.



(Far left) Col. Frank Richie, the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., thanks all of the people who helped complete the new tennis courts aboard MCAS Miramar, July 16. The tennis courts were opened during a ceremony hosted by Semper Fit.

(Left) Semper Fit director Anne Panatoni, thanks the people who helped complete the new tennis courts aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 16. The tennis courts were opened during a ceremony and patrons were able to play after the ceremony.

[Click HERE for more photos](#)

Harrier squadron consolidates efforts in Afghanistan

By Cpl. Lisa Tourtelot



(Left) Lt. Col. Chris Raible, the commanding officer of Marine Attack Squadron 211, smiles after landing the first AV-8B Harrier jet from Marine Attack Squadron 211 aboard Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, July 1. The landing marked the squadron's official move from Kandahar Airfield to Camp Bastion. Raible, a Pittsburgh native, praised the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) efficiency in establishing all new hangars and workspaces for the squadron. Raible explained that his squadron will now be able to conduct more combat operations and communicate more effectively with the ground combat element now that they are in close proximity to all the units they support.

(Above) The first AV-8B Harrier jet from Marine Attack Squadron 211 lands aboard Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, July 1. The landing, conducted by the squadron commanding officer Lt. Col. Chris Raible, marked the squadron's official move from Kandahar Airfield to Camp Bastion. Raible, a Pittsburgh native, praised the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) efficiency in establishing all new hangars and workspaces for the squadron. Raible explained that his squadron will be able to conduct more combat operations and communicate more effectively with the ground combat element now that they are in close proximity to all the units they support.

(Right) The first AV-8B Harrier jet from Marine Attack Squadron 211 lands aboard Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, July 1. The landing, conducted by the squadron commanding officer Lt. Col. Chris Raible, marked the squadron's official move from Kandahar Airfield to Camp Bastion. Raible, a Pittsburgh native, praised the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) efficiency in establishing all new hangars and workspaces for the squadron. Raible explained that his squadron will be able to conduct more combat operations and communicate more effectively with the ground combat element now that they are in close proximity to all the units they support.



[Click HERE for more photos](#)

Fighters, food, prizes at Military Appreciation Day

By Pfc. Raquel Barraza



Col. Frank Richie, the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., takes a picture with Bill Goldberg, Diamond Dallas Page and the mixed martial arts fighters with Black House Team Nogueira, an MMA team, and The Alliance with the Ultimate Fighting Championship at the Military Appreciation Day event aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, July 19. Richie thanked all the fighters for their time and their support for the military.



Lance Cpl. Jesse R. McDonough, right, a crew master with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, puts Daniel Aguiar, a professional mixed martial arts fighter with Black House Team Nogueira, an MMA team, in an arm bar at the Military Appreciation Day event aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 19. Team Nogueira brought fighters to the event to teach Marines MMA moves.



[Click to watch video](#)



“Pale Horses” deactivate: ceremony held for deactivation of VMM-561

By Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner



Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 561, the “Pale Horses,” deactivated during a ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 6.

The ceremony included a performance by the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band and a speech to give thanks to Marines and families by Lt. Col. Warren J. Curry, the commanding officer of VMM-561.

“I told the Marines when they checked in to the unit, that all I asked was 100 percent every day,” said Curry. “And that’s what they gave me.”

VMM-561 was first activated May 1968, though soon deactivated a year later during the beginning of the Vietnam War, where it was used as a training squadron. The squadron flew the Sikorsky H-34 Choctaw during the Vietnam War era.

In December 2010, the squadron was reactivated as a MV-22B Osprey unit aboard MCAS Miramar, where they earned the National Defense Service streamer for their 2011 deployment.

Despite their honors and success, the downsizing of the armed forces is one reason why squadrons are being deactivated.

“Due to a mandate by congress, VMM-561 had to be cut,” said Sgt. Maj. Stacy N. Pruitt, squadron sergeant major and a Laurel, Miss., native. “The mandate cut two [MV-22B] squadrons total.”

VMM-561 will be reactivated aboard Marine Corps Air Station Futenma as Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 “Dragons”. VMM-265 will be the first MV-22B squadron in Okinawa, Japan.

The color guard presents colors during a deactivation ceremony for Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 561 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 6. VMM-561 will be moving to Okinawa, Japan and joining Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, the first MV-22B Osprey squadron there.



Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 561 salute during a deactivation ceremony for VMM-561 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 6. VMM-561 will be moving to Okinawa, Japan and assimilating into Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, the first MV-22B Osprey squadron there.



Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 561 salute Lt. Col. Warren J. Curry, the commanding officer of VMM-561 during a deactivation ceremony for the squadron aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 6. The squadron will be going to Okinawa, Japan and assimilating into Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, the first MV-22B Osprey squadron there.



HMH-463, HMLA-169 conduct cross-cockpit training

By Lance Cpl. Isis Ramirez

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii – Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 is visiting from Camp Pendleton, Calif., to reinforce the Aviation Combat Element of Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 3, during Rim of the Pacific 2012.

In preparation for integrating with the heavy-lifters from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, the nucleus of SPMAGTF-3 ACE, HMLA-169 hosted cross-cockpit training for ‘Pegasus’ CH-53E pilots here July 7 in an effort to better understand each other’s platforms and capabilities. Pilots and aircraft of the two squadrons will be operating from the flight deck of USS Essex (LHD 2) during the multinational exercise and will be further reinforced by aviation support assets and land-based fixed-wing aircraft deployed to Oahu from home stations throughout the Pacific.

Integration of various Marine aviation units and capabilities during RIMPAC exposes the participants to new perspectives. “The (automatic flight control) system usually takes the gusts and winds into consideration,” said Capt. Jonathan A. Chunn, a CH-53 pilot with HMH 463, after his first flight at the controls of a UH-1Y. “The wind has a greater effect than what we’re used to.”

The value of the cross training is immediate. “Knowing what the other guy sees and does in his aircraft is huge,” said Capt. Alex J. Runyan, a UH-1Y “Super Huey” helicopter pilot with HMLA-169. “When he’s able to see what our sensor looks like,

Continued next page

(Right) Capt. Jonathan A. Chunn (right), CH-53 pilot with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, and Capt. Alex J. Runyan, UH-1Y pilot with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, conduct preflight checks before cross-cockpit training July 7, as part of Rim of the Pacific 2012. Multiple detachments of aviation and support units will be assigned to HMH 463 (reinforced) during RIMPAC 12 to comprise the aviation combat element of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 3. Approximately 2,200 personnel from nine nations comprise SPMAGTF-3, Combined Force Land Component Command. The CFLCC is conducting amphibious and land-based operations in order to enhance multinational and joint interoperability.



(Below) Air crews from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 prepare a UH-1Y "Super Huey" for flight as Capt. Jonathan A. Chunn, CH-53E pilot with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, conducts pre-flight checks during cross-cockpit training July 7, as part of Rim of the Pacific 2012. Multiple detachments of aviation and support units will be assigned to HMH 463 (reinforced) during RIMPAC 12 to comprise the aviation combat element of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 3. Approximately 2,200 personnel from nine nations comprise SPMAGTF-3, Combined Force Land Component Command. The CFLCC is conducting amphibious and land-based operations in order to enhance multinational and joint interoperability.

our fields of view, our visibility in the aircraft, how we fly the aircraft, all the radios that we have; our capabilities, when you can picture the other guy that you're working with on the other side of the battle space."

The helicopters from the newly composited squadron, designated HMH-463 (reinforced) will fly onto USS Essex July 11 and will support the nine-nation ground force of SPMAGTF-3 with offensive air support, aerial reconnaissance, assault support, and command and control in the execution of amphibious and combined-arms operations.

But before they operate at sea, the pilots and aircrew are using this "harbor phase" of RIMPAC to acclimate to flying considerations in Hawaii and on ship.

"It takes a lot more coordination on the [flight] deck," Runyan said. "You don't have a huge flight line and you have a ton of aircraft out there."

Along with the space limitations, they also faced different weather patterns.

As for Runyan, being away from Camp Pendleton, Calif., and flying in a tropical setting also posed a change from the norm.

"(There might be) a socked in ceiling [at Camp Pendleton], which may start to come down on you, but [here there are] random rain cells coming through that you have to dodge," said Runyan. "You can get a forecast... but once you get up there you never know."

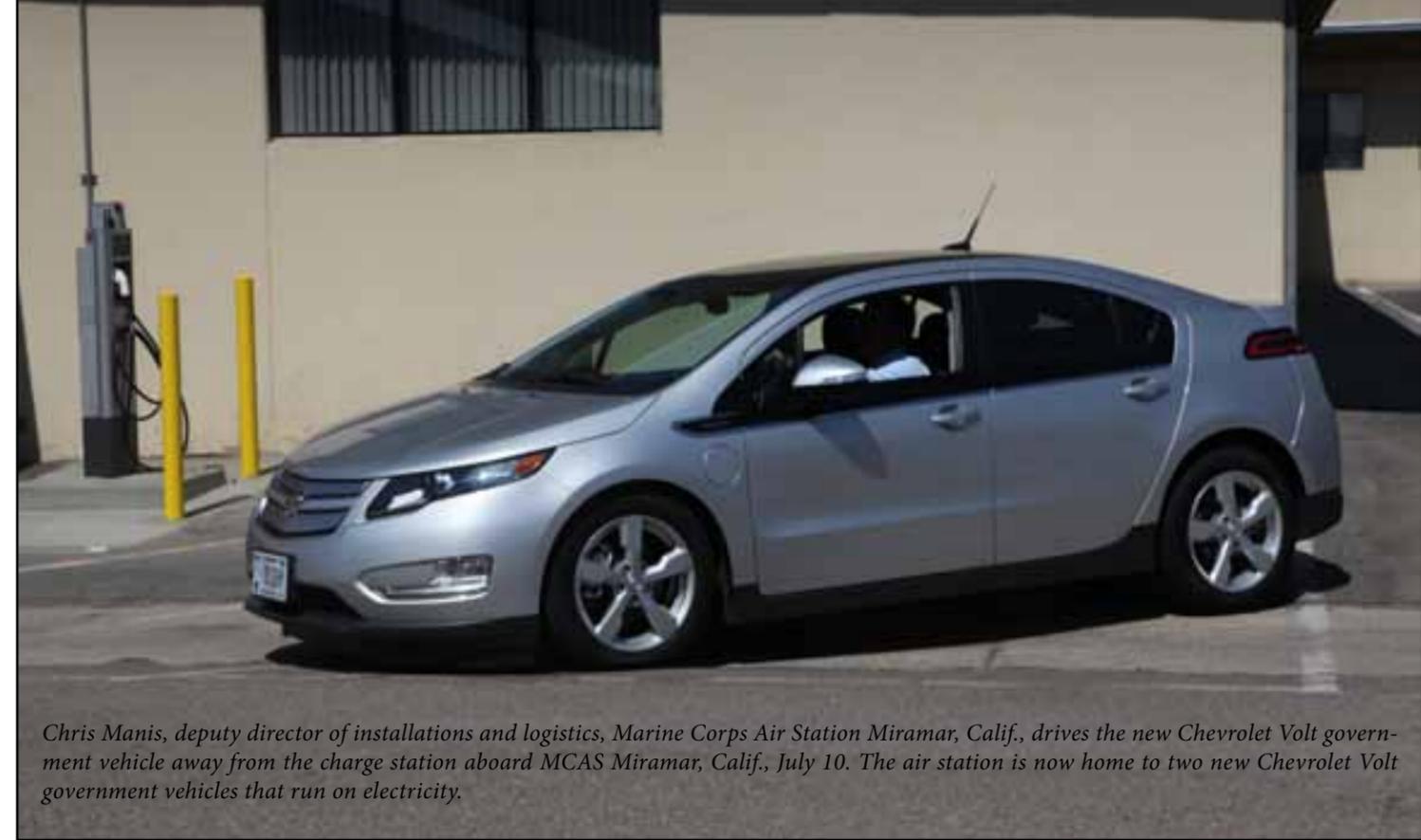
Overall, Runyan said Chunn had a smooth first flight in the Super Huey. The flight proved to be more than scenic, adding valuable experience to their piloting repertoire.

"To be at the controls, see what they're seeing inside the cockpit, it was definitely benefiting," Chunn said.



Capt. Alex Runyan, of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, pilots a UH-1Y Venom past the historic USS Missouri and USS Arizona memorial July 7, during cross-cockpit training with Capt. Jonathan Chunn (not pictured), CH-53E pilot with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 as part of harbor phase, Rim of the Pacific 2012. Multiple detachments of aviation and support units will be assigned to HMH 463 (reinforced) during RIMPAC 12 to comprise the aviation combat element of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 3. "Cross-cockpit training gives us a better understanding of each other's perspective and capabilities when we're working together," said Runyan. Approximately 2,200 personnel from 9 nations comprise SPMAGTF-3, Combined Force Land Component Command. The CFLCC is conducting amphibious and land-based operations in order to enhance multinational and joint interoperability.

Chris Manis, deputy director of installations and logistics, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., plugs one of two new Chevrolet Volt electric government vehicles in to a charging station aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., July 10. This charge station is one of four on the installation that are powered by solar power to charge the new cars.



Chris Manis, deputy director of installations and logistics, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., drives the new Chevrolet Volt government vehicle away from the charge station aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., July 10. The air station is now home to two new Chevrolet Volt government vehicles that run on electricity.

Moving in right direction with electric government vehicles

By Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. has welcomed the first two new Chevrolet Volt electric government vehicles aboard the air station.

The Volt runs off both gas and electricity to remain energy efficient and convenient for the driver.

“Our goal is to reduce our needs of fossil fuels and lower green house gas emissions,” said Chris Manis, deputy director of installations and logistics, MCAS Miramar. “We can cut back and still execute the missions we need to complete.”

The Volt can run for 38 miles off of pure electricity before a gas powered motor begins to generate electricity to power the car.

When the car is consuming gas the gas mileage can be as low as 100 miles per gallon.

These new government vehicles can be charged on one of four charging outlets aboard the air station. Electricity that powers the charging station is generated from solar panels. The solar panels aboard MCAS Miramar run completely off the grid with no power from San Diego.

MCAS Miramar is preparing for gaining more energy-efficient vehicles such as the Volt as technology advances by installing multiple charging stations.

The two new Volt vehicles on base are just the start of an electric fleet that MCAS Miramar hopes to receive. More will be added when technology advances and the range of the car increases, explained Manis.

The vehicles come equipped with a screen that tell the gas mileage and battery life of the car. They are also equipped with a system that regenerates electricity for the battery when the brakes are used or the driver coasts.

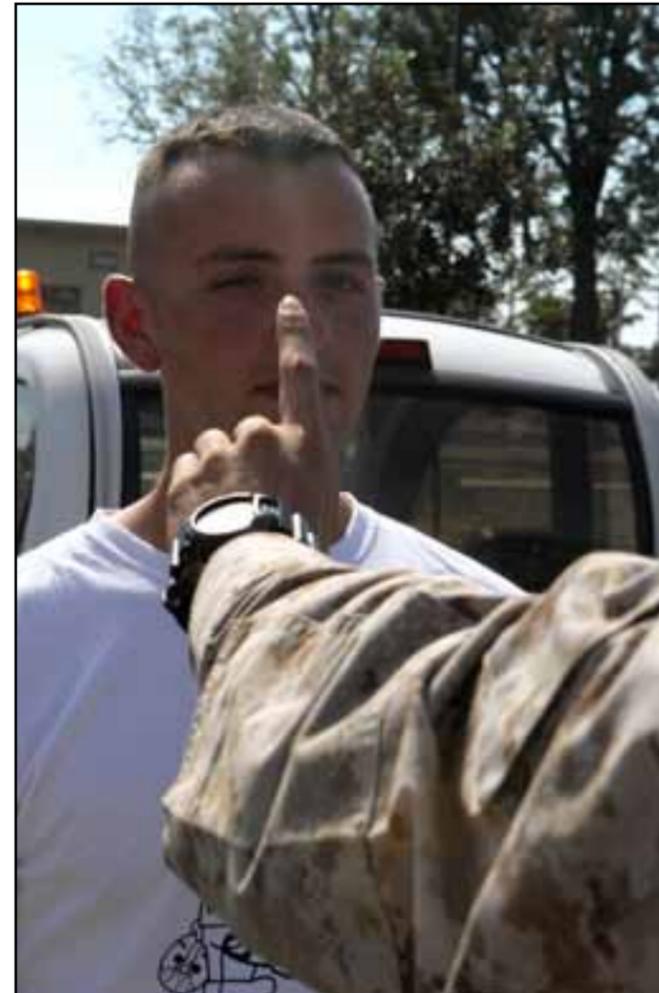
Government vehicles like the Chevrolet Volt help MCAS Miramar become more environmentally friendly. Cutting back fossil fuels and using renewable energy can help keep the environment around the installation clean.

[Click to watch video](#)



Chris Manis, deputy director of installations and logistics, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., shows how some controls work in a new Chevrolet Volt electric government vehicle aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., July 10. The air station is now home to two new Chevrolet Volt government vehicles that run on electricity. (Video by Sgt. Sarah Fiocco)

[Click HERE for more photos](#)



MCAS MILITARY POLICE CONDUCT FIRST WET LAB SOBRIETY TEST

By Lance Cpl. Christopher Johns

Military police officers from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., took part in the station's first wet lab Standard Field Sobriety Test Training, July 10.

"This training will allow my civilian and military police officers real-life training and evaluation of intoxicated individuals to sharpen their skills on DUI and DWI detection," said Jose Maldonado, the lead instructor with the Provost Marshal's Office and a Houston native.

Four Marines with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron volunteered to consume a preferred type of alcohol, liquor or beer, after being briefed for the class's training in a two to three hour time period.

"The point of this training is to be able to recognize who is intoxicated and by how much," said Staff Sgt. Alvison Lee, the training staff noncommissioned officer in charge with the Provost Marshal's Office and a Gallup, N.M., native. "We try to keep this training as close to how it may be in real life as possible, so the people who are guarding the gates know what to look for."

During the Standard Field Sobriety Tests training, military police officers put the participants through a variety of different tests to gauge their level of intoxication.

"I learned a lot from this class," said Lance Cpl. Jose Mendoza, a military police officer with PMO and a Port Lavaca, Texas, native. "This is a valuable basic skill that all military police officers need. You don't want to be out protecting the installation and not know your job."

While performing the practical application portion of the class, military police officers read through cue cards with exact wordings of the tests on them, ensuring that the tests they administer are the same every time.

"I feel like my favorite part of the class was the practical application portion," said Mendoza. "Because now I feel like I can practice what the class taught me and use these tests successfully in the field."

After the class finished, the military police officers slipped their sobriety test cards into their pockets until the day-or night-they will be needed to keep the streets of MCAS Miramar safe.

[Click HERE for more photos](#)

Cpl. Kevin Roberson, a small arms technician with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and a Sacramento, Calif., native, watches a military police officer's finger during a sobriety test class aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 10. The military police asked the subjects to stand on one leg while counting, walk a straight line while counting the steps out loud for the officers and finally to follow the officer's finger using only the subject's eyes.

Lance Cpl. Jose Mendoza, a military police officer with PMO and a Port Lavaca, Texas, native, has his subject follow the tip of his finger during a sobriety test aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 10. During the tests, officers like Mendoza watch for specific actions or signs that would pass or fail the test for the subject.

Cpl. Juan Vargas, a military police officer with the Provost Marshal's Office and a Los Angeles native, watches as Cpl. Kevin Roberson, a small arms technician with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and a Sacramento, Calif., native, performs a balance test during a sobriety test class aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 10. Roberson had volunteered to take part as a test subject in PMO's first wet lab for the sobriety test class.

Heavy Haulers trains with MSOB, the UAE

By Pfc. Raquel Barraza



Marines with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 “Heavy Haulers” conducted joint fragmentary order training with Marines from Special Operations Battalion and members of the United Arab Emirates Presidential Guard from Dubai in Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 11.

For this FRAG order, HMH-462 used their aircraft to practice getting on and off the aircraft safely and efficiently with the MSOB Marines and UAE Presidential Guard, said Capt. Alexander Beachey, a pilot and quality assurance officer with HMH-462 and a West Chester, Pa., native.

Marines landed in a Confined Area Landing site in Camp Pendleton to practice on and off drills.

“The UAE is unfamiliar with CH-53E Super Stallions, the training is to show them the basics of getting on and off an aircraft while the aircraft is landed,” said Beachey.

When the Marines with HMH-462 landed, they went over the drill, which includes how to clear the tilt rotor. “One of the

most important keys to this training is ensuring you exit the aircraft with the tilt rotor on their right, because of uneven ground someone could get hurt,” explained Sgt. Anthony A. Gonzalez, an aerial observer with HMH-462 and San Fernando, Calif., native.

After practicing the on and off drills, the “Heavy Haulers” took the MSOB Marines and the UAE to another CAL site.

“It is good to practice these drills because in a real world scenario the last thing you want is someone learning to get on and off an aircraft for the first time,” said Lance Cpl. Jason Renstrom, crew chief with HMH-462 and Forest Lake, Minn., native. “We also taught them how to get off quickly and where to go to set up a perimeter.”

Completion of the joint training left the UAE and Marines with a baseline understand of how to safely and efficiently evacuate an aircraft. “In the end, the goal is to get them on the ground fast and immediately fighting the fight,” said Beachey.



(Left) Sgt. Anthony A. Gonzalez, center, an aerial observer with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 and San Fernando, Calif., native, shows members of the United Arab Emirates Presidential Guard where to go after exiting an aircraft on a Confined Area Landing site aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 11. The members of UAE learned the hand signals they use on an aircraft for quick evacuation.

(Above) Marines with Marine Special Operations Battalion and members of the United Arab Emirates Presidential Guard enters a CH-53E Super Stallion on a Confined Area Landing site aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 11. The members of the UAE learned how to get on and off the aircraft safely and efficiently from Marines with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462.

(Right) Capt. Jonathan Williamson, director of safety and standardization and a pilot with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, a Bellevue, Ohio, native, briefs a plan to other Marines on a Confined Area Landing site aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 11. The Marines went over tactical formations and what to do in case of causality evacuation.



Wives, family are Marines for a day at Jane Wayne Day

By Pfc. Raquel Barraza

A senior drill instructor takes his place in front of a formation, but it is not a formation of recruits he stands in front of, it is the spouses and family members of the Marine Aircraft Group 11 at the annual Jane Wayne Day, July 14.

MAG-11 held its annual Jane Wayne Day for spouses and family members to experience a day as a Marine and learn what Marines do on a daily basis.

“The goal of the event is for spouses to understand what Marines go through not only for training but on deployments as well,” said Katrina Langley, the family readiness officer with MAG-11.

Throughout the day, the families experienced infamous Marine Corps drill instructors, learned basic drill, shot M16A4 rifles and rode in KC-130 and F/A-18 simulators.

“My favorite part was watching everyone’s [experience with] the drill instructors,” said Sgt. Milton Gamez, a bulk fuel specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and New York native.

This was the first time Gamez and his wife attended the MAG-11 Jane Wayne Day and agrees that family members should attend events like this one.

“I think it is important we have events like this because it brings the spouses together and makes their bond tighter,” said Gamez. “They can understand what their husband’s do and she understands why I have to be gone on deployments.”

Janie Gamez, Gamez’ wife and Fallbrook, Calif., native, was very excited to attend this event because her husband has been deployed three times in his nine year career in the Marine Corps.

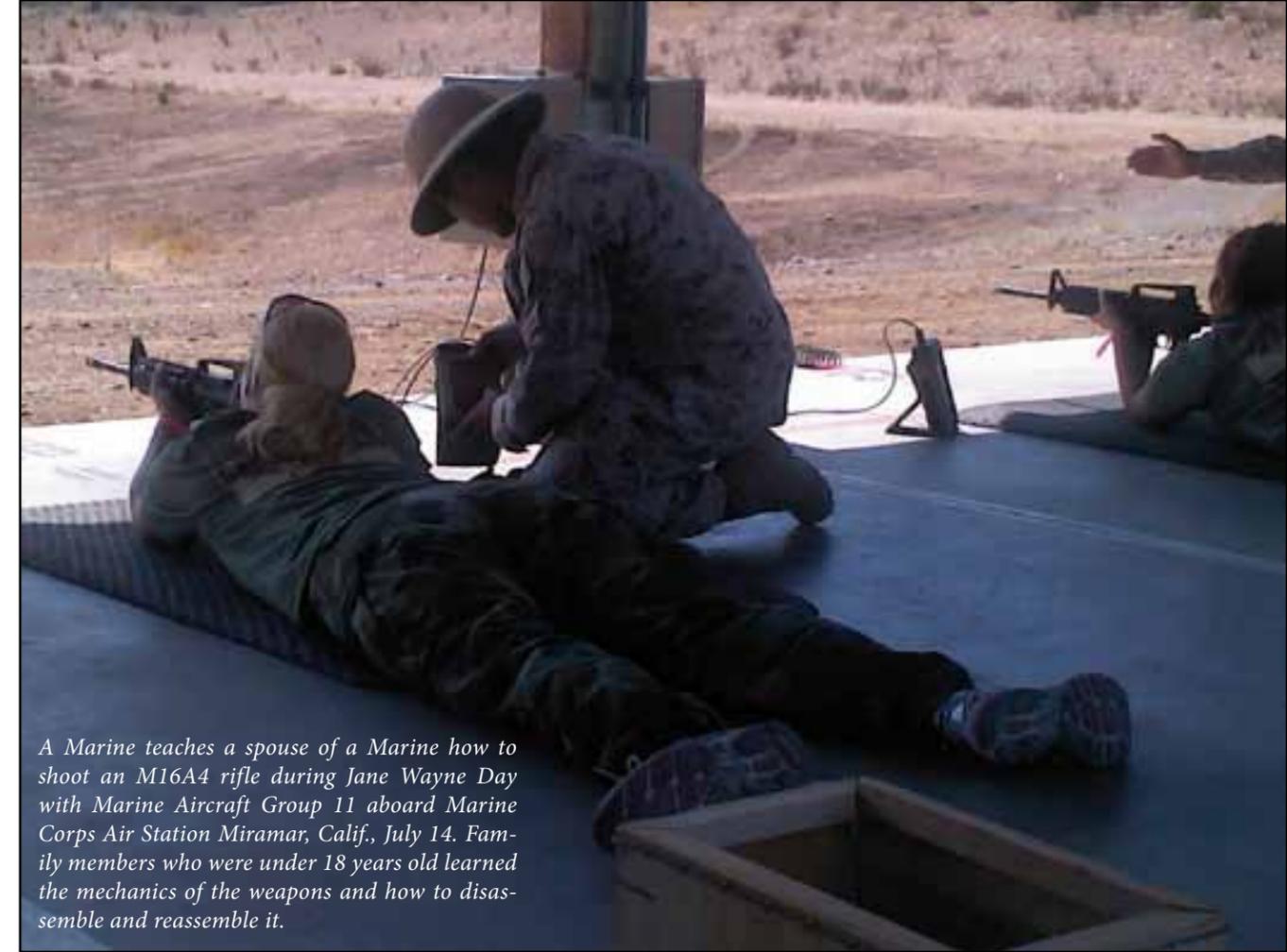
“My favorite part was getting to shoot the rifles at the range,” said Janie. “It’s good for the family members to see and feel what the guys have to go through for training because you see things like the drill instructors on TV but it’s a whole different story when it is happening to you in real life.”

Even though it was a learning experience, all the spouses and family members had a good time spending a day on the job with the Marines of MAG-11.

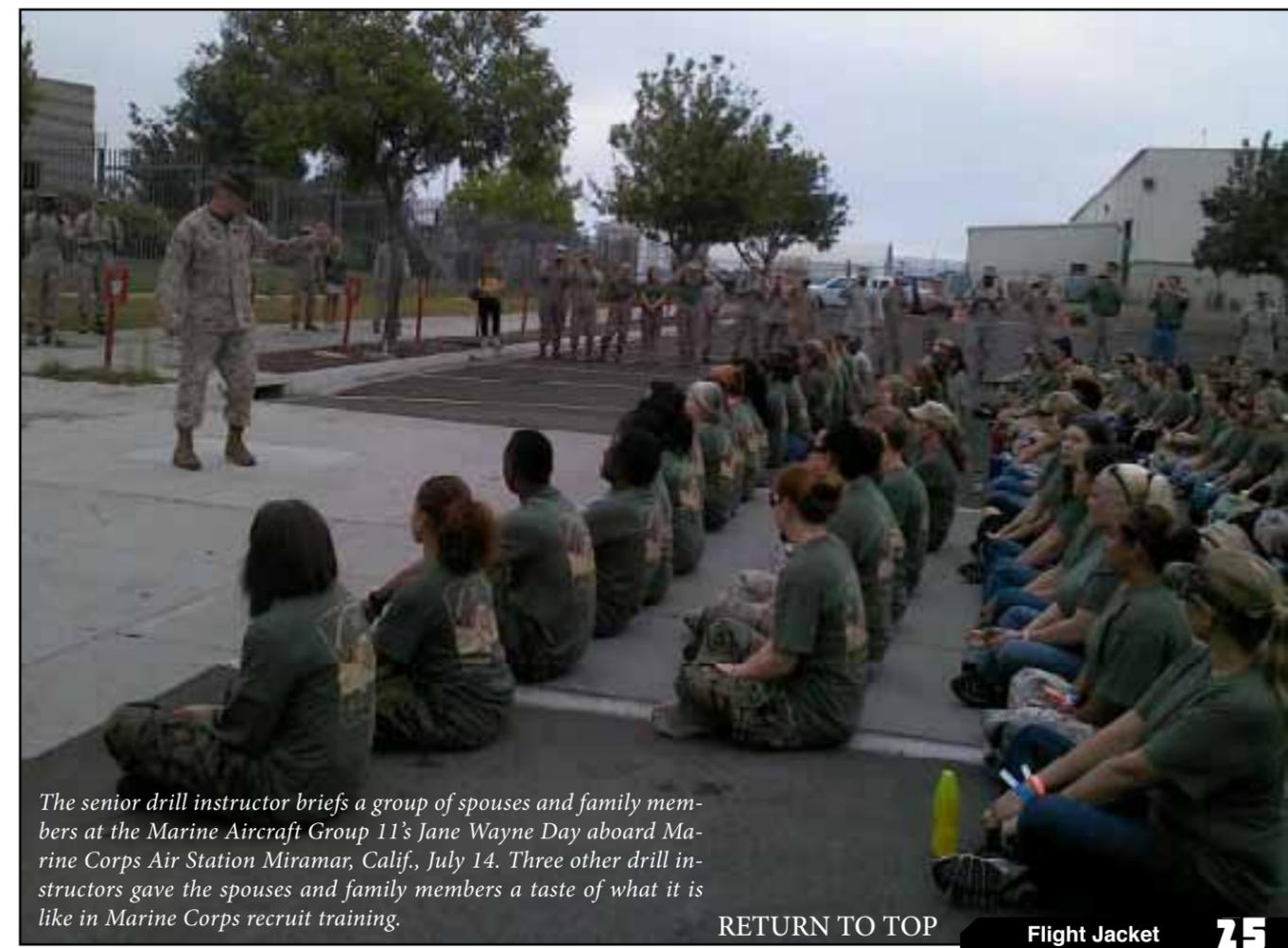
“I really hope I am stationed here next year because we would definitely love to attend again,” said Gamez.

At the end of the day, families stand in a formation smiling as they receive their certificates of achievement and a dog tag that reads “I survived.”

[Click HERE for more photos](#)



A Marine teaches a spouse of a Marine how to shoot an M16A4 rifle during Jane Wayne Day with Marine Aircraft Group 11 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 14. Family members who were under 18 years old learned the mechanics of the weapons and how to disassemble and reassemble it.



The senior drill instructor briefs a group of spouses and family members at the Marine Aircraft Group 11’s Jane Wayne Day aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 14. Three other drill instructors gave the spouses and family members a taste of what it is like in Marine Corps recruit training.



A combat engineer Marine shows spouses and family members a metal detector and other equipment used by the Marines at the Marine Aircraft Group 11’s Jane Wayne Day aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 14. Family members use this opportunity to ask questions regarding what Marines do on deployments and during a regular working day with MAG-11.

First field meet to fight drug, alcohol abuse

By Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner



Marines with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16 compete in a tug-of-war competition with another unit during the first Stronger Warrior Field Meet aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 19. The first Stronger Warrior Field Meet was held to discourage drug and alcohol abuse and is planned to be held yearly.

The first Stronger Warrior Field Meet was held at Mills Park aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 19.

The event was hosted by Marine Corps Community Services programs including sexual assault prevention, drug demand reduction, Semper Fit and Semper Health to give Marines fun activities that discourage drug and alcohol use.

Instead of having a power point presentation or a formal professional military education class, the Marines were able to have fun, be involved and do something different, explained Jeannette Turner, the drug demand reduction coordinator aboard MCAS Miramar.

Five units attended the event, each with 52 Marines. Competitions in tug-of-war, beanbag tosses, horseshoes and water balloon tosses were held for each unit to compete against one another.

"It was really fun," said Turner. "I hope we can get the word so next year and the year after that we can have more and more units join us."

This event is planned to be held yearly and open to all units aboard MCAS Miramar.

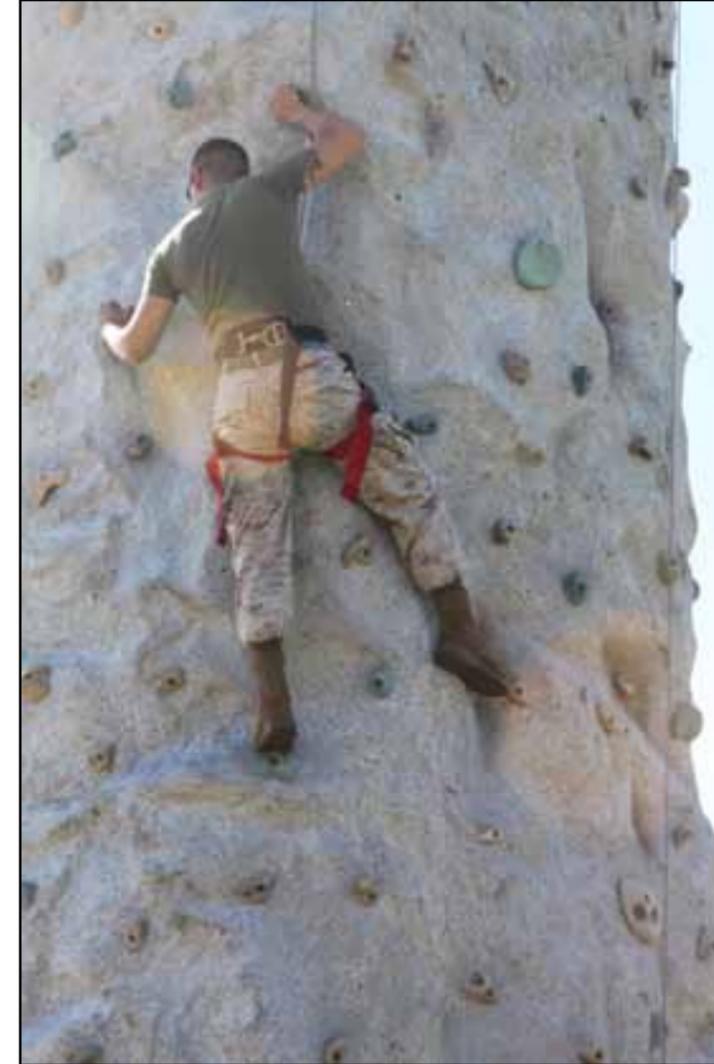
The Stronger Warrior Field Meet is a fun way to build courage in Marines to stay drug and alcohol free and to help others do the same while building awareness, unit morale and camaraderie.



(Left) Lance Cpl. John Stancil a warehouse clerk with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 and a Belmont, Calif., native, competes in a beanbag toss game during the first Stronger Warrior Field Meet aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 19. The first Stronger Warrior Field Meet was held to discourage drug and alcohol abuse and is planned to be held yearly.

(Right) Sgt. Matthew Fernandez, a security assistant with Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38 and a San Bernardino, Calif., native, climbs a rock wall at the first Stronger Warrior Field Meet aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 19. The Stronger Warrior Field Meet was held to have fun competitions and discourage drug and alcohol abuse.

(Below) Lance Cpl. Scott Shed, an embarkation clerk with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 and an Alvin, Texas, native, competes in a beanbag toss game during the first Stronger Warrior Field Meet aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 19. The Stronger Warrior Field Meet was held to discourage drug and alcohol abuse by holding competitions such as horse-shoes, tug-of-war and water balloon tosses.





The team that worked to restore the "Easter Egg" A-4M Skyhawk stands in front of the finished aircraft aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 19.



The restored "Easter Egg" A-4M Skyhawk with its cock pit open aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 19. All the flags on the side of the A-4M Skyhawk are the countries that use the A-4.

Last A-4 restored for Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum

By Pfc. Raquel Barraza



The gages and controls in the cock pit of the restored "Easter Egg" A-4M Skyhawk for the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., July 19. The A-4M model was made specifically for the use of the Marine Corps.

In 1960 a young second lieutenant, Bob Butcher, was at his first operational flying assignment with Marine Attack Squadron 242. He was flying a McDonnell Douglas A-4D Skyhawk with less than nine hours of flight time on it and felt a little intimidated, but enjoyed every moment of it.

Now, after more than fifty years, retired Maj. Gen. Butcher is a board of director's chairman of the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation that supports the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum. The museum restored the aircraft he flew for more than thirty years.

On July 21, the museum unveiled the restored A-4 Skyhawk. It was the last one built before McDonnell Douglas discontinued manufacturing this aircraft.

The "Easter Egg" A-4M Skyhawk, nicknamed for its unique color and design, was made specifically for the Marine Corps as a close air support platform.

Steve Smith, a curator with the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum and Austin, Texas, native, was part of the team that spent more than three months on the restoration of the last A-4.

"The Marine Corps has a long history with the A-4," said Smith. "It was first introduced in the late '50s early '60s."

It is important that these aircraft are restored so they can tell the story of Marine Corps aviation. They tell the story of the pilots, the

crew and all the others who worked with the A-4, added Smith.

A lot of time and effort goes into restoring aircraft so they look as they did when they first came off the assembly line.

"What takes up the most time is all the research that goes into it," said Smith. "We want it to be exact, all the way down to the accurate shade of blue they used. It can take from five minutes to five days [to match colors]."

Butcher knows the importance of restoring and sharing these aircraft with others.

"It a wonderful feeling that every day I drive to work and see the A-4s and see people who have never flown, but they get to enjoy them as well," said Butcher.

Restoring and sharing the story of Marine Corps aviation is what the museum prides itself on. Both Butcher and Smith have their reasons to share the story whether that is to inform or inspire.

"If I could go back and fly one more time I'd fly the A-4," said Butcher. "You didn't fly it – you strapped it on like it was a part of you. It was like I was home."

Displaying the A-4 at the museum marks another chapter in Marine Corps aviation history. Smith and Butcher are proud to be part of this chapter and its restoration.

V22 Embarkation to Japan

By Cpl. Jesse Witten



(Above) U.S. Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 561, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, load MV-22 Osprey aircraft onto the Green Ridge cargo ship at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, Calif. June 29, 2012. On July 6, 2012 VMM-561 deactivated and the aircraft, which belonged to the squadron, were shipped to Japan.

(Below) U.S. Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 561, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, load MV-22 Osprey aircraft onto the Green Ridge cargo ship at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, Calif. June 29, 2012. On July 6, 2012 VMM-561 deactivated and the aircraft, which belonged to the squadron, were shipped to Japan.

U.S. Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 561, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, load MV-22 Osprey aircraft onto the Green Ridge cargo ship at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, Calif. June 29, 2012. On July 6, 2012 VMM-561 deactivated and the aircraft, which belonged to the squadron, were shipped to Japan.



Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462

History

Marine Fighting Squadron 462 (VMF-462) was activated Marine Corps Air Station El Centro, Calif. on April 15, 1944. On October 10, 1944 the squadron absorbed personnel and equipment from VMF-481 and they were redesignated a fighter pilot replacement training unit. Shortly thereafter they transferred to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, California and remained there until the end of the war. The squadron was quickly deactivated after the war's end on September 10, 1945. In 1988 they became the first helicopter squadron in MAG-16 to make the transition from Tustin to MCAS Miramar, Calif. In December of the same year, HMH-462 surpassed yet another class A mishap free flight hour milestone of 35,000 hours and received the Heavy Helicopter Squadron of the Year award for 1998.



COMMANDING OFFICER: LT. COL. ROBERT FANNING
EXECUTIVE OFFICER: MAJ. DAVID N. PAYNE
SERGEANT MAJOR: SGT. MAJ. RUDY TOBIAS JR.



Honors

The "Heavy Haulers" received the Heavy Helicopter Squadron of the Year Award from the Marine Corps Aviation Association for 1996 and the Heavy Helicopter Squadron of the Year award for 1998.

Sikorsky CH-53E "Super Stallion"

Length: 99 ft 1/2 in
Height: 27 ft 9 in
Rotor diameter: 79 ft
Maximum speed: 170 knots





Action heroes sign autographs at Expendables 2 premier

By Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner

(Left) Arnold Schwarzenegger shakes hands with Marines on the flight line aboard Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 13, before going to a sneak peek of the movie Expendables 2 to sign autographs for fans. Terry Crews, Randy Couture and Dolph Lundgren also made an appearance to sign autographs for fans.

(Right) Arnold Schwarzenegger shakes hands with Sgt. Maj. Donald C. Miller, squadron sergeant major of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 267 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 13. Schwarzenegger posed for photos and spoke to the Marines before heading to the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Bull Dog Theatre to sign autographs for Marines and families at the sneak peek of the movie Expendables 2.

(Lower left) Arnold Schwarzenegger arrives on the flight line aboard Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., to greet Marines before heading to the Camp Pendleton Bull Dog Theatre to sign autographs for Marines and families, July 13. Terry Crews, Randy Couture and Dolph Lundgren also made an appearance to sign autographs for fans. Marines and families were given a wristband to get into the theatre to see the sneak peek of Expendables 2.



Randy Couture signs autographs for fans during a special screening of Expendables 2 at the Bulldog Theater aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 13. Terry Crews, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Dolph Lundgren also made an appearance to sign autographs for fans.

Randy Couture arrives at Camp Pendleton Bull Dog Theatre in a Flak jacket and Kevlar to sign autographs for fans during a special screening of Expendables 2 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 13. Terry Crews, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Dolph Lundgren also made an appearance to sign autographs for fans.



(Below) Terry Crews signs autographs for fans during a special screening of Expendables 2 at the Bulldog Theater aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 13. Randy Couture, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Dolph Lundgren also made an appearance to sign autographs for fans.

[Click HERE for more photos](#)



Video by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller

[Click to watch video](#)



Marines and Families wait for the arrival of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Terry Crews, Randy Couture and Dolph Lunden to sign autographs for a special screening of the movie Expendables 2 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 13. Marines and families were given a wristband to get into the theatre to see the sneak peek of Expendables 2.

[Click HERE to watch more videos on YouTube](#)

To submit a photo to The Flight Jacket, upload it to our Facebook page [HERE](#) or e-mail it [HERE](#).



For information on Marine Corps Community Services, events and announcements click the MCCS logo for their weekly newsletter.

For the Base Guide, click [HERE](#)

Consolidated Public Affairs Office

Public Affairs Chief
GySgt. Steven Williams

Public Affairs Director
Maj. Carl Redding

Deputy/Media OIC
1st Lt. Tyler Balzer

Press SNCOIC
Staff Sgt. Donald Bohanner

Community Relations
1st Lt. Chad Hill

3rd MAW (FWD) PAO
2nd Lt. Jose Negrete
3rd MAW (FWD) PA Chief
GySgt. Tiffany Carter

Contact (Click) us

Community Relations

Media Relations

Press Department

[RETURN TO TOP](#)

SDG&E's Inaugural Military Summit ~ July 31, 2012

Get Connected: From Deployment to Employment



Attention Active Military and Veterans!

Come learn about jobs, networking and educational opportunities in San Diego County!

Who Should Attend?

Active military and recent veterans looking for employment.

Employer Booths to Include:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| ▶ SDG&E® | ▶ QUALCOMM | ▶ GE Energy | ▶ SPAWAR |
| ▶ NASSCO | ▶ Manpower® | ▶ ARB, Inc. | ▶ L-3 |
| ▶ Solar® Turbines | ▶ Lockheed Martin | ▶ Black & Veatch | ▶ Ricoh |
| ▶ Swinerton Builders | ▶ Burns & McDonnell | ▶ Henkels & McCoy, Inc. | ▶ CA Technologies |

Summit Highlights

- ▶ Welcome Address: Jessie Knight, Jr., Chairman and CEO of SDG&E
- ▶ Keynote Speaker: Retired Navy Admiral Ronne Froman
- ▶ VIP and Employee & Entrepreneur Panels: Assemblyman, former Marine, Nathan Fletcher; Dr. Patricia Reilly, Director, Troops to Engineers (SDSU); Dave Geier, VP of Electric Operations (SDG&E), to name a few
- ▶ HR Corner: Visit the Human Resources Corner for an opportunity to meet with HR professionals that will provide valuable interview and resume writing tips. *Be sure to bring your resume!*
- ▶ Smart Grid Workshop: Learn about new technology and SDG&E's role

Event Details

Date

Tuesday, July 31

Time

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m. check-in with refreshments and appetizers)

Location

Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) - The Bay View Restaurant
3800 Chosin Ave, Bldg 132; San Diego, CA 92140

Note: Drivers license, car registration and proof of insurance will be required to enter MCRD

Pre-registration required

Event #: 6726

Online: seminars.sdge.com

There's no fee to attend.

.....
* * *
When you check in at this event, be sure to set up an on-site appointment to meet with HR professionals that will provide valuable interview tips and resume review!
* * *
.....

More than just a traditional job fair —

it's an educational and informational summit bringing together employers, military and academia!

P.O. Box 129831 | San Diego, CA 92112-9831 | 1-800-411-7343 | Connect at sdge.com

©2012 San Diego Gas & Electric Company. All copyright and trademark rights reserved. 5285044 0212 04

Welcoming Military Families New to San Diego

BACK-2-SCHOOL RESOURCE & ENROLLMENT FAIR 2012

San Diego Unified School District

*Enroll Your Child in School**

*Visit Resource Booths &
Enjoy Fun Activities!*

Saturday, August 18, 2012

9 am-3 pm

Complimentary lunch 11 am-1 pm

**Farb Middle School
4880 La Cuenta Drive,
San Diego, CA 92124**



Event Includes:

- Military and community resource booths
- Youth Sponsorship Connections
- Fleet Readiness Express!
- Fun activities for children
- Complimentary lunch
- Childcare available. Reserve a spot when you schedule an enrollment appointment.

To Enroll Your Child at the Event*

1. Schedule an enrollment appointment by emailing enrollmentfair@sandi.net. Type "Appointment Request" in the Subject Line. You will receive an email asking for additional information and then an appointment will be scheduled.
 2. Collect documents needed for enrollment appointment: proof of residence, immunization records, previous school records, and your child's birth certificate.
 3. Bring documents with you to your enrollment appointment on August 18th.
- *Students new to San Diego Unified School District only.*

For more information contact

Paula Emmert, Navy School Liaison Officer at 858-349-7678 • Kristi Terry, Marine Corps School Liaison Officer at 858-577-8625

Brought
to you by

