

FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 14 Issue 14

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

August 31, 2012

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines return home



**Marines welcomed
back by family, friends**



3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines return home

More than 300 Marines from 3rd MAW return home from six-month deployment to Afghanistan.

Click [HERE](#) for full story

02



SMP gives back with community service project

Over 120 Marines cleaned park trails, organized a tree nursery and trimmed and planted trees at Flinn Springs County Park in El Cajon, Calif.

Click [HERE](#) for full story

04



Military children have ball at Petco Park

Military children practice batting and catching techniques with Padres players at Petco Park.

Click [HERE](#) for full story

08



Maj. Gen. (sel)
Steven W. Busby
Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



Col. John P. Farnam
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.

Right: Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Barrett, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, gives a speech at the Officer's Club aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., during the Single Marine Program Conference, Aug. 22. The conference is held annually and includes recreational events and a community service project.



Left: Marines and Single Marine Program representatives serve themselves food at the Officer's Club aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., during the SMP Conference, Aug. 22. The SMP hosts a conference annually to discuss plans for the upcoming year.



'Serving Single but Not Alone' Miramar hosts SMP Conference

Story and photos by Pfc. Raquel Barraza

The 13th annual Single Marines Program Conference was hosted by Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 20 through 25.

The Single Marine Program, which began in 1995, focuses mainly on three objectives: the quality of life for Marines living in the barracks, recreational events for Marines and community involvement.

"Each year we come together to see what all installations are doing in their Single Marine Programs," said Michael Brown, Headquarters Marine Corps SMP manager.

This year's theme, 'Serving Single but Not Alone,' is concentrating on Marines coming together to make a difference in the community or installation. Council members of the SMP from Marine Corps installations across the country and from Japan expressed issues with senior enlisted advisers and how they plan to resolve them.

"We are listening to these Marines and taking care of these Marines," said Brown. "That is one of the goals of this program, that these Marines voices are being heard."

Special guests, including the sergeant major of the Marine Corps, came to speak at the conference and share their appreciation of all the work the SMP coordinators and single Marines do.

"We are put on this Earth to make a difference," said Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Barrett, sergeant major of the Marine Corps. "You, this program, the Single Marine Program, you are an instrument of positive change. Don't stop."

The conference has many events including recreational events, a community service project and presentations that the SMP plans to do in the upcoming year.

"It's fun, but it is also a learning experience for the Marines," said Brown.

Marines from all the different installations enjoyed all the involvement of the Marines and SMP coordinators of Miramar who hosted this event.

"It is great to come out here and see that the Single Marine Program is so big out here," said Lance Cpl. Estephania De Leon, SMP vice president for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, and a Dallas native.

To close out the conference, the Marines and SMP coordinators ate at a free cook-out held at the Officer's Club. SMP coordinators and Marines from the other installations thanked Miramar for all the work they did to put on the conference.



Stan Peterson II, a motivational speaker, talks to Marines and Single Marine Program representatives at the Officer's Club aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., during the SMP Conference, Aug. 22.

ON THE COVER:

Daughters of a deployed Marine sit on the shoulders of Marines while waiting for their father to return during a homecoming ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 22. Families greeted more than 300 returning Marines from deployment to Afghanistan with signs, smiles and patriotic colors.

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines return home

Story and photos by Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner



Friends and family await Marines with various units of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing during a homecoming ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 22. Families greeted more than 300 Marines returning from Afghanistan with signs, smiles and patriotic colors.

Approximately 300 Marines with various units of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing returned home from deployment to Afghanistan during a homecoming ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 22.

Marines with 3rd MAW were deployed for as many as eight months in multiple locations throughout Afghanistan.

"It's overwhelming," said Capt. Trevor Tingle, a pilot with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466 and a San Diego native, who was greeted by his newborn son for the first time. "But I'm so thankful to be back."

Family members and friends greeted the returning Marines with signs and patriotic colors for one of the biggest homecomings of the year.

"It hasn't been a easy deployment these last six-months," said Mandy Foster, the wife of a Marine stationed aboard MCAS Miramar. "But he's home now and that's all that matters."

The returning squadrons, while deployed, supported ground units by resupplying and helping transport troops with close air support. Multiple individuals were awarded during the deployment.

Although the units had successful deployments, Marines are thankful to finally return home to friends, family and fellow Marines after a long time away.

Video: Families greet the returning Marines with smiles and tears



Click to watch video

Click to watch video



Video: 3rd MAW Marines exiting aircraft



Capt. Trevor Tingle, a pilot with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466 and a San Diego native, meets his son, Connor, for the first time aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 22. Tingle was one of more than 300 Marines to return from Afghanistan.



1st Lt. Justin Griffis, an administrative officer with Marine Air Support Squadron 3 and an Arvada, Colo., native greets his daughters during a homecoming ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 22. Marines with various units of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing returned home from deployment to Afghanistan.

SMP gives back with community service project

Story and photos by Pfc. Raquel Barraza

EL CAJON, Calif. – The Single Marine Program aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar participated in a community service project at Flinn Springs County Park in El Cajon, Calif., Aug 23.

Over 120 Marines cleaned park trails, organized a tree nursery and trimmed and planted trees for the park.

“These types of projects help the community look better and see the Marine Corps in a better light,” said Cpl. Nicholas Burkhardt, a volunteer and an intelligence specialist with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, from Boise, Idaho.

Every year the SMP gathers at a different Marine Corps installation where they host a community service project.

“We do this once a year and Marines love taking charge and giving back,” said Michael Brown, the SMP manager specialist with Headquarters Marine Corps.

One of the SMP goals is to help Marines make a difference by volunteering in the community.

“There have been more than 60,000 hours of community service throughout the Marine Corps last year with this program,” said Brown.

With Marines attending the conference from installations across the country and outside of the United States, it shows that Marines are ready to help the community no matter where they are located.

“It’s always good to help out the community; it doesn’t matter whether you are here in the United States or Japan,” said Burkhardt.

The community service project is only one of the events held during the SMP conference but it is one for the Marines to volunteer and give back.

“The Marines want to give back and the SMP is a good way for them to do that,” added Brown.

The volunteers planted a total of 50 trees: 25 Coastal Live Oaks and 25 Mesa Oaks.

After planting trees and cleaning up the park, the Marines felt a sense of accomplishment knowing that they helped not only the environment but the community.



Left: Marines clean up bricks at Flinn Springs County Park in El Cajon, Calif., during a community service project, Aug. 23. The Marines are volunteers with the Single Marine Program, a program that focuses on quality of life for Marines, recreational events and community involvement.



Left: A Marine plants a tree at Flinn Springs County Park in El Cajon, Calif., during a community service project, Aug. 23. The community service project is a part of the SMP conference that is being held in Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., this year.



Above: Cpl. Rosbel Alvarado, the Single Marine Program president with Marine Corps Air Station New River and a Dallas, native, clears the roots of a tree at Flinn Springs County Park in El Cajon, Calif., during a community service project, Aug. 23. The community service project is a part of the SMP conference that is being held in Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., this year.

Left: More than 120 Marines with the Single Marines Program from across the globe gathered for a community service project Aug. 23, in El Cajon, Calif. The volunteers planted 50 trees: 25 Coastal Live Oaks and 25 Mesa Oaks.



Hockey players with the San Diego Jr. Gulls, the Anaheim Ducks and Shane Hudella were afforded the opportunity to tour the Air Traffic Control Tower, watch a military police dog demonstration, practice shooting weapons at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer and adults over the age of 18 conducted a live fire shoot of the M-16 A4 service rifle at Miramar's Hathcock Range aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 24.

Defending the Blue Line, hockey players thanked for support

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Air Traffic Control Facility conducted a recognition event for Defending the Blue Line, the National Hockey League Players Association and the Anaheim Ducks aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 24.

Defending the Blue Line's mission is to ensure that children of service members are given the opportunity to participate in sports such as ice hockey by providing free equipment, hockey camps, NHL tickets and financial assistance for registration fees associated with hockey.

"My kids are genuinely appreciative," said Master Sgt. Jeremy Frantz, staff non-commissioned officer in charge of air traffic control with H&HS. "They feel like it's a true treat to be able to play, because we wouldn't be able to afford to put all three of my kids through without their assistance."

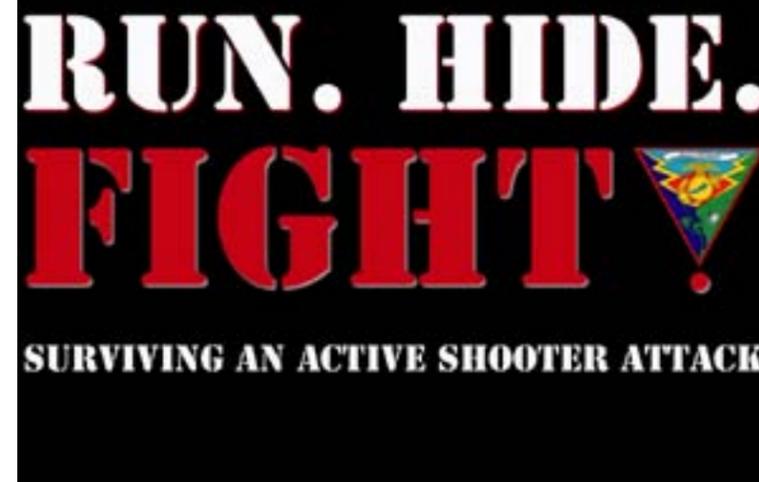
Brig. Gen. Steven Busby, commanding general of 3rd Marine Air-

craft Wing, and Sgt. Maj. Karyl Sisneros, the H&HS sergeant major, thanked players and coaches with the Anaheim Ducks and Shane Hudella, the president and founder of Defending the Blue Line, for showing their support.

Guests were afforded the opportunity to tour the air traffic control tower, watch a military police dog demonstration, practice shooting weapons at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer and adults over the age of 18 conducted a live fire shoot of the M-16 A4 service rifle at Miramar's Hathcock Range.

"The kids are all so excited," said Hudella. "Especially when they get to do cool stuff like this and meet pro players, or when they get new hockey equipment. It's like Christmas."

For further information on Defending the Blue Line visit <http://www.defendingtheblueline.org/>.



Story by Lance Cpl. Michelle Piehl

The concept of combat readiness relates to muscle memory; having a hard-wired, clear plan of action in the face of danger.

Through a Department of Homeland Security grant, the city of Houston produced a short video, informing viewers of three potentially life-saving actions that embody these concepts to survive an active-shooter attack.

Run. Hide. Fight.

"Run. Hide. Fight. Surviving an Active Shooter Incident," currently boasts more than one million views on YouTube.

"It may feel like just another day at the office," the narrator begins, as foreboding music sets the tone. "Occasionally, life feels more like an action movie than reality. Sometimes, bad people do bad things."

Master Sgt. Eric Meek, the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing anti-terrorism force protection chief aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., advised Marines, sailors, civilian employees and family members to watch the six-minute video.

"Everybody, in all ranks [and] all billets, really needs to be aware of the threat, and how to react if they ever find themselves in one of these situations," said Meek, an Edwardsville, Ill., native. "It is a very real threat that we face today. If you look at the history of active shooters, they are becoming more and more common."

Kevin Kelley, the anti-terrorism force protection program manager aboard the air station, e-mailed the video to those working aboard the air station, in hopes they would share it with their friends and families.

"I came across the story, watched the video and I thought it was really powerful," said Kelley. "It's something I thought would be critical to get out to the Marines. I think it's the best video I've seen. It's short and realistic."

Given recent incidents at the Empire State Building (Aug. 24); in Aurora, Colo. (July 20), Fort Hood, Texas (2009); Virginia Tech [Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University] (2007) and Columbine High School, Colo. (1999), the threat of an active shooter is all-too relevant.

March 5, 1996, scarred Marine Corps Camp Pendleton's Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 39, when an active shooter shot and killed the executive officer, Lt. Col. Daniel Kidd and injured commanding officer, Lt. Col. Thomas Heffner.

"It happens all too frequently," said Kelley. "You never know when and where it's going to happen."

Being a force in readiness applies to being prepared and aware while on deployment and at home.

"[The 'Run. Hide. Fight.' video] gives you a plan to survive and you need to be able to put that plan into action at any time," said Kelley.

"Just like we know our enemy in combat, we have to know our en-

emy here," Meek added.

Kelley and Meek agree upon the importance of having situational awareness in order to react quickly in a potentially dangerous situation. Having a plan of action helps to ensure everyone is prepared for the worst-case scenario at all times.

"Any action is better than no action," Meek said. "Just as the video [plays] out: 'Run. Hide. Fight.' is a real simple, easy-to-remember set of steps you can take."

Natural instinct often leads a person to hide when shots are fired. Instead, this video encourages people to run from the sound of gunfire as a first response, if possible.

"If shots are going and you have a clear exit, your best move is to get out and take people with you," Kelley explains. "Don't let them hold you up. If you stay, you expose yourself to danger."

When escape is impossible, seeking cover and concealment is next in the line of defense, Kelley continued.

"If you can't run, the next step would be to hide," said Kelley. "Go in your office, lock the door, put things in front to barricade it and be quiet. [Silence] your cell phone. [The shooter has] a limited amount of time in which to work before law enforcement is going to be on scene. Stay out of sight."

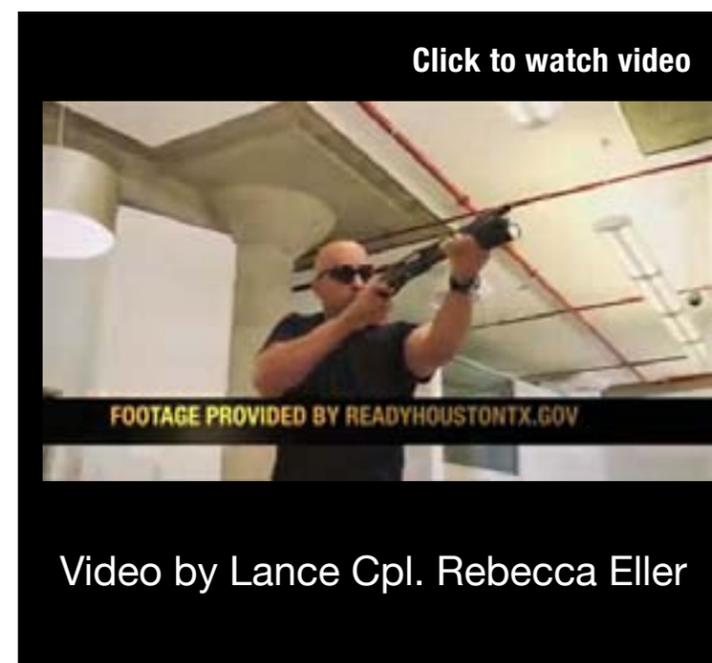
Sometimes, contact with an active shooter is inevitable, Kelley explained.

"If you have nowhere else to go and he's coming, you've got to fight," said Kelley. "Fight for your life."

Once law enforcement arrives, comply with all instructions from first responders, keep your hands visible and stay down, Meek explained. Attempting to aid law enforcement may only interfere with the take down of the shooter.

"It's critically important that Marines, sailors, civilians [and] dependents know what to do if these events happen," said Kelley, strongly encouraging those aboard the air station to view the video. "It doesn't matter where it happens. It could be anywhere. You just want to have a plan of what to do. 'Run. Hide. Fight.' is simple to remember."

To view the city of Houston's video: "Run. Hide. Fight. Surviving an Active-Shooter Incident," visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0&feature=plcp>.



RETURN TO TOP

Military Children have a ball at Petco Park



A child hits baseballs during the Little Warrior baseball clinic at Petco Park in San Diego, Aug. 24. Children were able to practice throwing, catching and hitting baseballs with players and former players of the Padres.



A child throws a baseball during the Little Warrior baseball clinic at Petco Park in San Diego, Aug. 24. Children were able to practice throwing, catching and hitting baseballs with players and former players of the Padres.



Video created by Flight Jacket Staff



[Click to watch video](#)

Story and photos by Pfc. Raquel Barraza

SAN DIEGO – Children attended the Little Warrior baseball clinic provided by United States Automobile Association, at Petco Park, home of the Padres, Aug. 24.

Children went through a circuit course of exercises including batting and catching techniques with Padres players at three different stations on the field.

USAA and the Padres held this event in recognition of service members and to give back to military families, explained Randy Jones, a retired

Padres player.

“It was absolutely outstanding,” said Jones. “We really appreciate our military, and this is a chance for us to give back to those families.”

Approximately 50 children between the ages of seven and 14 were able to practice throwing, catching and hitting baseballs with players and former players of the Padres. Cameras traveled from station to station to give the children a chance to be seen on the jumbotron. Each station lasted 20 minutes.

The Padres mascot also visited during the event.

The kids loved it. Some came to see the players and some were just excited to be able to play on the field, explained Steve Malfitano, a sponsorship and marketing manager with USAA.

Parents were able to watch their children play from the stadium seats and could take pictures of their children with the players.

The Little Warrior baseball clinic was a home run for the children, players and USAA.

[RETURN TO TOP](#)

CHARGERS BOLT THROUGH MCAS MIRAMAR

Story by Cpl. Ryan Carpenter

Photos by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller

The San Diego Chargers expressed their appreciation to service members and families during the 6th annual Chargers Military Appreciation Day hosted by Marine Corps Community Services at the youth sports complex aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 17.

Stands at the sports complex were full of fans to see the Chargers' football players practice on the field and watch a dance performance by the Charger Girls.

"When the Chargers run through the field you get to see all the excitement," said Eva Marie Gutierrez, MCCS marketing director.

The appreciation day provides Marines with time outside of work to help build morale.

"I really enjoy the fact that they support the troops," said Gunnery Sgt. Brian Meyer with the Wounded Warrior Battalion West at the Naval Medical Center San Diego, and a Mesa, Ariz., native. "I think it speaks a lot about the organization. That we're in their priorities at all, I think it's awesome."

Not only do the troops benefit from the event, but the Chargers football players also enjoyed the day.

"It's beneficial for both of us," said Takeo Spikes, a linebacker with the Chargers. "You get a day off from doing the regular stuff that you do every day and get to interact with [the troops]."

MCAS Miramar's Falcons football team was able to practice with the Chargers after a short performance from the Charger Girls.

"I think the [Marines] love it," said Gutierrez. "I think our Falcons football team loves it as well. They get to interact with the players and practice, so who gets to do that?"

Brig. Gen. Steven W. Busby, commanding general of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and Col. John P. Farnam, commanding officer of MCAS Miramar presented a plaque to Norv Turner, San Diego Chargers head coach, to say thank you for their support and visiting the troops and families.



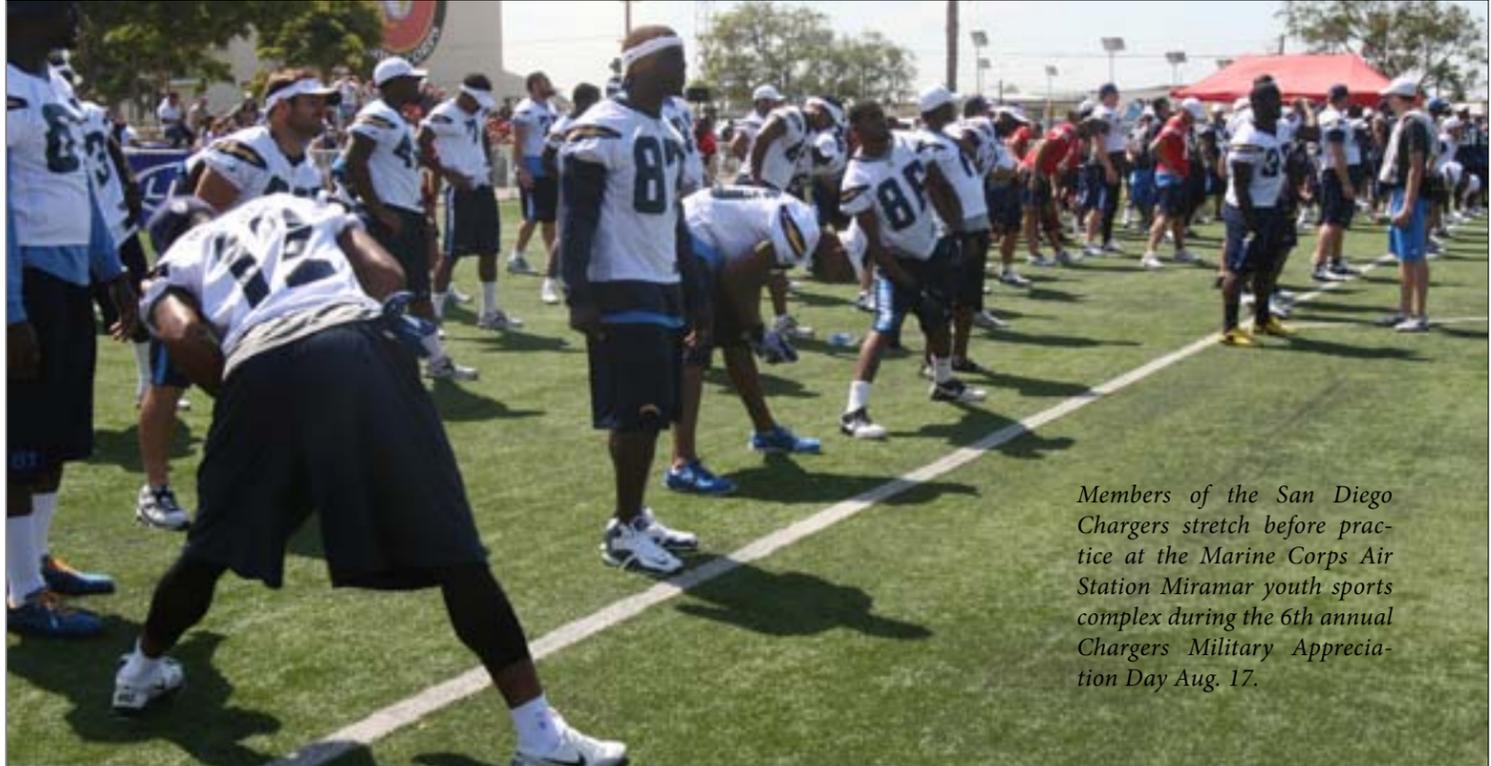
Col. John P. Farnam, commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, displays a signed Chargers helmet during the 6th annual Chargers Military Appreciation Day Aug. 17.



Above: Brig. Gen. Steven W. Busby, commanding general of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, talks to Marines with the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Falcons football team during the 6th annual Chargers Military Appreciation Day Aug. 17.



Left: Members of the Charger Girls perform at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar youth sports complex during the 6th annual Chargers Military Appreciation Day Aug. 17.



Members of the San Diego Chargers stretch before practice at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar youth sports complex during the 6th annual Chargers Military Appreciation Day Aug. 17.

Video created by Flight Jacket Staff

[Click to watch video](#)

From Vietnam to Afghanistan: End of era for icon of Marine aviation

Story by Sgt. James Mercure (Forward)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – First deployed during the Vietnam War, the CH-53D helicopter made its final flight in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Aug. 16.

For the “Ugly Angels” of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), being a part of the final flight that ended a legacy in Marine aviation came with mixed emotions.

“It’s bittersweet, but it’s a step forward,” said Lt. Col. Christopher “Ollie” Oliver, the commanding officer of HMH-362 and a pilot for the final mission. “We sent this aircraft out on a high note and if it had to go out, it might as well have gone out in a combat zone.”

The squadron first started using the CH-53D Sea Stallion during 1969 and has since participated in combat and humanitarian operations around the world.

“I feel honored to have served in this aircraft and to have seen it come full circle in the Middle East,” said Gunnery Sgt. Michael A. Schram, HMH-362 CH-53D crew chief and a member of the final flight. “I flew with this aircraft when it first came into Iraq and to be on the last flight in Afghanistan makes this a sad but good day. It brought an end to something great and I hope that we gave closure to the legacy that the Marines in Vietnam started.”

Although the final flight for the squadron was of a routine nature, it held a deeper meaning for those onboard.

“I took the (name) patches for my fallen brothers from Irontail 06 that had crashed in January,” said Cpl. Kyle M. Taylor, crew chief with HMH-362 and a member of the final flight. “I was honored to be on the

last flight and take them and their memory on that flight one last time.”

For the Hawaii-based squadron, some of the fondest memories of their time on the CH-53D were of the Marines who made the success of the helicopter and the squadron possible.

“The experience of working on it,” Taylor explained. “And the people that came along with the aircraft were the best part of the job. From day one checking in, you already felt like family. Although we will go our separate ways, there will always be an inseparable bond between the people that have been a part of the aircraft.”

Working with an aircraft that can take approximately 20 hours of maintenance per flight hour can be a challenge. A challenge that the “Ugly Angels” have taken in stride throughout the years.

“The Marines have done an amazing job maintaining these aircraft,” Oliver said. “I mean, most of the Marines working on them are half the age of the helicopter they’re working on. But it goes to show you if you give Marines something they’re going to take care of it and the Marines have kept these up and running for over 40 years.”

As the squadron turns the page of Marine aviation history and looks forward to the future, the heritage of the CH-53D will live on by those that knew it best.

“The part of this aircraft that will live on forever comes from those that have done our jobs, from those that gave their lives doing our jobs,” Taylor said. “They will not be forgotten as they were here as a part of this day and joined us in spirit.”



Left; Completing 60 years of service, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, known as the ‘Ugly Angels,’ completed a memorial flight over Helmand province, Afghanistan, Aug. 9. The squadron was created in 1952 and holds the distinction of being the first Marine helicopter squadron to arrive in country during the Vietnam War and has completed its final flight as a CH-53D squadron in Afghanistan more than 40 years later. (Photo by Cpl. Isaac Lamberth)



Right: After the final flight of the CH-53D Sea Stallion, the “Ugly Angels” of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) take moment to remember the historic day, Aug. 16. (Photo by Sgt. James Mercure)

Below: CH-53D Sea Stallions with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 launch flares during a flight over Helmand province, Afghanistan, Aug. 9. After 60 years of service, the squadron, known as the ‘Ugly Angels,’ will be deactivated upon returning to their home station at Marine Corps Base Hawaii later this year. (Photo by Cpl. Isaac Lamberth)



Corporal Kyle M. Taylor, crew chief HMH-362, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), scans for enemy activity while manning a .50 caliber machine gun during the final flight for the CH-53D Sea Stallion, Aug. 16. (Photo by Sgt. James Mercure)



CH-53D Sea Stallions with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 land at Camp Bastion after completing a commemorative flight over Helmand province, Afghanistan, Aug. 9. (Photo by Cpl. Isaac Lamberth)

HMLA-169 gears up for upcoming missions

Story and photos by Cpl. Jennifer Pirante

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton is home to the Marine Aircraft Group 39, I Marine Expeditionary Force, which played a key role in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom over the past decade since 9/11.

Among its six AH-1W Super Cobra and UH-1N Huey light attack squadrons, three CH-46 Sea Knight squadrons and logistics squadron, is the Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 "Vipers", which is slated to deploy to Afghanistan after an 18-month dwell time.

The squadron, equipped with AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters and UH-1Y utility helicopters, carries out its mission to support the Marine Air-Ground Task Force commander by providing offensive air support, utility support, armed escort and airborne supporting arms coordination, day or night under all weather conditions during expeditionary, joint or combined operations.

Capt. Brett Michaud, AH-1W Super Cobra pilot with HMLA-169, from Murrieta, Ga., said the Vipers are unique in their combined capabilities for close-air support, air-to-air support and their utility capability. This allows the squadron to provide 360-degree defensive maneuvering and posture while the offensive capability is in the shooting and egressing.

Capt. Jacob Ashbolt, UH-1Y Huey utility helicopter pilot with HMLA-169, from Misha-

waka, Ind., said the dwell time allowed the squadron to perform much-needed upgrades to its helicopters, which can be timely, but will prove essential to upcoming missions.

During previous years during war time, the squadron was faced with a much more expeditious tempo, which called for less dwell time and more deployments among its Marines.

"Our last deployment was a full squadron out to Afghanistan for OEF 10.2 and 10.11.1," Ashbolt said. "This one is definitely a lot different than the stint that the Vipers had. It's definitely a new feeling having this much time to train up."

Michaud joined the squadron in 2009, right before they came back from their first stint in Afghanistan. They had a 10-month dwell period and were right back at it doing what they were trained to do.

"We run ourselves into the dirt to make sure we provide the best amount of skill and training and bring the best to the fight," Ashbolt said. "Downstairs, I have nothing but mad respect for those guys. They work their bones off getting the aircraft up and ready to meet the operations plan for training."

Trained, rested and ready, the squadron is slated to take on two missions in the coming months when it goes split force. A small contingent of the unit's personnel will deploy to Afghanistan, while others gear up to deploy in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.



Lance Cpl. Fabio Perez, flight equipment technician with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, performs maintenance on a UH-1Y Venom helicopter at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 22. The UH-1Y Venom, also called Super Huey, is a twin-engine medium size utility helicopter built to carry out the squadron's mission, which is to support the Marine Air-Ground Task Force commander by providing offensive air support, utility support, armed escort and airborne supporting arms coordination, day or night under all weather conditions during expeditionary, joint or combined operations.



Above: Cpl. Richard Suppl, UH-1Y Venom helicopter crew chief with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, gives a thumbs up to the pilot after a training flight at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 22. Left: Cpl. Richard Suppl, UH-1Y Venom helicopter crew chief with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, performs a walk-around the aircraft after a training flight at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 22.



Lt. Col. Christopher Scharf



Lt. Col. Bryan Chambers

RSU Air Stations West welcomes new commander

Lt. Col. Christopher Scharf relinquished command of West Reserve Support Unit to Lt. Col. Bryan Chambers during a change of command ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 24.

Scharf is a graduate of the University of Kansas. After completion of The Basic School, he reported to Pensacola, Fla., for training and was designated a Naval aviator in November 1993.

Scharf was assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 in September 1994 after initial training in the UH-1N. He conducted a unit deployment to Okinawa, Japan, in 1995 and deployed as part of the aviation combat element for 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit in 1997 aboard the USS Boxer.

Following his initial fleet tours, Scharf served as an instructor pilot with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Training Squadron 303 from November 1997 to March 2000.

Scharf entered the Individual Ready Reserve in April 2000 and worked as an Information Technology Program Manager for Perot Systems, as well as a defense contractor for Booz Allen Hamilton, specializing in acquisition program management. He joined the Selected Marine Corps Reserve in April 2003, becoming a member of HMLA-775 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The unit mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2004. He worked as the operations flight scheduling officer for the squadron during the mobilization and served two deployments in Iraq. Between deployments, he transitioned to the AH-1W, thus flying separate combat deployments as both a UH-1N and AH-1W pilot.

In February 2006 he transitioned to the Marine Corps' Active Reserve program, becoming an active duty officer for HMLA-775.

From June 2007 to July 2010, Scharf served as the site commander for Marine Aircraft Group 41 at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas.

Scharf's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Strike Flight Air Medal with numeral nine and Navy Commendation Medal (4th award).

Chambers was commissioned in September 1995 after graduating from Syracuse University. Upon completion of The Basic School and Naval flight training, he earned his wings in December of 1998 at Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas. After completing F/A-18 conversion training at NAS Lemoore, Calif., in December of 1999, he was assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All-Weather) 224 at MCAS Beaufort, S.C.

During his tour with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, he completed one Western Pacific deployment and graduated from the Navy Fighter Weapons School, TOPGUN.

In January 2003, Chambers reported to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., for duty as an exchange officer flying the F-15C with the 58th Fighter Squadron. During this tour, he made numerous deployments throughout the United States in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Additionally, he flew with the 85th Operational Test Squadron.

He reported to 5th ANGLICO for duty as a supporting arms liaison officer at Camp Hansen, Okinawa. Chambers deployed to Ramadiah, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he worked directly with the Iraqi Army.

From October 2006 to June 2009, Chambers reported to Marine Fighter Training Squadron 401 at MCAS Yuma, Ariz. During this tour, he transferred from the active duty component to the Selected Marine Corps Reserves. At the same time he joined the Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Agency, flying EC-120's and AS-350 helicopters in support of the Border Initiative.

In June 2009, he joined the active reserve as a pilot at VMFT-401. While at VMFT-401, he was promoted to his current rank and assigned as the incoming commanding officer for the Reserve Support Unit, Air Stations West.

His personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and Combat Action Ribbon.



An AV-8B Harrier with Marine Attack Squadron 214 shoots an AIM-120 advanced medium-range air-to-air missile over Floridian skies for the first time operationally, Aug. 14.

Yuma Harrier squadron achieves missile milestone

Story by Cpl. Sean Dennison

YUMA, Ariz. - A detachment with a Yuma-based AV-8B Harrier squadron wrote another chapter of the aircraft's history when they launched, for the first time, an air-to-air missile operationally Aug. 14.

Approximately 40 Marines with Marine Attack Squadron 214 worked to have the Harriers launch three AIM-120 advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles (or AMRAAM, to the maintainers and pilots) during a live-fire exercise at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Aug. 14-15.

"There are three variants (of the AIM-120), the alpha, bravo and charlie," said Maj. Jeremy Osborne, the VMA-214 operations officer and a native of Pensacola, Fla. "The variant they shot were alphas, which are the oldest version of the AIM-120."

Then Capt. Michael McKenney, a Harrier pilot with local squadron VMA-211, first launched the missile during a test run in Okinawa, Japan, back in June 2009.

At 12 feet long and weighing approximately 350 pounds, the AIM-120 is a fire-and-forget weapon, able to lock on to targets out of range.

"This is the first BVR (beyond visual range) air-to-air missile the Harrier's ever had," said Osborne.

During the live-fire exercise, mediated mainly through the U.S. Air Force's 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron, the Harrier pilots aggressed remote-controlled F-4 Phantoms and BQM-167 Skeeters over the Gulf of Mexico. No machinery was harmed during the occasion; the con-

trols would avoid the missiles before impact.

The significance of the AIM-120's first successful operational launch is twofold.

One, this expands the capabilities of the Harrier while deployed with Marine Expeditionary Units at a time when the Corps is getting back to its amphibious beginnings.

"The main reason the AV-8B was able to gain this capability was to provide the escort role for (MV-22 Ospreys) for the MAGTF (Marine Air-Ground Task Force)," said Osborne.

The Harriers' escort service provides Ospreys safer transportation for Corps assets, the most important being Marines themselves.

Secondly, the capability bridges the gap between the Harrier and the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter. JSF will have long-range armament, too. However, with the Harrier's newly acquired weaponry, attack squadrons will be able to offer more versatility until the JSF truly takes off.

"It's another step forward, increasing the AV-8B's capability of long-range warfare," said Capt. Mark Maholchic, the VMA-214 adjutant and a native of Kennesaw, Ga. "This is the step where we prove and we know, through a live-fire exercise, we are capable of defending the fleet at a greater range than we previously were able."

The detachment is slated to return Aug. 16.



Dr. Robert Fovell, a professor of atmospheric and oceanic sciences with the University of California, Los Angeles, lectures members of the military and national meteorological community concerning Santa Ana wind patterns aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 22. Fovell has received numerous awards and is the recipient of the 2012 American Meteorological Society Teaching Excellence award.

METOC Marines listen to respected weather expert

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo

Dr. Robert Fovell, a professor of atmospheric and oceanic sciences with the University of California, Los Angeles, gave a lecture to members of the military and national meteorological community aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 22.

In addition to meteorology and oceanography analyst forecasters from MCAS Miramar and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, personnel from the National Weather Service, the San Diego Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and the Fleet Weather Center, San Diego attended the lecture entitled "Santa Ana Winds in Southern California."

"Fovell had created some instructional DVDs that we purchased as training aids a while back," said Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Lester, the METOC training staff noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, and a Bonita, Calif., native. "I decided to reach out and ask him to help in a partnership between UCLA and the Marine Corps with regards to a meteorology certificate program."

Fovell received his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois and completed his post doctoral research work at the University of Washington before finally teaching at UCLA for the past 22 years.

"I want the Marines to get a better understanding of the Santa Ana winds in the surrounding area," said Lester. "I also hope they will know how to better forecast the onset and temperature of the winds."

The event lasted approximately an hour and a half before a detailed question and answer session where Fovell addressed similar weather patterns found in other locations.

"My lecture focused on the Santa Ana winds, with respect to the LA basin," said Fovell. "I wanted to explore how they vary from event to event, why the big events are particularly rare and if we can predict future big events."

Fovell has received numerous awards and is the recipient of the 2012 American Meteorological Society Teaching Excellence award.

"Because he is such an admired and respected person in the meteorological community, the potential to have him incorporated in our Marines' training program is one of the best things we could ask for," said Staff Sgt. Nate Kramer, a senior METOC instructor with H&HS, and a Jasper, Ind., native. "We are really grateful and excited to have him here talking to us."

For more information regarding Fovell's research on the Santa Ana winds visit <http://www.atmos.ucla.edu/~fovell/ASother/mm5/SantaAna/winds.html>.



Virginia Bigler-Engler, right, the president of the San Diego Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, presents Dr. Robert Fovell, left, a professor of atmospheric and oceanic sciences, a plaque on behalf of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and the AMS during a guest lecture aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif., Aug. 22. Fovell gave a lecture on Santa Ana wind patterns to meteorology and oceanography analyst forecasters from MCAS Miramar and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton as well as members of the national weather community.



Dr. Robert Fovell, a professor of atmospheric and oceanic sciences with the University of California, Los Angeles, lectures members of the military and national meteorological community concerning Santa Ana wind patterns aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 22. Fovell is currently working to create a partnership with meteorology and oceanography Marines from Miramar for a meteorology certificate program.

Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen keep Marines in the fight

Story by Lance Cpl. Christopher Johns

From the raising of the American flag at Iwo Jima and battles overseas in Afghanistan to countries and cities with missions unknown, two things are always present with Marines: dedication to the mission—and a Navy corpsman.

“It’s challenging, doing what the Marines do, but we do everything they do,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Alvin Prasad, a Fleet Marine Force corpsman with Naval Medical Center San Diego stationed aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. and a San Diego native. “You have your own group of Marines who you look after. You get to know them and they get to know you, you learn what they are capable of and their needs as they learn the same of you.”

Prasad deployed with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment to Afghanistan where he oversaw the well-being of Marines and other personnel.

During one of many convoys the unit conducted, Prasad’s skills and those of the Marines he worked with were essential to saving their fellow troops.

“The third vehicle in our convoy was hit by an IED,” said Prasad. “All three passengers in the vehicle were injured, but the driver had gotten the worst of the explosion. One of the Marines with me was a prior emergency medical technician, so he helped me look after the wounded personnel.”

Having an IED explode close by can be a rattling experience, however, Prasad and the Marines he was attached with had countless hours of training to rely on.

“Your training just kicks in,” stated Prasad. “People say, ‘Oh well I’ll do this or that,’ but when it actually hits you, you don’t know

what to do. Then your training kicks in and you go about your job checking who is in worse condition, treating the victims based on their wounds, advising others on how to assess the victims. You do what you have [been] trained to do in these types of situations.”

Not only do corpsmen like Prasad protect the lives of the Marines in their care with medical supplies, each one spends time learning the weapon systems Marines carry in battle.

“The weapon systems are pretty awesome,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Sean Henby, an FMF corpsman with Naval Medical Center San Diego stationed aboard MCAS Miramar and a San Diego native. “We learn almost everything about the weapons Marines use, the functions, rates and ranges of fire and how to break down each individual weapon.”

In order to more successfully integrate into Marine Corps society, FMF corpsmen learn all the knowledge Marines are required to learn about the Marine Corps, as well as knowledge of the Navy and their own jobs.

“We are like a Marine,” said Chief Petty Officer Allen Pate, an independent duty corpsman and the clinic leading chief petty officer with the base medical clinic and a San Jose, Calif., native. “It’s just like being a Marine, only with the added responsibility of all of the medical stuff you know.”

Pate has been an FMF corpsman for more than 16 years, most of which was spent with infantry battalions aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., before coming to MCAS Miramar.

“My favorite part about my job is just getting to know the Marines,” said Pate. “You

can’t find the camaraderie [the Marines] have at any other shore command. I mean, it’s there but just not to that extent. Whenever you suffer through things together, that tends to build strong bonds and that’s what happens in the Marine Corps.”

Pate was fortunate enough, in his opinion, to be deployed three times on three separate Marine Expeditionary Units. Together, he and his Marines traveled the world, circumnavigating the globe according to Pate.

“[Corpsmen] are considered as much a Marine as anyone else,” said Staff Sgt. Ferguson, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron gunnery sergeant, and a Dayton, Ohio, native. “In Iraq, when I was with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, I saw corpsmen in Fallujah go to the aid of wounded Marines without a second thought. They didn’t reach for their weapon to do that—they grabbed their Combat Lifesaver Bag to render aid to that Marine. It’s the same in Afghanistan.”

According to Ferguson, these corpsmen are referred to as “Doc,” which isn’t anywhere close to slander.

“Corpsmen are given the utmost respect by Marines,” said Ferguson. “They’re ‘Doc,’ it’s said respectfully and admirably for everything they do for us.”

These men and women have been referred to as ‘Doc,’ accepted among every unit and have fought alongside Marines for generations. They learn to walk like Marines, talk like them, fire weapons the same way and suffer the same as any Marine does while in their care—but when the time comes to put the rifle down and to save the lives of their comrades, these ‘Docs’ do not back down.



Left: AFGHANISTAN – Petty Officer 2nd Class Alvin Prasad, a Fleet Marine Force corpsman with Navy Medical Center San Diego stationed on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar at the base medical clinic, poses for a photo while on a deployment with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, in Afghanistan 2011. Prasad’s main job as an FMF corpsman is to provide medical support, but like all FMF corpsmen before him, he was indoctrinated with all the knowledge of the Marine Corps that a Marine would learn in addition to his medical and naval knowledge. Above: Vehicle wreckage litters the ground after a convoy carrying Marines and other personnel came into contact with an improvised explosive device during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2011. (Courtesy Photos)

Aviators train for worst-case scenario

Story and photos by Pfc. Melissa Eschenbrenner

Aviators with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing continually train to ensure preparedness for an emergency over water at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Aviation Survival Training Center aboard MCAS Miramar, Calif.

This potentially life-saving training course must be refreshed every four years by any service member who regularly flies with 3rd MAW aircraft.

“Being in the water, actually doing what they would have to do [in an emergency] produces muscle memory,” said Navy Lt. Logan Scheeler, a naval aerospace operational physiologist, and a Bismarck, N.D., native. “They can go through the procedures and build confidence under water, like an emergency was happening.”

The two-day course starts off training with briefs on first aid, equipment and how to fight sensory illusions and sicknesses caused by flying at high-altitudes.

The following day, aviators are brought into the pool where they practice an array of skills to be prepared for any worst-case scenario. They are refreshed on proper swim techniques while wearing gear, proper helicopter rescue techniques and how to evacuate a submerged aircraft.

“No one skill is most important,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Graf, an instructor for the course and an Oakridge, Tenn., native. “Survival-swimming is just as important as knowing how to egress from a helicopter under water.”

It is important for Marines to be prepared for anything, even if it is not likely to happen. The goal of the Aviation Survival Training Center is to train as realistically as possible to ensure the students benefit from it.



Left: An instructor assists a student onto a platform during an Aviation Survival Training Course aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 28. To practice air-rescues at sea, flight crew members must connect a harness and hoist while being sprayed with high-pressure water. This is done to simulate water blasts caused by helicopter rotors. Above: A pilot prepares to be dipped in water upside down to practice breathing out of a regulator during a training course aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 28.



Aviators ride in a helicopter dunk simulator during a training exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 28. When submerged, the Marines must release seat restraints and exit the simulator through the side windows.



Pfc. Joshua Askew, left, a data clerk with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and a Bancroft, Idaho, native, hands out snow cones during a squadron picnic aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 17. Volunteers throughout H&HS helped set up and run the games and stands for the event.

Fun for H&HS families at squadron picnic

Story and photos by Melissa Eschenbrenner

Marines and families attended a picnic held for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Aug. 17.

The event coordinated by Maria Lengerke, the H&HS family readiness officer, offered Marines and families resources both on and off the installation.

“We try to have a picnic like this during the summer time every year,” said Lengerke. “It’s easier for Marines to bring their families when the children are out of school. We can also give them school supplies donated by Dollar Tree and Operation Home Front.”

Organizations and companies such as USAA, Red Cross, Marine Corps Community Services, and Military One Source, raffled off

prizes and gave away beach balls, pens and informational brochures for Marines and families.

Carnival games were donated by the San Diego Rotary Club where people could win prizes. Free food such as cheeseburgers, soda, snow cones and pizza from Flippin’ Pizza was available for lunch.

“It’s really nice for Marines to be able to bring their families to things like this,” said Lance Cpl. Brian Roldan, an aviation mechanic with H&HS and a Las Vegas native. “There are so many things for kids to do and so many things for parents to benefit from.”

The annual event provides Marines and families the opportunity to spend time together in a relaxed atmosphere to build a strong support network.



Left: Lance Cpl. Ashley Brown, a military police officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and a Sandusky, Mich., native, walks around with McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog during a squadron picnic aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 17. A bounce-house, games and prizes were also offered for children at the picnic.



Right: Pfc. Miles Newman, left, an aviation operation specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and a Washington D.C., native, plays a carnival game during a squadron picnic aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 17. The San Diego Rotary club donated carnival games for service members and families to play to win prizes during the picnic at Mills Park.



Voting assistance officers here to help Marines

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller

Nov. 6 is a day most people have marked on their calendar; Election Day is approaching and many Marines may not be aware on how to cast their vote.

The first step Marines should take is to check-in with their voting assistance officer. There is a voting assistance officer assigned to each unit that will provide service members with a federal postcard application to register to vote.

If a Marine is already registered to vote, they will receive their write-in ballot, an absentee ballot, in the mail to cast their vote. However, if the absentee ballot has not arrived within 30 days of the election, the voting assistance officers can provide them.

“You can also go online and can pull up the forms,” said John

Cousins, the deputy manpower officer for MCAS Miramar, Calif. “Go online to fvap.gov and it tells you everything, it’s so user friendly. It’s unbelievable. It’s not like the days before when you had to go see a voting officer so they could explain it to you. Now, you go online and bang, it’s there.”

Voting is important because it directly affects service members, explained Cousins.

“We fight for the right to be able to have the democracy,” said Cousins. “We should exercise that right. If your congressman is not pro-military, and they’re attacking your pay and benefits, you want to have a say in that. That’s why it’s important to vote, that way your voice can be heard.”

RETURN TO TOP

2012 MCAS Miramar Air Show Preview

Video created by Flight Jacket Staff



[Click to watch video](#)

Safety Event

On September 22, 2012, Crime Prevention with the Provost Marshal's Office, will be hosting a Bike Rodeo. The event will be held in the parking lot of the Bob Hope Theater, from 1100-1300 and is open to children ages four and above. Children will learn valuable bicycle safety information, have their bicycles inspected by trained and certified bicycle patrolmen and conduct a bicycle obstacle course. Every child will receive a bag of bicycle information and goodies and a certificate of completion. Prizes will be raffled off during the event and hotdogs and juice drinks will be provided. We hope to have a great turnout, so come enjoy some safe, educational, family fun!



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

3rd MAW (FWD) PAO
1st Lt. Chad Hill

Contact (Click) us

Community Relations

Media Relations

Press Department

COMMANDING OFFICER
HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON MIRAMAR
MOTORCYCLE SAFETY POLICY

Ref: MCO 5100.19F
MCI-West Policy Letter I-12



Motorcycle riding can be a very enjoyable past time and it can also be an economical means of transportation. However, over the past decade the Marine Corps as an institution has seen an increase in motorcycle riders with a corresponding upward trend in mishaps, many of them fatal.

The purpose of this policy letter is not to dissuade Marines and Sailors from riding but to better prepare them for the challenges associated with riding. This policy letter also serves to clarify the requirements and to ensure that every Marine and Sailor in this squadron understands what is required by Marine Corps Order. Further, Marines and Sailors who violate MCO 5100.19F Marine Corps Traffic Safety Program, ALMAR 014/08, MARFORPACO 5100.2, MCI-West Policy Letter I-12, SqdnO 5100.2 or this policy letter will be held accountable and if in violation of lawful orders or regulations may be subject to adverse administrative action or disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), to include Non-judicial punishment.

1. All Marines and Sailors, regardless of rank, will consult with their OIC and SNCOIC prior to purchasing a motorcycle in order to ensure they understand the responsibilities and hazards associated with motorcycle riding. Marines and Sailors will then fill out the squadron's "Motorcycle Safety Contract" *prior* to purchasing a motorcycle. The contract will be kept on file by the Commanding Officer and copies will be retained by the OIC, SNCOIC, and individual.
2. All Marines and Sailors, regardless of rank, that currently own motorcycles will complete the "Motorcycle Safety Contract" *within 14 days* of this policy being published.
3. All Marines and Sailors are required to be properly licensed and must attend the Basic Rider Course in accordance with MCO 5100.19F. After 120 days, those riders are required to attend the Military Sport Bike Rider Course (MSRC) or the Advanced Rider Course (ARC). Then after, a refresher course will be taken every 3 years. *Even if a Marine or Sailor does not intend to register the motorcycle on base, they are still required to complete the BRC and MSRC/ARC.*
4. Failure of Marines and Sailors to wear the required PPE is punishable under the UCMJ; Marines or Sailors who violate this rule and are involved in a mishap may be found to be "not in the line of duty/duo to their own misconduct" upon investigation, which may result in denial of certain important benefits and rights. Proper protective equipment is defined as a "DOT" approved helmet, shatter resistant eye protection, full fingered /hand protection, long sleeve shirt or jacket, long pants, and sturdy over the ankle foot protection.
5. All riders within this command will also comply with MCI-West policy on lane splitting.

Motorcycle fatalities in the Marine Corps have been rising at an alarming rate particularly among sport-bikes. Your best chance of preventing or surviving an accident is through training, experience, and wearing the proper equipment. Follow these basic tips and you will greatly enhance your chances: be visible, always wear all required protective equipment, know your bike and how to use it, search for hazards, and always evaluate your situation (time, space, and distance) in order to increase your margin of safety. Bottom Line – be smart and ride safe!

Semper Fidelis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Levasseur". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DANIEL J. LEVASSEUR
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U. S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING