

FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 13 No. 24

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

June 17, 2011

3rd MAW 'bulks' up on fuel awards



Lance Cpl. Lisa M. Tourtelot

Recipients of 2011 American Petroleum Institute awards show off their plaques at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 8. Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's own Staff Sgt. Christopher Thomas, a bulk fuel specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, earned the Staff Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Runner Up award. MWSS-372 won the Marine Corps Tactical Unit Runner Up award and MCAS Miramar Station Fuels won the Marine Corps Non-Tactical Unit of the Year award.

3rd MAW Marines shoot 'em up at pistol competition

Lance Cpl. Lisa M. Tourtelot

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Four members of the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Shooting Team travelled to Fort Benning, Ga., to participate in the 52nd Annual Interservice Pistol Championship

Matches from June 9 - 17.

The Miramar team is competing against the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Shooting Team, based out of South Carolina, and the South Carolina National Guard Shooting Team.

Eighty-one service members from the

Marine Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard are also scheduled to compete in team and individual matches throughout the week, either with their service team or with their post team.

The Marine Corps Pistol Team is also on deck to compete with the other ser-

vice-wide teams.

"We compete with other posts and stations on the West Coast," said Master Sgt. Lee Duncan, the pistol team captain and a San Antonio native. "Out here we get to learn

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MCAS Miramar
Website

www.miramar.usmc.mil



SERVICE MEMBERS THROW, BAT, SLIDE, RUN ABOARD MIRAMAR

Miramar hosts dozens of intramural sports teams including softball, football, volleyball, soccer, basketball and grappling. See page 4 for more photos.



MILITARY MEMBERS PUT STRATEGY SKILLS TO THE TEST

Service members gathered at the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters building for the 10th Annual Interservice Chess Championship hosted aboard Miramar. See page 5 for full story.

REACH US



EDITORIAL
(858)-577-6000

FLIGHT JACKET



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Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



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MCAS Miramar

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



'Purple Foxes' host Escondido cadets



Sgt. Justin M. Martinez

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Escondido Cadet Squadron members climb into a CH-46E Sea Knight during a squadron visit and tour of aircraft hosted by Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 here June 14. The cadets were able to check out a historic part of Marine aviation, HMM-364's mission and the capabilities of the aircraft.



Sgt. Justin M. Martinez

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – 1st Lt. Joseph A. Babajan, a CH-46E Sea Knight pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 and an Edwardsville, Ill., native, conducts an aircraft tour for a group of Escondido Cadet Squadron members here June 14.

Religious Services

The Chaplain's Office, located in Building 5632 on Bauer Road, coordinates regularly scheduled services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, call (858)-577-1333, or visit www.miramar.usmc.mil.

Sunday:

9 a.m. Protestant
Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Protestant
Children's Worship

11 a.m.
Roman Catholic Mass

Religious Education/Sunday:

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.
Catholic CCD Children K-12

10 a.m. Protestant
Adult Bible Study

Weekday Worship Service:

Mon. – Fri. 11:30 a.m.
Catholic Mass

Mon. 6:30 p.m. Contemporary
Praise and Worship Service

Wed. 7 p.m. Baptist Service

Study Groups:

Mon. 7 p.m.
Night Bible Study,
Classroom in the Chapel area

Tues. 6 a.m.
Morning Prayer Service
and Study Group

Islamic Worship Service:

Fri. at noon.
Located in the Chapel or visit
www.icsd.org

Jewish:

Jewish Outreach at
(858) - 571 - 3444
www.jewishinsandiego.org

PISTOL,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from other services' teams. The members of those teams take time to talk to us and give us pointers."

These championship matches also promote interservice bonding between the competitors.

"There's a spirit of camaraderie here," said Duncan. "We deploy in a joint environment. Being able to compete in a joint environment is fitting."

Despite the friendly camaraderie, this multi-service contest is still a competition.

To receive a medal for the matches, service members shoot four different calibers of pistol, so team members must be competent with every pistol.

Last year, Army Staff Sgt. Robert Park II, a member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, won the overall individual championship, and the USAMU won the overall team championship.

MCAS Miramar was unable to send its pistol team last year due to deployments.

Duncan explained that it is important for the team to attend these matches because the team members can take their marksmanship experiences back to their individual units to help the Miramar shooting team become an even stronger contender in future firing events.



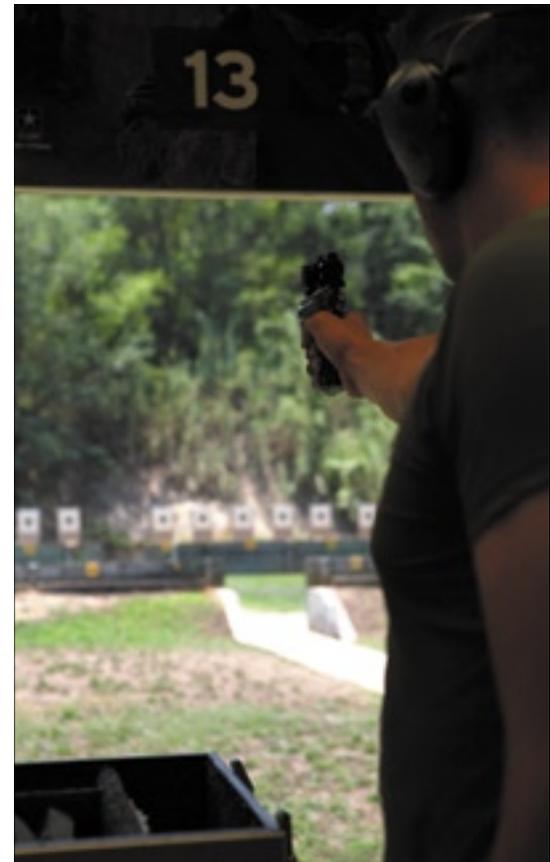
Lance Cpl. Lisa M. Tourtelot

FORT BENNING, Ga. - Lance Cpl. Tannon Hillis, a member of the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Shooting Team, based out of California, and a Marysville, Wash., native, tallies up his score at the 52nd Annual Interservice Pistol Championship matches here June 13. The four-man team from Miramar is competing against the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Shooting Team, based out of South Carolina and the South Carolina National Guard Shooting Team.



Lance Cpl. Lisa M. Tourtelot

FORT BENNING, Ga. - Master Sgt. Lee Duncan, left, a San Antonio native and the captain of the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Pistol Team based out of California, watches Marines shoot during the 52nd Annual Interservice Pistol Championship matches here June 13. The four-man team from Miramar is competing against the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Shooting Team, based out of South Carolina, and the South Carolina National Guard Shooting Team.



Lance Cpl. Lisa M. Tourtelot

FORT BENNING, Ga. - Lance Cpl. Tannon Hillis, a Marysville, Wash., native, and member of the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Shooting Team, based out of California, takes aim at his target during the 52nd Annual Interservice Pistol Championship matches here June 14.

From football to softball: Miramar 'sports' powerhouses

Photos by Cpl. Z. L. Majors
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT



Gunnery Sgt. Ryan Lincoln, an outfielder for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron's intramural softball team, smashes a line drive during Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Intramural Championship Game here June 8. The HHS team defeated Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161's team with a final score of 19-8.



The offensive and defensive teams of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's tackle football team, The Falcons, clash during a practice session aboard the air station June 14. The team is in their second week of pre-season practice preparing for an upcoming football season slated to kick off the second week of August.



Cpl. Julio Cisneros, an ordnance Marine with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11, drops back to throw a pass during a practice session for Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's tackle football team, The Falcons, June 14.



Master Gunnery Sgt. William T. Eddy, pitcher for Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161's intramural softball team, throws a pitch during the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Intramural Softball Championship game here June 8.

MTACS-38 welcomes new commanding officer

**Compiled by
The Flight Jacket Staff**

Lt. Col. Thomas Dodds relinquished command of Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38 to Lt. Col. Scott Gondek during a change of command ceremony hosted on the parade field here June 15.

Dodds graduated from Iowa State University and was subsequently commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Class course in December 1992. He then attended Air Support Control Officer's Course at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

In August 1998, Dodds reported to Amphibious Warfare School, and upon graduation in June 1999, he reported to Recruiting Station Des Moines, Iowa for duty as the operations officer.

Dodds reported to Marine Air Support Squadron 3 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., in June 2002 and deployed with the squadron to Kuwait in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Upon his return in July 2004, Dodds assumed duties as the squadron executive officer.

In June 2005, Dodds assumed command of Marine Corps Recruiting Station Phoenix. Following a successful tour, he reported to I Marine Expeditionary Force in July 2008 and deployed again to Iraq in support of OIF.

Dodds assumed command of MTACS-38 in June 2009 and deployed to Afghanistan in March 2010 as the Marine Air Control Group 38 detachment office in charge.

Gondek earned a bachelor's in English with a double minor in History and Military Science from Eastern Michigan University in April 1993, and commissioned upon graduation.

Gondek reported to Marine Air Control Squadron 7 in Yuma, Ariz., for on-the-job training before attending the Air Defense Control Officer's Course at MCAGCC 29 Palms. Gondek graduated in May 1995 and returned to MACS-7. Gondek was then selected to attend AWS in Quantico, Va., for the 1998 to 1999 academic year.

After graduating from AWS in May 1999, Gondek reported to MTACS-18 in Okinawa, Japan. He graduated from the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course in October 2000. In August 2001, he transferred to First Stinger battery to serve as the battery executive officer. In March 2002, Gondek transferred to MACS-4 to deploy to Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of OEF. During the deployment, Gondek received orders to the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory (MCWL) in Quantico, Va.

Gondek reported to the MCWL in 2003 and was assigned to the technology division as a project officer. While serving at MCWL, Gondek held billets as the reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, unmanned aerial vehicle and force protection branch head; and the technology division deputy director. Gondek was then selected to attend the Marine Corps resident Command and Staff College. Upon graduation, he received orders to MACS-1.

While serving with MACS-1, Gondek deployed to Al Asad Airbase, Iraq as the squadron officer in charge. He returned from Iraq to serve as the squadron's executive officer and was promoted to lieutenant colonel on Feb. 1, 2009.

In July 2009, Gondek reported for duty with Aviation Expeditionary Enablers, Headquarters Marine Corps, to serve as the air defense advocate. In July 2010, he executed orders to MACG-38 to serve as the unit's executive officer.



Lt. Col. Thomas Dodds
OUTGOING COMMANDING OFFICER



Lt. Col. Scott Gondek
INCOMING COMMANDING OFFICER



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Dirk snags ring from the 'King'



Cpl. Steven Posy
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Editor's note: Cpl. Posy is a regular contributor to the sports section of the Flight Jacket and an avid sports fan.

Most first-time NBA champions are rushed by their teammates at half court to celebrate their long-awaited title, but oddly enough, the Dallas Mavericks supercenter stormed off the court with 1.2 seconds still left on the clock.

After years of scrutiny and missed opportunities, Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavs uprooted the favored Miami Heat in six games to capture their first NBA championship in franchise history.

The title lifted a decade-long barrage of pressure from fans, critics and spectators throughout the sporting world and answered many questions about the, once-labeled, soft center of the Dallas organization.

After losing to the Heat in the 2006 NBA Finals, the seven-foot jump-shooter was said to be "too soft," not a post presence and would never have another shot at the title. The Lakers and the Celtics dominated almost a decade of basketball,

and it seemed as if Dirk would quietly enter the history books as a would-be great player, without a title.

He proved every doubter wrong. Dallas had a sub-par regular season, but ignited in the playoffs and swept the two-time defending champions, the Los Angeles Lakers. Somehow, they were still the underdogs going into the finals. Disrespected and underestimated, they meshed together at the right time and used every asset on their roster to get the job done.

Once called a choke-artist, Dirk shed the stigma of collapsing when the chips were on the table, and subsequently, LeBron James picked it up. Now, LeBron knows what Dirk went through for the past few years.

Last year's league MVP, LeBron, made the infamous decisions to join Chris Bosh and Dwayne Wade along with taking part in a preseason championship celebration, which made him wildly unpopular this

year. His struggles to win a title in Cleveland intensified, and now the lonely king is sitting atop his empty throne wondering where and when his moment of glory will arrive.

Perhaps he will realize that greatness is defined on the center stage, when the spotlight is on and the whole world is watching. King James did put the Heat on his back in the early rounds, and carried the team to a conference title, but when it counted most his performance was less than dismal.

Maybe losing another finals championship is a stepping stone for the young superstar, or another tough lesson learned; not to count your rings before you win. Regardless, the king will have to spend another summer formulating another way to conquer the prize that is coveted most in the NBA. Meanwhile, Dirk can enjoy the spotlight of the throne and all the amenities of being a true champion.

Positive attitude equals positive life



Sgt. W. Zach Griffith
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Editor's note: Sgt. Griffith is a regular contributor to the Flight Jacket.

My philosophy on life, and it has served me well, is the idea that an experience can be a good time, an interesting (or funny) story, or a life lesson.

You go to a concert and enjoy it, great. You had a good time. Or maybe a drunk guy threw up on your shoes; well, it makes for a good story and you learn to keep an eye on those concert goers around you who look a little green next time.

The best stories are most often born out of a time of hardship. Boot camp is a prime example. For many, it is one of the most unpleasant, prolonged experiences they've ever had. For most Marines, a good boot camp story almost always guarantees a laugh. The time you lost a bet and got your butt chewed by a staff noncommissioned officer because you ran across Camp Foster in nothing but silkies and a flak jacket ... that makes for a good story later. You might also learn that you're not as fast as you thought you were.

Even those bad times that aren't humorous later, you can still learn from and pass on those lessons. Any time a Marine has relationship issues or financial trouble, they can take what they experienced and help their Marines avoid the same mistakes. A Marine who has overcome the symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder can recognize those symptoms in his friends and coworkers, and guide them through the process of acceptance of the condition, and treatment of it.

Basically, this is a roundabout way to say: keep an open mind about stuff. There can be an attitude of resistance to anything beyond normal day-to-day functions of Marines. I can't imagine why anyone wouldn't want to go to the rifle range. You get out of the office while earning a paycheck to spend a week shooting a few hundred rounds you don't even have to pay for. People pay a lot of money in the civilian world for the same experience.

I remember doing the eye-roll and deep sigh when my command told me I was going to corporal's course on Camp Pendleton. I wanted to do no such thing. All I could think of was the endless uniform inspections and power point classes on proper civilian attire.

As it turns out, I had a pretty good time. I learned a lot and met some of my peers from all walks of Marine Corps life. I got a few good stories and lessons out of it too. I learned that drinking a few beers with new friends is fine; preparing your charlies for an inspection after a few more is not such a good idea. I learned my lesson, while frantically trying to undo my work from the night before, and I did fine on the inspection. That story is now a humorous way to pass on a life lesson to my junior devils.

Life is what we make of it. Those people that do the most, are the most interesting. Who wants to go to their 25th high school reunion and try to make sitting at a desk sound interesting? Not this guy.

FRIDAY 17 SATURDAY 18 SUNDAY 19 MONDAY 20 TUESDAY 21 WEDNESDAY 22 THURSDAY 23

“How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk or Jerkette”

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
The HUB
858-577-1615
to register

Japanese BBQ Buffet & Taiko Performance

6 – 10 p.m.
Officers’ Club
858-577-4808
for reservations

WEEKLY EVENTS...

- Sports Complex Marine Teen training Tues. & Sat. 858-577-4128/4129
- Deployment support for preschoolers, elementary and teenagers Mon. through Wed. 858-577-4588
- QOL Golf: Two Hours After Twilight free Golf for Active Duty 858-577-4155

Four Lenses Package

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
L.I.N.K.S. House
858-577-4473
to register

MCX Summer Fest

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Food, Music, Weber Grill Demo and More
MCX Main Store

S.D. County Fair Trip for All Enlisted Service Members

The Great Escape
858-577-6171

SHOP MCX

Father’s Day Sale June 8 - 19

Summer Sensations Sale June 15 -July 5



Youth Summer British Soccer Camp
www.challengersports.com to register
zip code is 92145

Miramar Varsity Men’s & Women’s Tennis Tryouts

4 - 6 p.m. at the Officers’ Club Courts
858-577-1202

Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon Meetings
6:30 p.m.
Counseling Center
858-577-6585

MCCS FREE PRIZE GIVEAWAYS... ITT/Travel Office: SeaWorld Gift Pack Winner will be drawn on June 30 Stop in and fill out an entry form today!

Life Skills Class “Lunch & Learn: Family Care Plan”
11:30 a.m.
858-577-4473

Tobacco Cessation Class (3 of 3)
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
858-577-1331

***TEEN TRUTH LIVE Anti-Bullying Presentation**
1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Bob Hope Theater
858-577-4960

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Budget for Baby Class
9 – 11 a.m.
858-577-1807

Creating Financial Freedom
1 – 3 p.m.
Counseling Center
858-577-6585

Career Resource Center “Job Search Strategies”
858-577-6710

***101 Days of Summer Fish Pond All-Terrain Run**

11:30 a.m.
Start/Finish Hangar 6
858-577-4654

Fish & Chips Special
Legends Sports Grill
858-693-1543

Stress Management II
1 – 3 p.m.
858-577-6585

MCCS Family Appreciation Movie Day
2 p.m.
858-577-4143

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TEEN TRUTH LIVE: ANTI-BULLYING PRESENTATION

This is an interactive, multi-media presentation that incorporates motivational speeches with an award-winning 22-minute film that was created by students. The purpose of this assembly is to challenge the audience to have a positive impact on others every day, in order to make school a safe, healthier place. This presentation will be on Tuesday, June 21 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Bob Hope Theater. Call 858-577-4960 for more information.

MIRAMAR FISH POND ALL-TERRAIN RUN

Looking for an exciting run? Meet up at Hangar 6 (look for the red Semper Fit canopy) on Thursday, June 23 at 11:30 a.m. and participate in the Fish Pond Run. This run is NOT designed for strollers, children, walkers, weak ankles and bad knees. Small animals such as snakes, rodents, lizards and spiders/bees have frequented the same course. Rocks, gravel, narrow paths and short hills are part of this approximately 3.5 mile run. There will be prize and drawing giveaways. For more information, please call 858-577-4654.



Get help paying for childcare Visit the National Association of Childcare Resource and Referral Agencies website at www.naccrra.org to see information on eligibility for assistance to pay for and find childcare services. Contact 1-800-424-2246 for information.

ICE ready for use

The Interactive Customer Evaluation set up for Miramar is ready for use. ICE is the internet version of the “Customer Suggestion Box.” It collects feedback on services

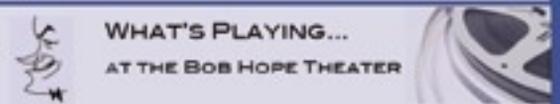
provided by installations throughout the Department of Defense. To submit a suggestion, visit the ICE website at <http://ice.disa.mil>.

Important Phone Numbers
Victim Advocacy 24-hour Hotline
858-864-2815

Eagle Eyes
877-356-EYES (3937)

Military One Source
800-342-9647

D-Stress 24-hour Hotline
877-476-7734
(All calls are strictly confidential)



Fri. June 17:
Hoodwinked Too: Hood vs. Evil (Not 3D) (PG) 6:30 p.m.
Madea’s Big Happy Family (PG-13) 9 p.m.

Sat. June 18:
Swap Meet 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Rio (Not 3D) (PG) 6:30 p.m.
Fast Five (PG-13) 9 p.m.

Sun. June 19:
*Soul Surfer (PG) 1 p.m.
*Scream 4 (R) 6:30 p.m.

Tues. June 21:
Teen Truth Live: “Bullying & School Violence” 1 and 4 p.m.

Wed. June 22:
Thor (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

Thurs. June 23:
FREE: Hoodwinked Too: Hood vs. Evil (Not 3D) (PG) 2 p.m.
*Madea’s Big Happy Family (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.