FLIGHT JACKET

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Breaking ground, busting barriers

New landfill facility to turn trash to gas

(Right) Mark Comora, president of Fortistar Methane Group LLC, speaks with Col. Frank A. Richie, the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., before the ground breaking ceremony here July 12.

Photos by Sgt. Justin M. Martinez

(Above, from left to right) Mark Comora, president of Fortistar Methane Group LLC, Col. Frank A. Richie, the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., U.S. Navy Capt. Keith Hamilton, the commanding officer of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest and Jerry Sanders, the mayor of San Diego, participate in the Miramar Landfill Gas to Energy Expansion Project ground-breaking ceremony here July 12. The project is a partnership between MCAS Miramar, the Fortistar Methane Group LLC, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest and the city of San Diego. Miramar will use the facility to capture methane gas from the landfill and waste water, turning waste into a reliable and renewable energy source. By the first of the year, roughly 50 percent of the station's power will come from this cost effective and dependable source of energy.

Museum opens cockpits

Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo
Combat Correspondent

The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum held an Open Cockpit Day here July 9 and 10, which featured four military aircraft including three planes and a helicopter.

An F/A-18 Hornet and an F-5E Tiger II fighting planes, a T-34B Mentor training plane as well as the CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter were open to the public for viewing and handling. Marines and community members brought their children to come sit in, take photos of and ask questions about aircraft.

The highline of the event was the open viewing of the helicopter, which evacuated the ambassador and his staff out of Saigon on April 30, 1975.

The staff for the event included both retired and active duty military personnel who volunteered from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton to speak on all aspects of the aircraft for inquiring visitors.

"I have been volunteering here since February, and I think it is important to get active-duty [Marines] involved with the public, so I tell all the guys in my shop to come out here if they can," said Sgt. Jason Sparks, a crew chief with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 and a

GO TO **MUSEUM,** PAGE 3

Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo

Conner Brashear, 6, sits inside the cockpit of the McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet during an Open Cockpit Day here July 9. These events are scheduled throughout the summer and allow Marines and their families to sit in various aircraft on display.

MCAS Miramar Website

www.miramar.usmc.mil

'WOLFPACK' TAKES MIDSHIPMEN INTO THEIR RANKS FOR CORPS EXPERIENCE

HMH-466 brought midshipmen onboard for a day to allow them to get a hands-on experience with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. For full story see pages 5 and 6.

MIRAMAR MARINES LEND A HELPING HAND FOR STANDOWN

Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar volunteer for the 2011 San Diego Stand Down for homeless veterans. For full story see page 4.

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