



Friday,  
Sept. 16, 2011

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Marine Corps Air Station  
Beaufort, S.C.

# The Jet Stream

“The noise you hear is the sound of freedom.”

# NO CHILD LEFT ALONE

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## Did you know...

Sept. 16, 1942, the 3dMarDiv was born at Camp Elliot in California

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# Kellie Pickler — ROCKS — Air Station



Lance Cpl. Timothy Norris

Kellie Pickler performs during the Red Ribbon Rocks concert aboard the Air Station Friday. The free concert, sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services and the Drug Demand Reduction program, promoted a lifestyle free of alcohol abuse and drugs across the Department of the Navy.

## Red Ribbon concert a success

Lance Cpl. Timothy Norris  
Staff Writer

A new noise echoed across the parade deck during the Red Ribbon Rocks concert Friday on the Air Station as Kellie Pickler performed for service members and families.

Marine Corps Community Services and the Drug Demand Reduction program sponsored the event to promote a lifestyle free of alcohol abuse and drugs in a new and fun way for Marines and sailors.

SEE ROCKS, PAGE 4

## MRAP trainer keeps Marines prepared to fight

Sgt. Gina C. Rindt  
Staff Writer

The Air Station expanded its ability to ready Marines for the fight, when it received the new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Egress Trainer Sept. 8.

The MRAP MET, a 33,000 pound training system is designed to support egress training, during a simulated roll-over, and provide vehicle crewmembers the confidence needed to safely exit the MRAP vehicle in that event.

“There are several [units], throughout the area, who will get the chance to receive the egress training needed for the MRAP,” said Randy Mingledorff, the Station Training administrator and a Ridgeland, S.C. native. “[Marine Wing Support Squadron 273] will be one of the units aboard the Air Station to get the most use from it because of their deployments and usage of the vehicle.”

The MRAP MET is the Cougar variant, which is one of eight different models. The trainer consists of a simulated vehicle cab, visual monitoring system and speaker system so that voice commands can be provided to and heard from or by the vehicle crewmembers.

While using the visual monitoring system and speaker system, the instructor is capable of conducting crew training, introducing malfunctions and emergency egress situations, monitoring each trainee’s performance and providing feedback.

“The MRAP MET is a state of the art, full or partial motion simulator designed for use in all phases of roll over scenarios requiring crew egress,” said Gregory Craft, the MRAP MET Facility supervisor for the Air Station and a native of Haughton, La. “This type of design places the students in the most realistic environment possible while providing a comprehensive learning environment with maximum retention and application of lessons learned back to the real world.”

The device will reinforce the importance of seat positioning, wearing seatbelts, demonstrating

SEE MRAP, PAGE 4

## ORDNANCE SUPPORTS MOJAVE VIPER

Lance Cpl. Ruben J. Tan  
Staff Writer

Aboard Camp Wilson, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., temperatures reached a high of 105 degrees Sept. 4, as Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 supported ground units participating in Mojave Viper.

Despite the heat, various aircraft maintenance shops continued to work on the flightline, supplying pilots with reliable equipment for their F/A-18 Hornets.

Weapon loading vehicles, known as SATS loaders, are driven back and forth by ordnance Marines constantly to load and unload ordnance to ensure pilots are able to practice accuracy while deploying bombs.

As one SATS loader becomes immobile

SEE ORDNANCE, PAGE 5



Lance Cpl. Ruben J. Tan

Lance Cpl. Branden Garcia, a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 ordnance technician, takes the expended cartridge actuated device out of an aircraft at Camp Wilson, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. Sept. 3.



### MESS HALL MENU

**Monday - Friday**  
 Breakfast: 6 - 7:30 a.m.  
 Lunch: 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
 Dinner: 4 - 6 p.m.

**Saturday, Sunday and holidays**  
 Brunch: 8 - 11 a.m.  
 Dinner: 4 - 6 p.m.

**MIDRATS**

**Sunday - Thursday**  
 11:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

\* Take-out window: Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10 a.m.  
 Sunday - Thursday 6 - 8:30 p.m.

**Saturday**

*Lunch* Chicken Provencal and broccoli  
*Dinner* Grilled steak and macaroni and cheese

**Sunday**

*Lunch* Vegetable lasagna and pinto beans  
*Dinner* Beef and corn pie and tater tots

**Monday - Friday Breakfast**

Hot farina, hot hominy grits and oven fried bacon

**Monday**

*Lunch* Cajun chicken and rice pilaf  
*Dinner* Spaghetti with meat sauce and broccoli

**Tuesday**

*Lunch* Fried catfish and roasted zucchini  
*Dinner* Yankee pot roast and steamed rice

**Wednesday**

*Lunch* Chicken Parmesan and bread sticks  
*Dinner* Chicken tortilla soup and beans

**Thursday**

*Lunch* Jamaican jerk chicken and rice  
*Dinner* Baked stuff shells and rice pilaf

**Friday**

*Lunch* Maple glazed salmon and green beans  
*Dinner* Lasagna and candied sweet potatoes



### CHAPEL SERVICES

**Roman Catholic**  
 • 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Mass  
 • 11:15 a.m. - Weekly Mass: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

**Protestant**  
 • 9:45 a.m. - Protestant Church School (Sunday School)  
 • 11 a.m. - Protestant Sunday Worship Service  
 • 11:30 a.m. - Wednesday Bible Study  
 • 5 p.m. - Protestant Bible Study

**Other Faith Groups**  
 • For Jewish, Mormon and Islamic support, contact the Chaplain's Office at 228-7775

## HIGH SHOOTER

**Warrant Officer Adam L. Houston of Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 qualified with an expert score of 381 during the week of Sept. 13.**



# Fightertown News Briefs

- The Air Station is holding Lifestyle Insights, Network, Knowledge and Skills mentor training for those spouses who want to give back to the Tri-Command from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Air Station Marine Corps Family Team Building office. For more information, call Julia Gwynn at 228-7397.
- The libraries aboard the Air Station and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island will host a craft event to make ornaments to place on a Heroes' Tree, which promotes awareness of the service and sacrifice of service members and their families. The event is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Sept. 24 aboard the Air Station and 1:30 p.m. Sept. 25 aboard Parris Island.
- All services of the Central Billeting Office will be conducted out of its' new location in building 933. All check-ins and check-outs will take place in the new Central Billeting office. For any questions, contact Ralph Jackson at 228-6205.
- Notice to Mariners: Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island will be conducting extended live-fire training Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sept. 21 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The marsh and waterways in the range impact area to include Archers Creek, Ribbon Creek, and Edding Creek, which will be closed to boater traffic.

## BE PREPARED FOR A HURRICANE

**When is hurricane season**  
 June 1 – November 30

### What is a hurricane?

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone, which generally forms in the tropics and is accompanied by thunderstorms and a counterclockwise circulation of winds (in the Atlantic Ocean). Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

**Tropical Depression** - An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less.

**Tropical Storm** - An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph.

**Hurricane** - An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher.

### What are the hurricane hazards?

**Storm Surge:** Storm surge is water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the water level 15 feet or more.

**Inland Flooding:** In the last 30 years, inland flooding has been responsible for more than half the deaths associated with tropical cyclones in the United States.

**High Winds:** Hurricane force winds can destroy poorly constructed buildings and mobile homes. Debris such as signs, roofing material, and small items left outside become flying missiles in hurricanes.

**Tornadoes:** Hurricanes can produce tornadoes that add to the storm's destructive power. Tornadoes are most likely to occur in the right front quadrant of the hurricane.

### What should I do when a watch or warning is issued?

When a hurricane watch is issued for your part of the coast this indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan, and proactive measures should be initiated, especially those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat, leaving a barrier island, etc.

When a hurricane warning is issued for your part of the coast this indicates sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. Once this warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing proactive actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

### What actions should you take to be prepared?

Have a family disaster plan and disaster supply kit.

Purchase or use a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio in your home with a tone alert feature. This will allow you to receive warnings issued by your local National Weather Service office.

### Stay tuned to local media.



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## Things you need to know

### Fraud, Waste and Abuse

If you know of or suspect any fraud, waste or abuse aboard MCAS Beaufort, call 228-7777.  
 If you know of or suspect any fraud, waste or abuse within MAG-31, call (252) 466-5038.  
 The automated answering service on these lines are available 24 hours a day.

### Sexual Assault

The contact numbers for a Uniformed Victim Advocate are 228-4784 and 228-4110. The after hours number is 592-0646.

### Siren sound meanings

Upon notification from the weather office, Giant Voice pre-recorded messages will be broadcast. All destructive weather notifications begin and end with a 12 second wailing siren. Then follow on information is repeated twice between siren wails. The following are abbreviated examples of each warning that will be broadcast through Giant Voice.

- Lightning within 5 nautical miles... announced sounding "all clear".
- Thunder storm Condition 1, winds up to 50 knots and/ or hail up to 3/4 of an inch... Test tone – A steady tone will be broadcast for 10 seconds, followed by an alert stating "This is a test" and then another 10 second tone. For more information please call 228-7904, or for example warning tones, visit: www.whelen.com/outdoor/warningtones.htm.
- Tornado condition 1 a tornado is imminent...
- Tornado condition 2... observed within 60 nautical miles
- An all clear broadcast will be

# Fightertown deployed:



**VMFA-115 Silver Eagles**  
are currently deployed as part of the Unit Deployment Program to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.



**VMFA-312 Checkerboards**  
are currently deployed to Mojave Viper at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

# 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing:



Photo special to The Jet Stream

**A Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey from 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing flies over New York City during Fleet Week May 25 to June 1. Belize citizens will have a unique opportunity to see the United States Marine Corps' newest combat utility aircraft in action in September when the 2d MAW visits to conduct training in Belize.**

## 2d MAW to support Belize Defense Force

Joint Public Affairs Office  
Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, N.C. — Belize citizens will have a unique opportunity to see the United States Marine Corps' newest combat utility aircraft in action in September when the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing visits to conduct training in Belize.

This morning four MV-22 Ospreys with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron, based out of Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., will fly non-stop to Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport in Belize City. The approximately 1,300-mile flight will require multiple aerial refueling operations from two KC-130J aircraft with Marine Ariel Refueler Transport Squadron 252 to reach the Central American nation.

The 2d MAW aircraft based out of MCAS Cherry Point will fly with the Ospreys to Belize refueling them the whole way. Once the Ospreys arrive at its destination the KC-130s will return to Cherry Point, but will make multiple flights back to Belize for logistical support.

Nearly 80 people are deploying with VMM-365 for this exercise. Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 271 as well as a variety of supporting agencies, some of who are already in country, will provide support to VMM-365. MWSS-271's support will include communications, engineering, and airfield and medical support.

To be able to go to Belize for this type of training is special and for many of the Marines it's the first time they will travel outside the U.S. explained Maj. Stephen M. Pirrotta, operations officer with VMM-365.

"These exercises are normally limited to the U.S. and the opportunity to go to another nation is a unique opportunity," said Pirrotta. In coordination with the Belize Defense Force, the Marines will conduct low-altitude training over the Belizean countryside during their 10-day stay. The mission for this exercise is to have the MV-22 self-deploy to Belize in order to train over water, improve self-deployment capability and conduct unit training, Pirrotta said.

"The British had recently removed their aviation that was supporting the Belize Defense Force," explained Pirrotta. "This deployment and training provides an opportunity to establish a working relationship with the BDF and establish future 2d MAW training opportunities."

This exercise will give local citizens many opportunities to see the Osprey in action. The Osprey takes off and lands like a helicopter, but flies like a conventional aircraft, allowing it to fly twice as fast, carry three times the weight, and travel four times farther than the helicopters it has replaced.

With more than 100,000 flight hours under its belt, the Osprey has proven itself a tough and reliable aircraft to the Marines who pilot it and to those who ride in the back. This versatile aircraft can accomplish many Marine Corps missions, such as delivering troops into combat, performing rescue and recovery operations, and providing humanitarian assistance in locations that can't be reached by airplane.

Belize citizens will see an aircraft that looks, sounds and performs like no other, while the Marines enjoy the beautiful scenery that makes Belize such a popular tourist destination on the Caribbean Sea.

"There has been a significant amount of planning with multiple units for this exercise," said Pirrotta. "We are glad to be at the execution stage."

*"The British had recently removed their aviation that was supporting the Belize Defense Force... this deployment and training provides an opportunity to establish a working relationship with the BDF and establish future 2d MAW training opportunities."*

Maj. Stephen M. Pirrotta  
VMM-365

## CORPS BITS



### Black Sea Marines build new helipad

CONSTANTA, Romania — Combat engineers with Black Sea Rotational Force 11 have been in the Black Sea region since April providing community relations projects that help small towns and villages throughout the region.

Now, their biggest impression can be seen at the local Constanta County Hospital and Trauma center, where they worked with local contractors to excavate and build a brand-new helipad which will allow air-transport of critically-wounded casualties to the hospital and potentially save lives.

The project was a team effort between the Marines, the hospital directors and local businesses.

The hospital serves the largest port-city on the Black Sea and the most populated metropolitan area in the region. The hospital's trauma center is the only one in the area; the next closest one is in the capital city of Bucharest, approximately 150 miles away.

The helipad features a 75-by-6-foot-wide concrete ramp that leads up to the 50-by-50-foot landing zone that is reinforced with steel bars and 70 cubic-yards of concrete. The helipad can support anything up to 20,000 pounds.

In the past, medical and military helicopters had to land the casualty in a nearby soccer field to then be transported 21.5 miles by vehicle to the hospital, dealing with traffic and increasing the time it took to get the patients the urgent medical attention they needed.

The recently-finished helipad marks the last effort the 10 combat engineer Marines will complete for the rotation.



### Marine aviators fly into their golden years

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — In what may be a record setting flight, veteran Marine Capt. Bob Lutz and retired Marine Lt. Col. Kingman Lambert teamed up Aug. 27 behind the controls of an L-39 Albatros jet. Soaring over the skies of Southeastern Michigan, the pair of veteran Marine aviators stand as proof that a Marine is a Marine for life.

Lutz, 79, and Lambert, 82, brought a combined 161 years of life experience into the cockpit. The pilots have shared a close friendship since being stationed together in Iwakuni, Japan, in the 1950s.

Over the course of his 23 years in the Corps, Lambert flew multiple aircraft such as the F-6F Hellcat, F-4U Corsair, A-1 Skyraider, F-7F Tigercat, F-9F Panther, F-9F Cougar, F-J Fury and the A-4 Skyhawk. Lutz primarily flew an A-4 Skyhawk during his 11 years of service.

The two former aviators stand as living proof that the Marine Corps has and is still fulfilling its promise to return quality citizens back to the civilian world.

Lambert, a former world class tennis player, also built two large racquetball facilities in Southern California. In his prime, he played at Wimbledon and was an inter-service tennis champion.

Following his time in the Corps, Lutz went on to become a high-level executive for numerous automotive companies, most notable serving as a vice chairman for General Motors.

Looking ahead, Lambert hopes that this will not be their last flight.



## Corps Shot

Sgt. Randall A. Clinton

**The crew of USS New York man the rails and present honors to the Ground Zero site, as the ship arrives in Manhattan Sept. 8. Onboard are, family members of victims and first responders from 9/11, along with the crew and Marines from 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, based in Camp Lejeune, N.C. The ship was built with 7.5 tons of steel recovered from Ground Zero.**

## ROCKS

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That fun way being country star Kellie Pickler, who is fond of performing for the troops.

"We're so excited to be here," Pickler said. "We've done a lot of United Service Organizations tours, and I met some of you in Iraq back in 2008."

We like to take advantage of every opportunity to bring a piece of home to you wherever you are."

Pickler stayed on stage after an encore of one of her hit songs, "Red High Heels," to sign dozens of the beach balls and frisbees given out by "That Guy," which earlier in the day were thrown and chased after by children across the parade deck. Her signature on those items was a subtle reminder of what the event was really about - keeping the Marines and sailors in the Lowcountry free of drug and alcohol abuse.

"The Marine Corps needs you...don't do drugs and don't abuse alcohol," said Col. Brian C. Murtha, the Air Station commanding officer, when he briefly appeared under the spotlight prior to the concert's main attraction, re-affirming the importance of staying drug free.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Timothy Norris

**Marine Corps Community Services handed out free non-alcoholic "mocktails" to a unending line of Marines and family members. Promotional items with contact information for MCCS Family Team Building, like handheld fans, were also high in demand.**

Murtha added that the Corps operates smoothly only because of the outstanding work Marines perform with a clear mind everyday.

This idea was the driving force for a video that was played showcasing Marines performing their duties on the Air Station and explaining why they choose to live drug free.

Their reasons surrounded their everyday responsibilities, many of which have the lives of other Marines in their hands.

"The message got across to us," said Pfc. Eric Kirkland, a volunteer

at the concert.

Kirkland added, that although Murtha's message was brief, he felt the commander's involvement showed that superiors appreciate the Marines they have responsibility over and do care about their welfare.

Alcohol was available for purchase at the event; however, the message to drink responsibly was clear with free water and soda being handed out to designated drivers.

Marine Corps Community Services also served free, non-alcoholic "mocktails" complete with little umbrellas to show a margarita can be just as fun without the alcohol.

Lines formed at concession stands while children and adults cautiously navigated a tricycle course with drunk goggles designed to teach the dangers of impaired driving.

Earlier in the week service members auditioned to open the concert with their talents in the, "You're the Star" segment.

As the crowd in front of the stage grew larger, local Marines and others sang and played their rock and roll favorites as well as country classics. A few of the opening acts even performed songs of their own.

The Blue Dogs began their part of the show afterward, bringing out more than their own unique flavor of music to the stage. One Marine joined the Charleston-based band for a jam session.

Colonel Brian Palmer, the commanding officer of Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, performed a few songs on the electric guitar with the Blue Dogs including a cover of the Troggs', "Wild Thing."

The musical event, which was set to prevent drug and alcohol abuse, accomplished its goal according to Pfc. Cody Lawler, a volunteer at the event.

"We saw a lot of families out here," he said. "The event was directed toward family and building strong family ties, and if you have those strong family ties, you're not going to do drugs."



**Free water and soda were provided for designated drivers at Red Ribbon Rocks.**



**Children played with frisbees given out by "That Guy" as a promotional item. The frisbees were a popular item at the concert. They gave children something to play with and gave older fans something to have Kellie Pickler sign at the end of the concert.**



Photos by Sgt. Gina C. Rindt

**The new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Egress Trainer is moved into place aboard the Air Station Sept. 8. The 33,000 pound trainer simulates a 360 degree rollover, which helps prepare service members for deployment.**

## MRAP

continued from page 1

the feeling of being disoriented and the actual effort required to execute rollover procedures.

The trainer was con-

tracted and delivered by the U.S. Army Program Executive Office, Simulation Training and Instrumentation, who were responsible for getting the trainer to the Air Station, ensuring it was set up and working properly, along

with giving instructions about how to use it and the items, which were included with the trainer.

"It is our job to make sure the facility or base receiving the MRAP MET has adequate space and the proper requirements are met to ensure the trainer is well cared for and maintained to last as long as needed," said Anthony Hamilton Sr., the Logistics Management specialist with Ground Combat Tactical Trainers and a native of Chicago Heights, Ill. "During the delivery process, I make sure all parties involved get a chance to see the trainer being used and I leave knowing if they do have any questions I am available."

The Air Station now has the new MRAP MET and HMMWV Egress Trainer to cater to the needs of Fightertown personnel.

"The MET is based on the same technology as the HEAT," said Army Lt. Col. Mark Evans, product manager with GCTT. "Using the MRAP Egress Trainer will help ensure Marines, sailors and soldiers are properly prepared during deployments. A rollover can cause injury or death, if they are not trained properly."

Since Nov. 7, 2007 there have been 38 MRAP accidents of which only four did not entail a rollover event. Many of these accidents included injuries to service members and five deaths have been attributed to rollover events.

"This trainer is an asset to the Air Station and will be used routinely to keep our service members up-to-date on all the necessary training needed to get the job done and come home safe," Craft said.

The MRAP MET is maintained by Station Training and will be available for use within the next few weeks. For more information on times and class dates, contact your units training representative.



**The new MRAP MET was moved into place aboard the Air Station Sept. 8. The simulator's rollover capabilities better equips service members with the knowledge and confidence needed to exit the MRAP vehicle in a real-world situation.**





Photos by Lance Cpl. Rubin J. Tan

**Corporal Alexis Vazquez, a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 ordnance technician ensures a M-83 bomb is properly aligned while attaching to an aircraft. Ordnance Marines handle many alternate types of ordnance not normally used in Beaufort as a result of the open land provided in Twentynine Palms, Calif.**

## ORDNANCE

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due to engine problems, the shop is challenged to work harder with only two loaders available and over three hornets needing ordnance loaded.

This week, ordnance Marines will support Mojave Viper by loading guided bomb units, M61 Vulcan cannons, joint direct attack munitions, fire bombs and Mark 83 and Mk 82 bombs, which they are not accustomed to.

“Supplying ordnance here gives the Marines a chance to load ordnance not normally used in Beaufort,” said Master Sgt. Wayne Moore, VMFA-312 ordnance division chief, and a native of Louisville, Ohio.

As well as combating unfamiliarity with a specific weapons system, Marines are also battling the desert heat with an increased workload.

“We just have to deal with harsh living conditions,” said Cpl. Jason Rodriguez, a VMFA-312 ordnance technician.



**A weapon loading vehicle operator gives Marines the ability to transport and lift heavy bombs on and off aircraft.**

Working and living in such an unforgiving climate creates additional stress especially for those away from their children and spouses, said Rodriguez, an El Paso, Texas native.

Regardless, ordnance Marines continue to ensure aircraft are equipped with the correct weapon systems allowing full functionality and availability of ordnance.

“Being able to work together with the other Marines in my shop definitely builds morale and camaraderie,” said Cpl. Devon Palafax, a VMFA-312 ordnance technician.

Without mutual suffering, the Marines might not meld together and function as such a tight knit unit, said Palafax, a Los Angeles native. He believes that as a result of the remote locations, arid climate and constraints work, the Marines will build a stronger unit cohesion.

Ordnance Marines who recently joined the squadron also have the chance to learn more about the Marines in their shop as they gain experience by working together and through hands on experience with loading different types of weapons on the aircraft.

“It feels great to finally use what I learned in real situations and to work together to get the mission accomplished in this fast paced environment,” said Pfc. Mark Alvarez, a VMFA-312 ordnance technician and a native of Miami, Fla.

The environment of Twentynine Palms provides the Checkerboards a chance to feel the effects and the same technical issues, harsh environments and learning curves they would face in Afghanistan.

The field training also provides ordnance Marines more hands on interaction with units they would only interact with in the heat of battle.

## Marine Corps orders restrict children from being left home alone

Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver  
Staff Writer

Many remember the Home Alone movie series of the 90s and the lead character’s battle against crooks and bandits at home. His absent-minded parents left him ‘Home Alone’ because they were enthralled in their own duties and responsibilities, but don’t worry children, the Marine Corps is looking out for you.

Air Station Order 5100.27A outlines the age restrictions for children able to be left alone at home during the day, overnight, with a sibling and while traveling to and from school. The order is standard for each of the Tri-Command bases and communities and is in reference to Marine Corps Order 1710.30E, which leaves childcare decisions up to station commanders.

In recent months, there have been a considerable amount of calls to the Provost Marshal’s Office in regards to young children being left alone in public, at home or in vehicles.

According to Amanda Sutcliffe, Tri-Command marketing manager, to go along with the Marine Corps order, families receive a handout which educates new residents about the guidelines for unattended children in Tri-Command housing and facilities.

For example, “children under the age of 14 are not allowed in the fitness center unattended, children under the age of 10 are not to use the playgrounds unattended and the pool has the same rules as the fitness center,” Sutcliffe explained.

Unattended doesn’t necessarily mean parents have to supervise. To use the Tri-Command facilities, Sutcliffe stated, “an adult, 18 or older, is allowed to supervise children.”

The Marine Corps order allows siblings or friends age 10 or older to assist younger children walking to and from school.

Some of the children live in a dual-working household and parent’s may rely on their children to be responsible in the

safety of their home, but the state and the Marine Corps has a say in that as well.

Air Station Order 5100.27A states children under the age of 10 are not to be left alone, and children are not allowed to babysit a sibling unattended until they are 12 years old. Children are not to be left unattended overnight until they are 16 years old. When using a babysitter, the order suggests babysitters complete the American Red Cross Babysitter’s Course, which is offered by Marine Corps Community Services.

Even when age requirements are met, parents must still provide emergency procedures for children to follow and a list of emergency contacts.

According to Staff Sgt. Matthew Haight, resource officer for Laurel Bay schools, not abiding by these guidelines could lead to a child neglect investigation, which is a violation of state law. Subsequently, the service member could face charges by the Marine Corps as well.

Leaving children alone is a risky gamble that could turn out to be deadly.

According to [www.ggweather.com/heat](http://www.ggweather.com/heat), a website dedicated to the research of heat stroke and related incidents so far in 2011, across the nation, there have been 27 deaths recorded relating to children dying from heat stroke because they were left unattended in a vehicle. Of those deaths 92 percent were children under the age of 10 and all were recorded in Southeastern states, with the exception of one incident in Montana.

In a matter of an hour, on an 80-degree day, a car’s internal temperature could reach 123 degrees when left in direct sunlight.

“Parents are not allowed to leave children under the age of 10 in a car unattended,” said Haight, a Southbridge, Mass., native.

Knowledge and using the resources provided by MCCR, friends and family could avoid a dangerous situation for military children. If an inappropriate situation is observed, residents are encouraged to call Provost Marshal’s Office at 228-6710.

# Finally; Boots in the sand

*This is a first person guide to the tips and tricks for other Marines from Fightertown with a deep interest to deploy. If the experience and information shared is helpful feel free to utilize it.*

Cpl. Justin M. Boling  
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward)

*Journal entry 1: Aug. 31, 2011*

## P is for preparation

The first thing that hit me while sitting on an Air Force C-17 that had just plowed down the runway of Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, was, "I am finally here."

Just a few weeks ago, I was one of those Marines sitting at my desk in Beaufort, waiting and wanting to go and see what else Marines are doing around the world, and what Afghanistan is like first hand.

The journey to get here was simple. It began with the realization I had to prove I could do my job. I feel you cannot expect to be taken seriously about deploying, if you cannot perform in your job.

Secondly, I began letting my command know that I was interested in going forward. From my experience, this also helps you to become cognizant that you may be away from friends and family for a while. So, if you are married with a family, you should take time to talk to them about the prospect of a deployment.

Hurricane Irene proved to me that no matter how much my spouse and I had planned, there is always room to worry about those you care about. Luckily,

the effects of the hurricane were not as dramatic as I had anticipated, but it was nice to know my wife had a plan to mitigate any danger. The basic plan being load up the dogs and head inland as fast as a yellow Mustang can carry her.

As I was preparing my family for our deployment, it was also time to get prepared myself. This involves a lot of deployment training. The Marine Corps expects every deploying Marine to be well versed on subjects ranging from Law of Land Warfare to basic language skills. For me, the trick was to get it all done as soon as possible, and of course not to miss anything on my checklist in the process. I found my training sections to be an invaluable asset, one that definitely saved me a lot of headaches getting ready.

Getting all of the gear I needed was one step I found to be a challenge. I checked with the unit I was deploying to for a gear list, which helped immensely in planning.

The trip from the States to the sand box is a long one, with numerous stops at places, some for a few hours, and some for a few

days. In all, it takes about a week to get from the U.S. to the dusty roads of Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

To help tide myself over for the journey, I brought along a handheld gaming device. What can I say, I am a nerd and nothing kills time like racking up some major points on my favorite video games. Other Marines brought along electronic readers and hand-held gaming devices. Classic literature seemed popular, and I suggest "The Count of Monte Cristo" or "The Iliad."

After finishing the journey it was an amazing feeling. I remember how my heart began to flutter and a smile crept across my face watching the rear hatch of the C-17 open up revealing the bright light of the unforgiving sun and the dry heat billowed into the aircraft.

After stepping out of the belly of the giant grey aircraft, I realized I may not see a tree for the next six months. The white, sandy, rock-covered earth seemed to stretch further than the sky until they blended perfectly like in an oil painting. That was the first moment I truly felt like I was not in Kansas, or Beaufort, anymore.

*Journal entry 2: Sept. 3, 2011*

## Long days, short weeks with war fighters

Many speak of deployment but really have no idea what to expect or what will happen when they get in country. What I noticed is the work place becomes more like home, and the people around you become like family.

The average day of the different work sections goes from about 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., but many sections work in shifts to offer 24-hour support to the operations and missions taking place in Afghanistan. So you spend a lot of time with the same Marines and sailors every day.

My day starts by waking up to a sometimes chilly morning, with the sun already shining brightly. It seems that the sun springs up in seconds, instead of what I consider a normal gradual rise. Every night when I go to sleep it is pitch black and when I wake up it is bright, like I slept in until noon.

Many sections physically train as a group or meet up to go to breakfast. I feel like this form of camaraderie makes the day go by faster and helps me to not miss my

wife and dogs as much.

Everyone you work with made similar sacrifices to be in Afghanistan. We all left our families and friends to do our small part in helping coalition forces stop insurgents.

I like looking at the purpose in the eyes of every service member I meet. It makes me walk a little taller and take even more pride in the title I wear and the exceptional group of men and women I have the privilege to serve alongside.

There are service members from around the world with their own exchanges, compounds and vehicles. Forces from the United Kingdom, Georgia, and Denmark are just a few of the different uniformed troops who I have come into contact with since setting my boots firmly in the sand.

What made the mission of giving a stable country to the Afghan people crystal clear to this writer was taking part in a ceremony honoring a fallen Georgian soldier.

I remember standing in the heat among the collage of different uniforms from the different branches of the United States armed forces and the brave fighting

men and women from the countries throughout the coalition. We all live, work, play and fight side-by-side out of Camp Leatherneck and Camp Bastion.

I remember the somber look in the eyes of the British soldier standing across from me. The sweat ran down my brow, mimicking the perspiration of those around me, all the while the Afghan sun beat down on our souls as slow deliberate salutes were executed, honoring the warrior.

It made me think about so much. It made me think about my family and loved ones. The possibility of not coming home. I thought about my wife, mother and sister, and it seemed I was not afraid of my own death, but instead the pain and anguish it would cause them.

When the photo frames finished rushing through my mind, only one thought remained. Regardless of what happens while I am here, I know that I am a part of a group of people who sacrifice a lot, and sometimes everything, to make a better place for the people of Afghanistan to call home.



# Fightertown Rec Fire sends rounds down range

Sgt. Gina C. Rindt  
Staff Writer

The Air Station offers recreational fire for service members, Department of Defense employees and other authorized personnel at the Air Station Pistol Range every Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. unless otherwise posted.

Before firing, participants must register their personal weapon at the Pass and ID building aboard the Air station and sign a waiver to ensure the importance of safety while firing at the range.

Weapons to be registered are not allowed in the Pass and ID building, instead the make, model and serial number are the only requirements when registering.

The waiver states you are aware of the rules and will adhere to the safety regulations. Waivers can be found at the pistol range or Station Training in building 596.

To participate in recreational fire, personnel must bring their own ammunition. Hand-loaded ammunition is not authorized at the range for safety reasons and shooters must bring hearing protection. Members are allowed to bring personal pistols up to, but excluding .50 caliber.

Recreational fire has many benefits, such as weapons familiarization or just enjoying some free time with friends.

"Recreational fire is helpful for service members, who are new to shooting and want to get comfortable with a pistol before qualifying at the pistol range or purchasing one of their own," said Sgt. Christopher Jensen, a combat marksmanship trainer with Station Training. "We take multiple precautions to ensure everyone's safety while on the range, whether qualifying or shooting for fun."

There are many benefits to using recreational fire aboard the Air Station, like



Photos by Cpl. Josh Pettway

**The Air Station Pistol Range offers recreational fire, which allows eligible participants to fire as much permitted ammunition as they bring with them once they have completed the prerequisites to fire. Recreational fire is open 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays at the Air Station Pistol Range.**

not having to pay by the hour or for a membership at a local shooting club or range, and getting the opportunity to learn more about the weapon and improve on a skill.

"Shooters can bring as much ammunition as they want to the range as long as it meets the range requirements," said Jensen, a native of Gulfport, Miss. "It is good for service members to get the chance to come out and not only shoot for free, but enjoy a pastime that can teach members respect for a weapon."

Safety is always a priority when any weapon is concerned and the members of Station Training make sure during recreational fire that all members are safe and well informed about the rules.

"We are available to help new gun owners, who don't have much experience with the type of weapon they are shooting," said Lance Cpl. Broc Booth, a CMT with Station Training and a native of Tyler, Texas. "We are all trained to help teach others the basics and make sure they



**During recreational fire, participants are provided targets, but must meet the requirements before utilizing the range. Safety is the main focus while handling any weapon.**

are using the weapon correctly and safely."

For more information,

contact the Pistol Range at 228-7698 or Station Training at 228-6642.

Sports Commentary:

## I missed the best season of all

Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver  
Staff Writer

Headline after headline was made this NFL offseason. My hometown Chicago Bears made some key acquisitions and the Philadelphia Eagles formed the "Dream Team," while the Green Bay Packers kept their championship roster untouched.

After a long lock out and a short, action-packed free agency period, how could any football fan miss it, especially an avid one like me? I'll tell you. Get non-judicially punished, end up on restriction and the NFL season opener has gone bye-bye.

Sitting back and reflecting during my self-loathing, I think of all the NFL action I will miss in the upcoming month:

*Devin Hester's next, magnificent punt return.*

*Cam Newton's first regular season start.*

*Ndamakong Suh's first forced fumble.*

*Chad Ochocinco's first touchdown catch from Tom Brady.*

*Ochocinco's opening game antics.*

*Ochocinco's new hair color.*

*Ochocinco's new name.*

*Ochocinco's... you all get the point.*

*Brian Urlacher's first concussion-enducing tackle.*

*Ray Lewis' first ham-bone dance of the season.*

*James Harrison's first fine from Roger Goodell.*

*Julius Peppers' first sack.*

*Charles Tillman's first stripped ball.*

*The 9/11 festivities around the league.*

*Monday Night Football...*

Yes, there are far worse conditions other people are in. For example, deployed troops don't have the luxury to enjoy everyday commodities let alone a football game, but it is not their fault. I, on the other hand, put myself in this situation.

Nonetheless, I'm glad it's football season because although I'll be missing the highlights and live games for a couple of weeks, I can live vicariously through second-hand knowledge and the occasional echoing cheers from Marines watching the games in the barracks.

So all of you who watched Aaron Rodgers and Drew Brees sling the rock on opening night or witness Adrian Peterson claim his first victim and Michael Vick sprint out of the pocket for a 20-yard gain, enjoy it.

