



# The Jet Stream

Friday, Sept. 23, 2011

Vol. 46, No. 36

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.

"The noise you hear is the sound of freedom."

#TJSSc

## FIGHTERTOWN IS TRENDING ON TWITTER...

SEARCH #TJSSc

FOR THE LATEST

AIR STATION NEWS



## Inside

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## Did you know...

Sept. 22, 1945, the 5thMarDiv landed at Sasebe, Japan for occupational duty

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General James Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps

*"His actions will forever be etched in our Corps' history."*

## One of The Few recieves Medal of Honor



Photo special to The Jet Stream/Lance Cpl. Daniel A. Wetzel  
**President Barack Obama awards Sgt. Dakota Meyer the Medal of Honor Sept. 15. Meyer is the first living Marine recipient of the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan. He and his family and friends were gathered at the White House to commemorate his selfless service.**

## Air Station Marines witness Corps history

Afterburners opens for televised MOH ceremony

Lance Cpl. Timothy Norris  
Staff Writer

Fightertown Marines watched a historic event when the live broadcast of Sgt. Dakota Meyer being awarded the Medal of Honor, for saving 36 lives at great risk to his own in combat, played at Afterburners Sept. 15.

Marines of every rank flowed into the enlisted club and gathered around a TV of their choice, excited the ceremony was only minutes from beginning.

A hush fell over everyone in attendance as President Barack Obama began to speak about Meyer's character. There were no apprehensive toes tapping or restless legs shifting weight as the president recounted Meyer's heroic actions.

No eyes glanced from side to side or hung down, but remained remarkably unmoved from their nearest screen as Meyer received the highest military award from his nation, the Medal of Honor.

SEE MOH, PAGE 4

## The ripple effect

What a single incident could do to a whole family

Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver  
Staff Writer

Since elementary school, drug awareness classes have been a part of our lives. In the Marine Corps, the effects of drugs are constantly discussed. The point is almost always the same – how it affects your body and career. Not often are the effects on the family covered.

As adults, we are mature enough to understand that our actions not only affect us, but all of those around us, but children do not fully grasp the concept of the world being bigger than them. Therefore, when they decide to do something such as bring marijuana to a government school, they don't understand what all could happen as a result of that action.

Parents have to take the lead in educating their children because ultimately, it is their responsibility. To do so, they must be educated themselves. Not everyone knows if their child does something illegal, or any family member for that matter, the family as a whole could be asked to leave base housing.

In the above example, a child bringing illegal

SEE EFFECT, PAGE 6



Lance Cpl. Rubin J. Tan

**Checkerboard Marines work 12-hour shifts to ensure aircraft are properly maintained and the necessary ordnance is equipped.**

## Painting a bigger picture

Lance Cpl. Rubin J. Tan  
Staff Writer

The sound of freedom is heard throughout Camp Wilson aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., from dawn to dusk as Checkerboard pilots currently support training exercise Mojave Viper.

Participating ground units experience realistic combat simulations as they work together with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 and other units in preparation for future deployments.

"We are able to support the ground units by helping them integrate air support into their fire and maneuver schemes," said Capt. Adam Gardner, the VMFA-312 aviation safety officer.

To authenticate the experience, the Marine Corps has built several military operation urban terrain towns in Twentynine Palms to resemble the traditional rural and urban environments service members see in Afghanistan.

SEE PICTURE, PAGE 4

## Veteran brings piece of history to Air Station

Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver  
Staff Writer

Vietnam veteran, national photographer and Rolling Thunder motorcycle club member Patrick Hughes presented a photograph of the original Devil Dogs in France to the Provost Marshal's Office aboard the Air Station Sept. 13.

The photograph was

presented to Maj. Pete Cato, Air Station's provost marshal, in front of a small formation. The picture is hung in the lobby and portrays the Marines in France before going into battle at Belleau Wood.

For Cato, it is the per-

SEE VET, PAGE 4



Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver

**Patrick Hughes, a Vietnam veteran, presents an historic photo in front a formation of Marines at the Provost Marshal's Office aboard the Air Station, Sept. 13.**

## Ambitions of an executive officer

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# Fightertown News Briefs

- According to Air Station Order P5110.1F, unregistered vehicles or vehicles which appear to be abandoned will be marked with a 72-hour notice to contact the Provost Marshal's Office to keep the vehicle from being towed. If no contact is made within the 72-hour window, PMO will attempt to reach the last known owner to arrange for the vehicle to be moved. If there is still no contact made, the car will be towed and held by the towing company for upwards of 180 days.
- The Marine Corps Exchange aboard the Air Station will be closed Saturday and Sunday. They will be upgrading the electrical system and installing a new generator. The Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island MCX and the Laurel Bay MCX will be conducting regular business hours.
- 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.
- A career expo will be held at the Officer's Club aboard the Air Station from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sept. 29. The expo is free of charge and visitors can pre-register for the job fair at [www.civilianjobs.com](http://www.civilianjobs.com) where they can submit their resume online.



## 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** Beef, barley and onion soup and rice  
**Dinner** Swiss steak and stewed tomatoes

### Sunday

**Lunch** Herb crusted fish and green bean creole  
**Dinner** Meat loaf and Okra melange

### Monday - Friday Breakfast

Hot farina, hot hominy grits and oven fried bacon

### Monday

**Lunch** Beef short ribs and steamed rice  
**Dinner** Chicken gumbo soup and Islander's rice

### Tuesday

**Lunch** Salmon and mashed potatoes  
**Dinner** Roast beef and vegetable stir fry

### Wednesday

**Lunch** Smoked ham and corn on the cob  
**Dinner** Swedish meatballs and rice pilaf

### Thursday

**Lunch** Pasta Toscano and Harvard beets  
**Dinner** Roasted chicken and dirty rice

### Friday

**Lunch** Roasted turkey and green beans  
**Dinner** Chicken breast and Southern-style greens

## 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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## 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

**Staff Sgt. Larry Tarr, Jr. of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 qualified with an expert score of 382 during the week of Sept. 20.**



## 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.
- Tornado condition 1 a tornado is imminent... For more information please call 228-7904, or for example warning tones, visit: [www.whelen.com/outdoor/warningtones.htm](http://www.whelen.com/outdoor/warningtones.htm).
- 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.

## 2d MAW provides NATO lifeline



Photos by Staff Sgt. James R. Richardson

**Marines with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and Marine aerial refueler transport squadrons deployed in support of NATO International Security Assistance Force operations load cargo onto a KC-130J Hercules at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Sept. 5. The Marines conducted an aerial drop to re-supply ground troops with necessary supplies of ammunition, food and water.**

## Marine KC-130Js resupply the fight in Afghanistan

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

CAMP BASTION Afghanistan — When supplies run thin at forward operating bases peppering the Helmand River valley, reassurance often comes with the strong hum of a Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules.

“Providing aerial resupplies is one of our primary missions,” said Capt. Sergio Luna, a KC-130J Hercules pilot with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152. “We have been flying out a lot of supplies and putting a lot of energy into getting ground forces in Afghanistan what they need.”

The counterinsurgency in Southwestern Afghanistan relies on Marines and their coalition partners who live at small outposts among Afghan towns and villages. The Marines patrol village streets assisting Afghan citizens and police forces to stand on their own.

However, these small outposts are often largely cutoff from the outside world and can be difficult to reach by convoy. Marine aviators use the Hercules aircraft to drop supplies by parachute, allowing ground troops to stay in the fight with water, food and ammunition.

“I feel that the most important factor of conducting aerial resupplies is the fact you are saving lives,” said Lance Cpl. Shane Johnson, a BMGR-152 loadmaster, and native

of Green Bay, Wis. “We are giving supplies to those who need them and keeping motor transportation Marines on the ground from being put into harm’s way.”

In addition to being immune to the threat of improvised explosive devices that could hinder a ground supply convoy’s progress, aerial drops deliver supplies faster without limitation from geographical obstacles.

“Our KC-130J is excellent for delivering large amounts of supplies quickly to where they are needed most,” said Luna, a native of Redmond, Wash. “We can get to areas and perform drops at speeds and places convoys can only dream about.”

The KC-130J Hercules is the largest aircraft in the Marine Corps arsenal. The propeller-driven, fixed-wing behemoth is the latest iteration of an airframe the U.S. military has relied on for more than 50 years.

The Marine Corps uses the Hercules for troop and supply transport throughout southwestern Afghanistan, as well as battlefield illumination during coalition night operations. The KC-130J also serves as an aerial refueling platform for Marine Attack Squadron 513’s AV-8B Harriers.

The KC-130J support in Afghanistan comes from a combined unit made up of



**A latch holds cargo in a Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules in the skies of Afghanistan, Sept. 5. The Hercules is capable of carrying more than 30,000 pounds of supplies to help ground forces maintain the fight against the enemy.**

three Marine aerial refueler transport squadron’s detachments from Miramar, Calif.; Okinawa, Japan; and Cherry Point, N.C.

Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, out of Cherry Point, currently serves as the command element for the deployed detachment. The Cherry Point troops work daily with BMGR-152 Marines, deployed from Okinawa.

Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, deployed from Miramar, operates the specially equipped Harvest HAWK KC-130J, which in addition to typical Hercules duties, is also capable of providing close-air support with its advanced targeting system and air-to-ground missiles.

“This is a great opportunity for us to demonstrate that we

are a team. We deliver supplies to all those fighting the insurgency,” said Luna.

The ability to move life-sustaining supplies safely and efficiently keeps Marines on the ground fighting. The Marines of the aerial refueler transport squadron said they understand the importance of their missions, and use the strength of the Hercules to get the supplies and equipment where they are needed most.

“We can load up to 30,000 pounds of water and other supplies, which can be lifted and delivered to our forces on the ground in a single drop,” said Johnson. “I have been on more drops than I can count. I cannot even begin to imagine the amount of stuff that we have given to troops and will continue to get them in the future.”

## CORPS BITS



### Ospreys demonstrate unique aerial capabilities in Belize

BRITISH ARMY TRAINING SUPPORT UNIT, Belize — The MV-22 Osprey continues to prove its versatility and capability as one of the newest machines in the Marine Corps’ arsenal. Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365 self-deployed to the small Central American country of Belize to conduct training this week demonstrating the Osprey’s enhanced utility over conventional helicopters.

First, the squadron demonstrated the Marine Corps’ ability to self-deploy. VMM-365 in conjunction with Marine Aerial Refueler Squadron 252 conducted long-range non-stop aerial refueling from MCAS New River, N.C., to Belize. In doing so, they demonstrated the tiltrotor aircraft’s extraordinary capability to conduct over-the-horizon operations and deal with a variety of situations when called upon.

After arriving in Belize, VMM-365 began training its pilots and aircrew to the same high standards they do at home but with an added degree of Operational Risk Management.

The pilots practice confined area landings at landing zones in the Belizean jungle and Maya Mountains. In the mountains, they cannot afford to overshoot or come up short of a landing zone because of the ruggedness of the terrain.

This is the first operation of its kind for an Osprey squadron in Belize and VMM-365 is spearheading an effort for more training opportunities for the Corps’ Osprey squadrons in this location.



### Marines make first extended stay in Zaranj

ZARANJ, Afghanistan — For the first time since Marines assumed the operational lead of the NATO mission in Helmand and Nimroz provinces, a group of Marines spent an extended stay in Zaranj, the capital of the remote Nimroz province along the Iranian border.

As with previous trips to Zaranj, which is located in the extreme Southwestern part of Afghanistan, the Marines came to mentor Afghan National Security Forces leaders.

During the expedition the Marines focused on emphasizing the need for different branches of local security forces to come together to solve the province’s problems.

Several leaders from local branches of the ANSF were present for the meetings, placing an emphasis on uniting and working together.

Nimroz is currently facing a serious drought and the people have found it difficult to acquire water.

Other concerns are the lack of medical personnel in Zaranj and, with its isolated location, the ANSF at Operational Coordination Center Provincial Nimroz has found it difficult to provide transportation for troops trying to leave or report into Zaranj.

The Marines with the ANSF development section will take these concerns and present them to officials back at the Regional Command headquarters. Marines also hope their presence during the trip will help bring the ANSF together, said Col. Michael J. Gann, operations officer for RC(SW)’s ANSF development section and native of Wichita, Kan.

After hours of discussion and mentoring, the Marines and their Afghan counterparts found time to sip tea, relax and enjoy their final evening together in one of the most remote parts of the country.



## Corps Shot

Cpl. Reece Lodder

**Corporal Richard Mikesell, a squad leader with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, digs in a machine gun position during Exercise Clear, Hold, Build 2 on Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 16.**

## MOH

continued from page 1

There was no applause or shouts of “Semper Paratus” and “ooh-rah” once the medal hung around his neck. Instead a solemn silence and approving expressions were given from the Marines of the Air Station, showing the respect and pride they took in Meyer’s example.

“We’re extraordinarily proud of Sgt. Dakota Meyer,” said Obama, before the citation and presentation. “The Medal of Honor reflects the gratitude of the entire nation. In Sgt. Dakota Meyer we see the best of a generation that has served with distinction through a decade of war.

“You did your duty above and beyond and you kept the faith with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps that you love. To our Marines, to all our men and women in uniform, to our fellow Americans, let us always be faithful,” Obama concluded.

Meyer is the third living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the War on Terror began. He is also the first living Marine since the Vietnam War, making the award ceremony a historic event for Marines everywhere.

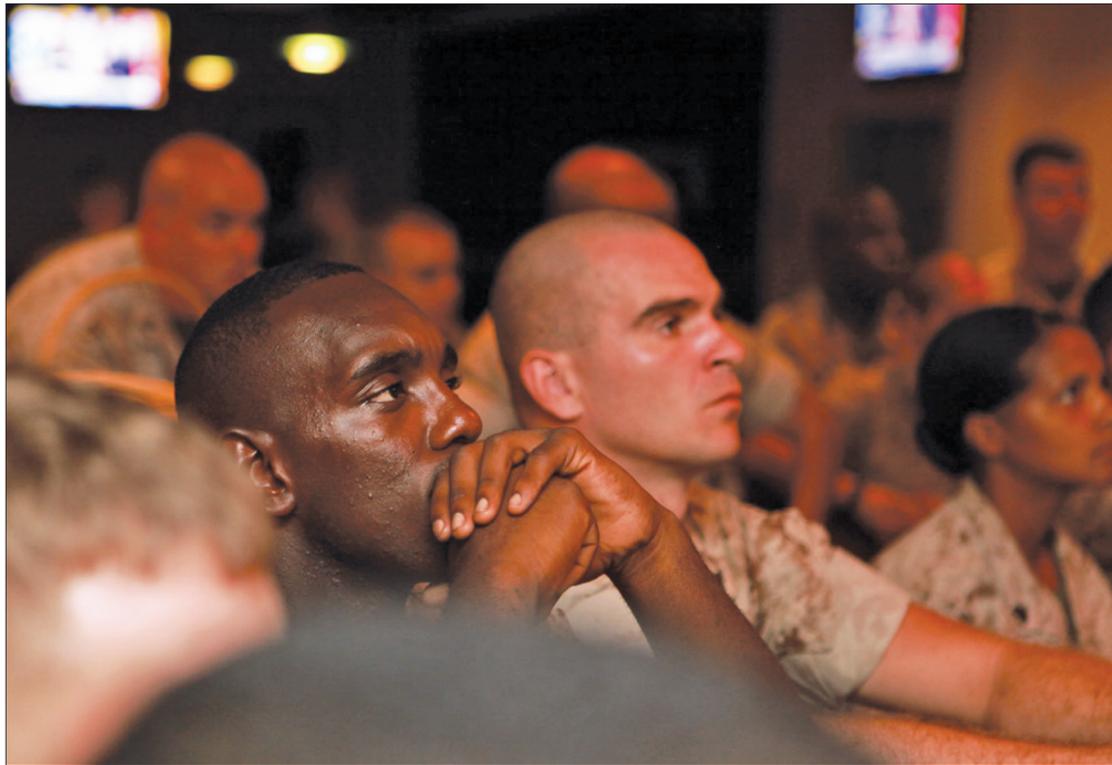
“The last two have been Army and now we have a Marine, so that’s definitely something we Marines look forward to,” said Cpl. Mario Reyes, a warehouse clerk with Marine Aircraft Group 31 and a native of New Brunswick, N. J.

Marines left as fast as they arrived to return to the responsibilities they put on hold to watch the ceremony.

Even though the event was planned short notice, it was well received by all.

“We had a really good turnout, and it will be something we keep our eye on more often,” said Brett Westfield the single Marine program coordinator on the Air Station.

Opening Afterburners for the ceremony may seem a small thing but it was greatly appreciated by those who attended. They will be able to recall where they were when Meyer received the Medal of Honor, that it was a solemn occasion they shared with Marines across the world.



Lance Cpl. Timothy Norris

Marines at the main bar of Afterburners aboard the Air Station watch the nationally broadcasted Medal of Honor ceremony for Sgt. Dakota Meyer Sept. 15. During the ceremony, President Barack Obama recalled Meyer’s actions that led to him receiving the Medal of Honor.

## VET

continued from page 1

fect location because, “a majority of the time when Marines walk into PMO, they are having the worst day of their life. This picture of Marines right before going into battle

reminds them that things could always be worst.”

In front of the formation, Hughes explained how he received the photo stating, “some friends of mine came across the photo and with me being a photographer, they gave it to me to see what I could do with it.”

What Hughes did was create a panoramic piece of history with authentic signatures.

“There were signatures on the back, and I thought ‘how cool would it be to put these on the front?’ so I photographed the signatures and did it,” Hughes said with a smile.

The photograph landing in Beaufort was a bit of luck, but as the saying goes, “luck is when opportunity knocks, and you answer.”

Randy Walz, services manager for PMO, and Cato both explained that Hughes was in the area and a phone call from an old connection united them and brought the picture to the Air Station.

“I am privileged to be able to present this to the Marines of the Air Station,” Hughes said.

To wrap things up, each Marine thanked Hughes for his service in Vietnam and for his contribution to the Air Station’s collection of Marine Corps history.

When asked about the picture, Cato concluded with an impactful, yet simple, “it is amazing.”



Photos by Lance Cpl. Ruben J. Tan

Different types of munitions are used to support both air and ground units while in combat. Pilots use many types of ordnance such as fire bombs, Mark 83 and MK-82 bombs.



Clouds form into what looks like a jet in the sky above Camp Wilson, aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. The wide-open areas surrounding Camp Wilson offer many ranges for aircraft to fly safely.

## PICTURE

continued from page 1

As units push through the various terrains, pilots support with different types of ordnance during the various exercises.

The Checkerboard pilots also get the chance to visit many different ranges in Twentynine Palms where live ordnance is authorized for use; in Beaufort, authorized ordnance is limited due to the urban areas surrounding the Air Station.

The types of ordnance pilots get the opportunity to use while in California are fire bombs, guided bomb units, joint direct attack munitions (JDAM), M61 Vulcan, Mark 83 and M-K 82 bombs.

“The aspect I enjoy most

about being a pilot is helping support the ground combat element from a distinct vantage point,” said Gardner a native of Palm Bay, Fla. “One of the stresses pilots face while supporting ground units is ensuring the effects of [their] weapons go to the appropriate places.”

Pilots also combat difficulty landing onto the airfield due to the matting. The traditional concrete or asphalt matting is not used, which makes braking while landing dangerous with the combination of high cross winds.

“Being out in Mojave Viper makes the Corps stronger because there is not many opportunities for a fixed-wing unit to work with ground units in a combined exercise before going into combat,” said Capt. Kyle Reilly, the scheduling officer for VMFA-312.

While in support of Mojave Viper, pilots practice many scenarios such as strike reinforcement missions, close-air support, low altitude tactics and search and rescue missions.

“The Marines who will return back to Beaufort will have the ability to explain to their peers what the fixed wing does as an air combat element in support of missions,” concluded Reilly, a native of Sioux Falls, S.D.



Lance Cpl. Rubin J. Tan

**Major James Hunt performs final aircraft checks with a plane captain before taking off. Hunt has been employing ordnance to support ground units while at Camp Wilson, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.**

## Major 'hunts' mission accomplishment

Lance Cpl. Rubin J. Tan  
Staff Writer

Major James Hunt, the squadron's executive officer, stands behind the teamwork of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 as he practices supporting ground units through air support and ensures the welfare of Marines.

This is Hunt's first time as an executive officer as he continues his career as a F/A-18 Hornet pilot.

Hunt decided at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., to become a Marine officer and pursue a career as a pilot in 1995.

"I remember reading a book in high school called 'Into the mouth of the cat', which is where I learned about Lance Sijan, an Air Force fighter pilot who was captured in Vietnam and was awarded the Medal of Honor," said Hunt, a native of Mooresville, N.C., regarding his inspiration to become a pilot.

Hunt was a weapons systems operator in F/A-18 Deltas, a two seated fighter jet, from 2000 to 2009, before becoming a pilot.

The Marine Corps deployed Hunt to many different places such as Kuwait in 2003, Afghanistan in 2004 and to Japan in 2001 and 2010.

"The Corps is always able to send me where our flexible air support is needed to get the mission accomplished," said Hunt.

"Now that we are supporting Mojave Viper, the squadron is able to focus on supporting the ground combat element, which is our main purpose in Marine Corps aviation."

This month, the Checkerboard pilots are training to drop ordnance near 3rd Marine division and 1st Light Armor Reconnaissance, who are expected to deploy to Afghanistan within the next couple months.

"While flying, there are various amounts of emotions a pilot experiences at the same time such as stress, excitement and nervousness," Hunt said.

Hunt's career continues to foster as he takes a step away from aircraft and helps



**Throughout Maj. James Hunt's career, he has been deployed to Kuwait, Afghanistan and Japan.**

with the development of Marines.

"He is guided by a set of morals, which keeps his focus on mission accomplishment, troop welfare and the families of 312," said Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Sanchez, the Checkerboard's sergeant major and a native of San Antonio.

Off the flightline, Hunt can be behind a computer making sure the Checkerboard's issues are addressed and Marines are being taken care of.

"Bottom line, he does everything in his power to run the squadron and allows me to command," said Lt. Col. Frank Latt, the commanding officer of VMFA-312.

With teamwork and dedication within the squadron, Hunt continues to care for Marines and ensures the squadron is able to accomplish any task at hand.

"Sometimes you need the executive officer to be the 'hammer' in the squadron," said Latt, a native of Orlando, Fla., "Even though Major Hunt can become the hammer, he is generally the nicest guy in the squadron."

# Finally; Boots in the sand

*This is a first person guide to the tips and tricks for other Marines from Fighbertown 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 3: Sept. 11, 2011 9/11 on the frontlines

Where were you when the towers fell? I was sitting in my 7th grade biology class.

I will never forget seeing those images on the television screen. I remember whispers of the students around me – young minds trying to understand what had just happened. The once great structure still stands in my mind, plumed in smoke and trimmed with fire.

At the time I had no idea that 10 years later I would be standing in Afghanistan wearing a desert camouflage uniform, with U.S. Marines emblazoned on my chest.

My story is similar to those of many of the Marines I've met. This past week I've helped dozens of hometown newspapers, radio and TV news station interview their Marines.

Some of the Marines directly tie 9/11 to their reason for joining the Marines. I've met pilots who joined a month after the at-

tack to go to their country's aid, staff noncommissioned officers in the throes of recruit training awaiting announcements of war.

I've met Marines who, like me, joined years after the attacks when they were finally old enough to enlist, and I've met those who were already in the military on Sept. 11, 2001, ready to go forward when their country called. It is awesome to see the pride and resolve in the American troops present in Afghanistan.

Camp Leatherneck held a ceremony in remembrance of that tragic day 10 years ago. The ceremony, and the faces of thousands of deployed Marines in attendance, were streamed live via satellite back to the U.S., so that people back home could see firsthand the young men and women in the fight in Afghanistan, and how we chose to remember the fallen that day.

During the ceremony, the Ma-

rines were reminded how the attack against America unfolded. As the orator spoke, she recounted each action on Sept. 11. A bell was rung and a brief moment of silence was held after every act. The bell rang in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the Pentagon. It rang in honor of the bravery of United Flight 93.

Major Gen. John Toolan, the Regional Command Southwest commanding general and New York City native, spoke at the event.

His words spoke of heroes, and I thought about what that word means to me. I realized that all around me standing in different uniforms and hailing from various nations are my era's heroes. Whether you are serving your country here in Afghanistan or back in Beaufort, S.C., if you are wearing a military uniform, you are a hero.

Everything that you do aids in the fight to help ensure our

country and our allies will never again be attacked by those wishing to bring fear and calamity into our lives. There are millions of heroes around the world, all of them united against those who hate freedom, who wish to prey on the defenseless.

My actions today as a United States Marine bring clarity to those events 10 years ago, when I was a boy in Salem, Ind.

Today I understand why our flag stands at half-mast. Today I understand why I am here. Today I understand the will of Americans to continue our way of life, to protect the freedoms and ideals that I and millions of others hold sacred.

I am proud to have been born beneath the Stars and Stripes, and I am glad to have made the choice to stand with other great men and women to protect our flag and freedom. I am humbled to stand at the tip of the spear on the 10th anniversary 9/11.

### EFFECT

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drugs to school, the family may not immediately be asked to leave base housing, and according to Staff Sgt. Matthew Haight, resource officer for Laurel Bay schools, it is a punishable offense and could be grounds for suspension or expulsion.

In the case of expulsion, in order to not be behind a grade year, the child would have to attend one of the surrounding area schools. Which in turn burdens the family because now, they have to drive the child to and from school every morning and throw a wrench in the cog of the families' daily routine.

Furthermore, "the incident will show up on the blotter, which the chain of command receives," explained Haight, a Southbridge, Mass., native.

At that point, it is left at the commander's discretion on whether or not a service member will be punished for the incident because according to Air Station Order 5100.27A and state law, parents are responsible for all of their children's actions.

In the event a child brings illegal drugs to school, an investigation will be launched to find out where the child got the drugs from.

To prevent this from happening, educating the child is key.





Photos by Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver

**MAG 31 wide receiver Gerren Means secures the touchdown catch from quarterback Kevin Davis during an intramural football game at the Air Station's football field Tuesday. Davis' second touchdown pass of the night was also Means' second touchdown reception of the night. The duo linked up five times in the 27-12 blowout.**

## MAG 31 steamrolls the competition

Means shows up big, Davis racks up 250 yards in convincing win

Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver  
Staff Writer

In week two of the intramural football season, MAG 31 had the mindset of stopping the high-powered offense of VMFA 224, but their offense awoke as their defense thwarted the giant in a 27-12 victory Tuesday.

The defense, led by middle linebacker Alfredo Ferrera, blanketed the 224 receivers with stellar coverage, forcing the 224 quarterback to settle for short dump-offs when he was not fleeing the pocket for his life.

Ferrera's defense gave the MAG 31 offense plenty of extra chances with their takeaways. One of which came in crunch time before the half, when defensive back Brandon Brown, intercepted an errant pass.

The interception put the ball into the dangerous hands of MAG 31 quarterback Kevin Davis, who not only made plays with his arm, but with his feet as well, which garnered him the nickname "Gunny Vick."

Davis led his offense down the field to score a touchdown before the close of the half, giving them the lead and go-to receiver Gerren Means his second touchdown catch of the night. Means finished the game with 2 receiving touchdowns and an interception.

The rest was downhill after that for MAG 31. Davis continued to lead his team to the endzone and their defense continued to keep the opposing offense from scoring.

Afterwards, Davis, who finished the game with four touchdown passes to three different receivers, said that their team knew they were going against a good offense and their defense would have to step up. MAG 31 did both and came off the field with a quality win.

In this game, MAG 31 proved that with a playmaker at



**A key first down for MAG 31 before the half put them into scoring position and gave them a chance to take the lead going into halftime during an intramural football game at the Air Station's football field Tuesday. The score came after an interception by defensive back, Brandon Brown, who finished the game with five receptions and two receiving touchdowns.**

receiver, a leader at defense and a highlight-reel quarterback at the helm, they are a force to be reckoned with.

## Yemassee hosts 18th annual Shrimp Festival

Lance Cpl. Rubin J. Tan  
Staff Writer

This year's Yemassee Shrimp Festival was held Friday through Sunday and offered many events such as a beauty pageant, shrimp eating contest, a street dance and even a parade which marched through the heart of Yemassee.

A great line of decorated and non-decorated vehicles, owned by townsmen and shop owners waved and threw candy to the crowds surrounding the streets as the Beaufort High School Band led the parade to the Town Hall.

Outside the Town Hall, many children ran around playing and laughing, random bubbles were bursting in the air as vendors sold T-shirts, jewelry, colorful seashell wind chimes, toys and hand-made glass mugs to those who walked by.

Two long lines of shade tents and food catering trucks surrounded families in another section of the festival as the smell of delicious shrimp filled the air.

"There was a lot of different cultures and wonderful arrangements of shrimp with all types of seasonings," said Lance Cpl. Nicholas Andrews a native of Coeur d'Alene, Ill., a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter.

The shrimp provided was like having Bubba Gump, from the movie "Forest Gump," describe the different ways you can cook "the fruit of the sea." The festival had fried shrimp, popcorn shrimp, barbeque shrimp, shrimp gumbo and a multitude of other variations. For those who are not fans of seafood, vendors also sold hot dogs, burgers, rice and many other foods.

A local band provided live music as they sang blues inside the fire station filled with people clapping and swaying along with the rhythm. Later that night the David Cooler band appeared as they also took the stage and provided entertainment.

Behind the Yemassee Town Hall, was a carnival with a Ferris wheel, carousel, giant slides, games and other attractions to keep the family entertained.

Many events were held such as a pet fashion show, fireworks display, street dance, shrimp eating contest, Elvis impersonator contest, local talent contest, mayor's dance and a Mud Run.

Each contestant who participated in the various events received a medal depending on their performance based on the crowd and judges.

Once dusk arrived on Saturday, the festival kicked fun into high gear as bright lights surrounded the concession stands and a second parade started. The day ended with fireworks exploding above as couples and families patiently watched from the Town Hall.

"People thoroughly enjoy the festival and are very willing to volunteer," said Yemassee Mayor Jebith Goodwin. "Many families and friends came together during the event to really enjoy themselves."

A Mud Run concluded this year's Yemassee Shrimp Festival on Sunday morning as townsmen had one last fun-filled event during the festival.

If patrons missed the Yemassee Shrimp Festival they can attend this year's 17th annual Beaufort Shrimp Festival on Friday Sept. 30 to Saturday Oct. 1.

