

FLIGHT JACKET

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**MWSS-374 adds to
3rd MAW assets**

**Marines recognized
for new airfield**



VMM-161 breaks in new training asset

An MV-22B Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 landed upon newly constructed landing pads during a confined area landing exercise.

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Aztecs send rounds down range

The Aztec Battalion cadets used the training facilities aboard East Miramar during a three-day field-training exercise during which they increased their military knowledge.

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Recycling center cleans up Miramar

The recycling center collects cardboard, paper, glass, wood, aluminum and brass from more than 45 locations aboard Miramar every week.

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Maj. Gen. Andrew O'Donnell Jr.
Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



Col. Frank A. Richie
Commanding Officer
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.



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Luke Boyd, a wide receiver with the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Falcons, drives through players from the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion Gators at Paige Field House here Oct. 24. The Falcons lost the game 28-20 and placed second in the division.

Falcons declawed, take second in division

Photos by Pfc. Kevin Crist



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Micha Davis, right, a player with the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Falcons, competes with a player from the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion Gators for a catch at Paige Field House here Oct. 24.



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Donnie Gilray, the quarterback for the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Falcons and a Rowlett, Texas, native, prepares to pass at Paige Field House here Oct. 24. The Falcons lost the game 28-20 and placed second in the division.



Marines
have
smashing
time at
SMP bash

NEW FIELD ON THE WAY AT MIRAMAR

(Above and Right) Construction workers with Menco Pacific Inc. level the ground outside the Miramar Sports Complex here Oct. 24. The workers are installing a synthetic field for flag football and soccer, which will improve the base by using less water and giving Marines and families an improved place to enjoy the outdoors. (Photo by Pfc. Kevin Crist)



Pfc. Matthew R. Manning, a supply administration clerk with Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38 and a Highlands Ranch, Colo., native, leaps backward after hitting a buzzer at the top of a rock wall during the Single Marine Program Halloween Bash here Oct. 26. The Halloween party included free food, a dance contest, casino games and live music. Guests also bought tickets for a chance to drop various Miramar gunnery sergeants and sergeants major in a dunk tank to raise money for the SMP. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo)

For more photos click [HERE](#).



MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – An MV-22B Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 participates in a confined area landing exercise here Oct. 20. The squadron used two newly built landing pads constructed by Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 Marines for drills to land in a dusty terrain similar to Afghanistan. (Photo by Pfc. Max S. Pennington)

VMM-161 breaks in new training asset

Story by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER, TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – Swirls of dust flew up around a Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 MV-22B Osprey as it landed upon newly constructed landing pads during a confined area landing exercise here Oct. 29.

Col. Patrick Gramuglia, the Marine Aircraft Group 16 commanding officer, made an appearance during the training to express his gratitude for the efforts of the 16 Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 who spent more than three weeks

clearing the area and constructing the two new landing pads.

“The landing pads are exceptional,” said Gramuglia. “The workmanship and what they will allow our MAG to do with training will really help us out.”

The pads serve as a way to give pilots a visual of the ground at all times while cutting down on the amount of dust encompassing the aircraft, which can lead to maintenance problems.

Continued next page

By cutting down on dust the landing pads also increase safety by eliminating the “brown-out” effect, which blocks visibility of the terrain with clouds of dirt and dust as pilots are landing.

“This is a long process,” said Staff Sgt. Jaydin S. Keo, a heavy equipment staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge with MWSS-374 and a Modesto, Calif., native. “Our initial site survey showed rough terrain and a lot of dirt that needed to be moved. There were a lot of man-hours involved to get us where we are today.”

Since returning from Afghanistan in March, Keo has completed four helicopter landing zones, and explained each site is a new beast

with different terrain, weather and time restraints.

The airfield was designed to cover virtually every mission essential task that a Marine Wing Support Squadron does in a deployed environment in a very short period of time, including the creation and destruction of a forward operating base, explained Lt. Col. Scott R. Johnson, the commanding officer of MWSS-374.

These new landing pads kicked off their role as the latest 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing training assets by serving as a good practice arena for the aircrews of VMM-161 who could be called on to conduct confined area landings on terrain similar to this in Afghanistan.

“This is a long process. Our initial site survey showed rough terrain and a lot of dirt that needed to be moved. There were a lot of man-hours involved to get us where we are today.”

—Staff Sgt. Jaydin S. Keo
Heavy equipment staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge with MWSS-374



MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – Col. Patrick A. Gramuglia, the commanding officer for Marine Aircraft Group 16, thanks Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 for the creation of new landing zones here Oct. 20. Sixteen Marines from MWSS-374 spent more than three weeks clearing the area and constructing two new landing pads for squadrons belonging to 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing in preparation for upcoming deployments.

Aztecs send rounds down range

Story by Pfc. Max S. Pennington

Grant Shin, a San Diego State University Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet and a Norwalk, Calif., native, lies in the prone position as he participates in a field-training exercise here Oct. 21. (Photo by Pfc. Max S. Pennington)



Andre Smith, a San Diego State University Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet and a Newport News, Va., native, fires rounds down range on the Carlos Hathcock Range here Oct. 21. (Photo by Pfc. Max S. Pennington)

Bursting 5.56 mm rounds are a familiar sound at the Carlos Hathcock Range, but for many of the 145 San Diego State University Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets this was their first time hearing the ‘pops’ as they fired M-16A4 rifles here Oct. 21.

The Aztec Battalion cadets took advantage of the training facilities aboard East Miramar, such as the Carlos Hathcock Range and trails, during a three-day field-training exercise during which they increased their military knowledge.

“We’re giving the junior cadets an opportunity to lead a squad in preparation for the ‘Warrior Forge,’” said Shane A. Swanson, a San Diego State University Army ROTC cadet and a Tucson, Ariz., native.

After the cadets’ junior year at school, they attend the Warrior Forge, which is an event conducted every sum-

mer in Ft. Lewis, Wash. Cadets from ROTC units across the nation are assessed at the Warrior Forge.

“For the cadets, it is the final stage [of their ROTC training],” said 2nd Lt. Ryan Proctor, a recruiting operations officer with Aztec Battalion, ROTC command and an Enterprise, Ala., native. “They get tested on everything they have learned.”

During the Warrior Forge, the cadets complete the Army physical fitness test, land navigation, patrolling and situational training exercises, during which they undergo squad attacks, ambushes and movement to enemy fire.

The cadets know the training facilities at East Miramar will give them an edge during the Warrior Forge.

“I’ve heard stories of cadets from other schools where they were doing tactical training at their campus football field,” said Dennis Alcazar, SDSU Army ROTC cadet and a San Diego, Calif., native. “Here we get to use actual ranges.”

East Miramar’s terrain provided the battalion cadets with a more realistic feeling of a combat zone in preparation for the Warrior Forge.

“We get a lot more out of this than walking around a football field at a college campus,” said Swanson. “It’s better that we have this help from our Marine Corps brothers.”

The SDSU Army ROTC unit is composed of students from surrounding schools, such as the University of California San Diego, California State University San Marcos, University of San Diego, Point Loma Nazarene University, Alliant University, National University, University of Phoenix and all San Diego County junior colleges.

The ROTC program is designed for college students interested in a military career. Throughout their time in the ROTC program the students learn leadership skills and are able to pursue a career in the military as a commissioned officer.

After completion of the Warrior Forge the cadets will receive their assessment, during which they find what job is best for them. The access to East Miramar’s facilities helped prepare the cadets for the upcoming Warrior Forge, but also gave them a look at their future as U.S. Army commissioned officers.



Sgt. Gabriel A. Perez, a warehouse chief with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and a Fort Worth, Texas, native, lowers an empty dumpster here Oct. 26. All paper-filled dumpsters are emptied and cleaned weekly to maintain a quick turnover of recyclable goods. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo)



Sgt. Jonathan B. Nobles, a recycling lot supervisor with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and a Livingston, Texas, native, attaches a trailer filled with cardboard to a truck for recycling retrieval. Marines with the recycling center must collect approximately 45 trailers filled with cardboard across base each week. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo)

Recycling center cleans up Miramar

Story by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo

The worker bee Marines of the recycling center can be seen buzzing around the hive of MCAS Miramar gathering, condensing and distributing recyclable items used by fellow service members.

Cardboard, paper, glass, wood, aluminum and brass from more than 45 locations are collected and prepared for distribution each week to various vendors around San Diego through the efforts of those working in the Miramar recycling center.

The billet of a recycling center Marine is not a specific military occupational specialty. It is based on base-wide need and is open through the fleet assistance program to Marines and sailors who are not currently deployable.

“We never have more than about 10 people working at one time to get all of this done each week,” said Sgt. Jonathan B. Nobles, a recycling lot supervisor with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and a

Livingston, Texas, native. “We separate each day for a different task as a way to manage it.”

The collection portion of the workload is split between Monday through Thursday. Two Marines load a truck with empty bins to replace full ones located around base that are brought back to the recycling center.

Cardboard collection is the primary focus at the beginning of the week. Cardboard must be put through a cardboard bailer to condense it into easily gathered bales vendors retrieve monthly. Those living and working aboard MCAS Miramar produce on average a bale of cardboard every day.

The “barracks route” is covered each Tuesday. This involves emptying out 64-gallon bins located outside the duty hut of each unit’s barracks.

“After these are emptied, we have to go back and power-wash them out,” said Cpl. Jock H. Sears, a recycling center worker with H&HS and a Denver native. “The bins can get disgusting quickly, and we clean them

weekly to keep that from happening.”

The rest of the week follows a similar recycling pattern of plastic, paper, glass and brass collection.

Each Wednesday is spent picking up wooden pallets from aviation supply, the Commissary, the Marine Corps Exchange and any unit that may have any pallets ready for disposal. The final collection route day, Thursday, is spent collecting paper. This includes more than 40 stops and must be started no later than 7 a.m. to gather everything, explained Nobles.

Friday is used to catch up on any work not finished throughout the week and to get an early start on the following week’s cardboard collection.

The Marines who work at the recycling center serve the Marine Corps by working Monday through Friday to reduce the waste production of MCAS Miramar by preparing recyclable goods for distribution and reuse.

The Miramar Minute

MALS-11 cryogenic Marines cool off

Video by Cpl. Lisa M. Tourtelot



MIRAMAR MINUTE



If video does not play, click [HERE](#).

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Padre Pedal Power Veteran's Day 50 mile Bike Ride



Registration is now open and the U.S. Navy Chaplain's invite you to become a part of our Bike Ride. 2011 marks the fourth year for the Padre Pedal Power Veterans Day Bike Ride, which consists of a 50 mile ride down the coast of San Diego.

Not a race but ride, which provides a patriotic environment to raise awareness for our veterans and raise money for the Semper Fi Fund. Fun for all of all ages and athletic abilities coupled rest stops throughout the ride.

WHEN: Veteran's Day, November 11, 2011

START: Starting 0800 at the flag pole IMEF Headquarters, Camp Pendleton (Del Mar)

FINISH: MCRD San Diego

FEE: \$25 Suggested Donation to Semper Fi Fund.

<https://semperfifund.org/>

To register contact:
858-577-7368

