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Did you know...

Nov. 10, 1992, flags were lowered at Marine Barracks, Guam for the last time

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Preventing oil pollution

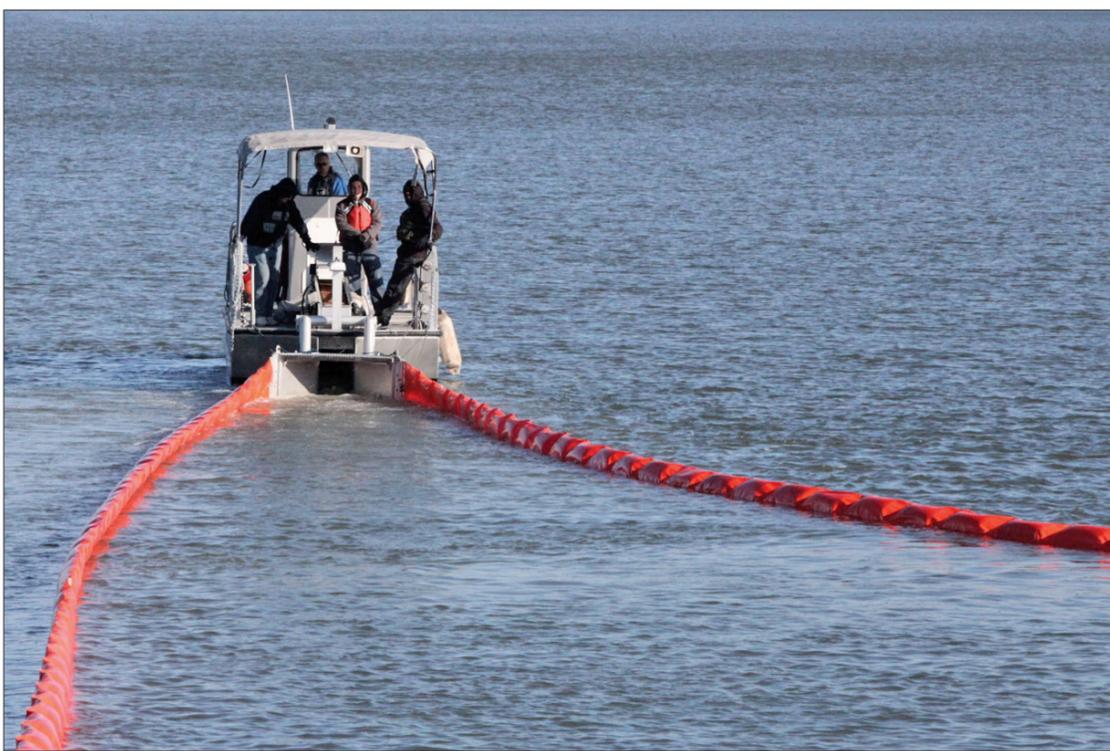
Spill teams practice response exercises

Lance Cpl. Ruben J. Tan
Staff Writer

Fightertown's spill management team and facility response team members practiced drills to better prepare themselves for a disastrous oil spill at the Air Station's fuel pier, Nov. 2.

The teams worked with the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Office to learn how to enclose contaminated water and neutralize the threat.

"The facility response team are the individuals who physically address the spill by being out on the water operating boats," said Corey Jackson, Air Station environmental inspector and Comprehensive Environ-



Lance Cpl. Ruben J. Tan

Facility response team members position a skimmer vessel to capture oil during spill management training at the Air Station fuel pier, Nov. 2. Containment booms were used to control the direction of spilled oil toward the boat.

SEE OIL, PAGE 6

Veterans lend hand

Sgt. Gina C. Rindt
Staff Writer

Veterans Day is a day set aside each year to celebrate the men and women who have fought and served to protect the freedom of every American citizen.

Most veterans have a role in the community not everyone sees or hears. Through local organizations such as Kiwanis Club of Beaufort, Veterans of Foreign Wars, The Little Red Dog Foundation and the Loyal Order of Moose, veterans are able to continue to support their local neighborhoods through community outreach and volunteering.

"Being a veteran and getting the chance to help the community and give back makes everything I do worth it," said Jimmie Woods, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, family readiness officer and local veteran. "As a member and governor of the Loyal Order of Moose, I spend a lot of time organizing events for children and senior citizens and helping anyway I can."

There are many former service members who remain in the local communities they served in and continue to play active roles. The Air Station has many prior military members working in support of active-duty forces.

SEE VETS, PAGE 5

4th annual Energy Fair



Lance Cpl. Ruben J. Tan

Neil Tisdale, Air Station utility director and energy manager, poses with the Navy/Marine Corps Energy Efficiency light bulb mascot during the annual Energy Fair at the Officers' Club, Nov. 1.

FOR STORY SEE PAGE 4

Fightertown civilians receive appreciation

Lance Cpl. Ruben J. Tan
Staff Writer

The contributions and devotion to duty of Department of Defense and nonappropriated fund employees of Marine Corps Community Services were recognized during a Civilian Appreciation Day at Afterburners, Nov. 3.

The MCCS sponsored event was attended by Col. Brian Murtha, Air Station commanding officer, who gave a speech during the event to acknowledge the hard work and dedication civilians have invested. Commander Charles Kessler, Air Station command Chaplain, also provided prayer for the participants.

"It is important to have a Civilian Appreciation Day because [civilian employees] are a part of the team and it is important to acknowledge their contributions," said Gunnery Sgt. Tamara McMillan, a Bellwood, Ill., native, Air Station equal opportunity advisor and event coordinator.

As a sign of appreciation, certificates were given out to DoD employees who have served the government for five years or more.

SEE CIVILIANS, PAGE 6



Lance Cpl. Timothy Norris

Lance Cpl. Joshua Crowell, Provost Marshal's Office military policeman, drives in reverse through the Emergency Vehicle Operators Course aboard the Air Station, Oct. 31. The course is required training for military policemen and challenges their ability to keep control of a vehicle while responding to an emergency situation.

EVOC keeps MPs road ready

Lance Cpl. Timothy Norris
Staff Writer

Provost Marshal's Office military policemen burned rubber applying 40 hours of classroom instruction during the Emergency Vehicle Operators Course aboard the Air Station, Oct. 31.

The course, a mandatory certification to drive any emergency management vehicle, provides real life driving techniques enabling drivers to maintain control of their vehicle during an emergency response.

The training allows EMV operators to sharpen their focus, thus maintaining a better state of preparedness for the unseen obstacles they may encounter.

"This course puts stress on the driver and helps make the dangers [of the road] a reality," said Cpl.

SEE EVOC, PAGE 4

Tri-Command News Briefs

- The office of Beaufort County Veterans Affairs has scheduled the 2011 Veterans Day Ceremony today at 11 a.m., at the Beaufort National Cemetery. The ceremony will follow the Veterans Day Parade, which is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. The parade will follow the traditional downtown parade route that begins on Rodgers Street parallel to the cemetery and goes down U.S. Highway 21 toward the Woods Memorial Bridge. The Parris Island Marine Corps Band will perform in the parade and during the ceremony.

- Marine Corps Community Services offers a social networking class from 10 a.m. to noon, today at the Marine Corps Family Team Building House on Laurel Bay to help families stay safe while using the computer to network with family and friends. Register in advance with Nicole Bright-Hardee at 228-7311 or brighthardeend@usmc-mccs.org

- Photocopying of military identification cards is a violation of Title 18, US Code Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701 and punishable by both fine and/or imprisonment. Note this does not apply to medical establishments and other government agencies in the performance of official government business.



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 Baked ziti and toasted garlic bread
Dinner Shrimp curry and summer squash

Sunday

Lunch Herb chicken and confetti rice
Dinner Pork chops and green beans

Monday - Friday Breakfast

Hot farina, hot hominy grits and oven fried bacon

Monday

Lunch Pepper steak and steamed rice
Dinner Veal Parmesan and cream corn

Tuesday

Lunch Bayou chicken and cauliflower
Dinner Baked turkey and noodles and peas

Wednesday

Lunch Pork loin and Islander's rice
Dinner Chicken tortilla soup and Creole shrimp

Thursday

Lunch Roast chicken breast and bread sticks
Dinner Lemon chicken and Spanish rice

Friday

Lunch Baked fish and Yucatan style rice
Dinner Louisiana seafood gumbo and rice



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

Squadron Happening

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron will have an all hands operational pause at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon and 4 p.m., Monday at the Lasseter Theater. For more information, contact Gunnery Sgt. Maurice Bease at 228-7033



Volunteer opportunities

On base:

Event: Air Station Christmas Concert

Date: Practices are Tuesdays

Time: 6 p.m.

Uniform: Appropriate attire

Description: Musicians to participate in the base Christmas concert

Location: Base Chapel

POC: Chaplain's office at 228-7200 or JoBeth Peterman at 644-5353

In the community:

Event: Lowcountry Habitat for Humanity

Date: Ongoing

Time: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to noon

More Information: Main office at 522-3500 or weekend supervisor at 812-8956

Registration required: www.lowcountryhabitat.org

Event: Child Abuse Prevention Association

Date: Ongoing

Description: Various volunteer opportunities

POC: Katie Grindle at capa714@earthlink.net

More information: Main office at 524-4350 or 525-0070

Event: HELP of Beaufort

Date: Ongoing

Description: Various volunteer opportunities

Location: 1910 Baggett Street, Beaufort

POC: Main office at 524-1223

Event: Animal Control Shelter

Date: Ongoing

Description: Assist in the care and cleaning of animals housed in the shelter, foster animals, help educate the public, provide support for administrative functions and help with off site adoption programs

Location: 23 Shelter Church Road Hwy. 21

POC: Main office at 255-5010



Contact us:

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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...
- Thunder storm Condition 1, winds up to 50 knots and/ or hail up to 3/4 of an inch...
- Tornado condition 1 a tornado is imminent...
- Tornado condition 2... observed within 60 nautical miles
- An all clear broadcast will be

announced sounding "all clear".
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.

Fightertown deployed:



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

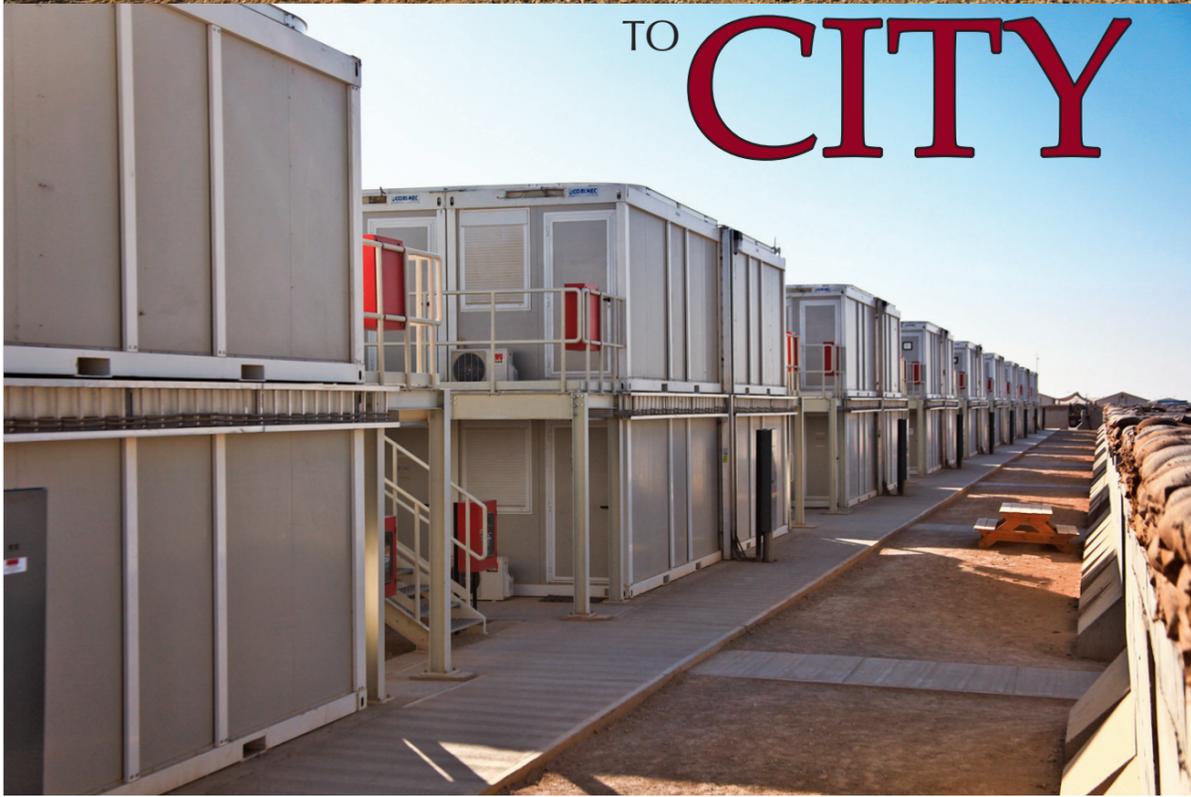


MWSS-273 Sweathogs
are currently deployed in support of Enhanced Mojave Viper to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.



FROM
MOON DUST
TO
CITY

Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan G. Wilber



Cpl. Meredith Brown

Leatherneck grows to service warfighters

Cpl. Meredith Brown
II MEF (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Over the last two years, Camp Leatherneck, located in Helmand province, has dramatically evolved. When Marines and their Navy counterparts first started building the base it was a mere 400 acres. Now, at more than 1,600 acres, the base serves as the main hub for all units operating within Regional Command Southwest's Helmand and Nimruz provinces.

Departing and arriving units complete their turnovers and sustainment training at Camp Leatherneck before heading out to the different forward operating and patrol bases, as well as combat outposts within RC(SW).

Camp Leatherneck is one of the largest Marine forward operating bases in history. The camp regularly services more than 19,000 coalition troops and civilian personnel, said Gunnery Sgt. Peter McCollough, the base operations chief and a native of Miami. The base began being built up under the command of 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan in early 2009, and has continued evolving, he explained.

The camp serves as the headquarters for Task Forces Belleau Wood, Helmand and Leatherneck, and has a robust command and control aspect, he added.

Additionally, coalition forces operate on neighboring base, Camp Bastion. The joint forces work together to run the airfield and hospital, which are both located on the British base.

With more than 3,000 facilities on base, Camp Leatherneck can now easily be described as a self-sustained city, with the closest comparison being to Al Asad, Iraq. They both have served as regional headquarters with large airfields and command and control centers located on them. It is the constant moving parts of Camp Leatherneck that

make operating smoothly a continuous task.

Marines at the Camp Commandant's office work to ensure the necessary duties are completed each day.

McCollough and his team of 21 Marines are responsible for the dozens of tasks involved in keeping the base functioning. Everything from laundry and waste water removal to the delivery of non-potable water is completed each day.

With them making sure everything on base is running smoothly, Camp Leatherneck continues to evolve to meet the warfighter's needs.

"We can still expand another four to six hundred acres, but we want to grow systematically," said Philip Russo, the Camp Leatherneck architect master planner. "We don't want to grow just because we have the space, we want to grow because there is a reason. Having the foresight and ability to assign units where they go and grow properly, was a big keystone for Leatherneck."

Russo, a Pittston, Pa., native, who now calls Chicago home, arrived at Camp Leatherneck in June 2009 and has since played a lead role in the development and expansion of the base.

"It has been continually changing," Russo said. "We don't just operate from a functional perspective, but we account for troops outside the wire. When they come back, they are able to recuperate and get their heads together and live properly."

Even with the responsibility of building what some may say is similar to a small city in a combat zone, Russo credits most of Camp Leatherneck's successes to the continuity between the service members and contractors on the base.

"It's not just one person deciding what happens," Russo continued. "It's thousands of people making a difference, doing the right thing at the right time for the right reason. That is why Leatherneck is the way it is. It's a whole lot of people doing a whole lot of the right thing."



Corps Shot
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar courtesy photo
A Navajo Code Talker relays a message on a field radio. The code talkers served in the South Pacific during World War II and were kept a secret until 1968 when the Navajo code was finally declassified.

CORPS BITS



...TY DONE... FOR FREEDOM'S LI
OF THE SEA. OR IN YOUR BED

Marines tour Corregidor, explore long lasting relationship

CORREGIDOR ISLAND, Republic of the Philippines — Marines and sailors of Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit toured historic Corregidor Island, Nov. 4.

Corregidor Island guards the entrance to Manila Bay and was the place of the last stand of allied Philippine and American service members at the beginning of the occupation of the Philippines by invading Japanese forces.

"Any time you can get exposed to any history, get your hands on it and touch it, you feel the power of it," said Cpl. Jacob Baldwin, maintenance non commissioned officer, CLB-31. "It makes it much more real and tangible when you get to walk the soil where blood was shed. This was one place I wanted to see before I died - Corregidor Island."

The Marines and sailors toured the longest barracks in the world at the time, known as the "Mile-Long Barracks." It held more than 8,000 U.S. and Philippine service members at the height of its use in the early 1940s, according to tour operators.

Among the allied service members who were there during the Japanese attack and occupation in 1942 were U.S. Marines of the 4th Marine Regiment. The Marines were assigned the task of securing beaches where the Japanese were thought likely to land.

"Being a Marine back then, they heard from Gen. MacArthur, 'Whenever you get a chance, strike; for your family, strike; and for your future sons and daughters, strike.' Back then it was all about protecting their future," said Baldwin. "Now we are the future, we are living out that dream."

The service members had the opportunity to enter the Malinta Tunnel, the last stronghold of joint Philippine and American military forces in the Philippines, and Gen. Douglas MacArthur's command center. It was there that the allied forces sheltered and fought for a bitter five months before eventual surrender in the face of starvation.

"Malinta Tunnel was one of the most striking things of the tour, it makes you really appreciate the quality of life and living conditions we have now," said Navy Lt. Jason Dulac, dental officer, 31st MEU. "It helps you be very thankful for the clean air we breathe on ship, the air conditioning the sunlight. We get focused on supplies we might not have here, but it is nothing compared to what the Marines in those tunnels went through. There was a story about 14 Marines holding down another Marine so they could amputate, because they ran out of anesthesia - it makes you appreciate the conditions we have now."

The Marines and sailors also toured coastal defense guns and mortars, military cemeteries and the Pacific War Memorial and Museum.

The visiting U.S. service members gathered for a group photo at the Army pier where MacArthur secretly left the Philippines, vowing, "I shall return." It is also the site of the fulfillment of that promise.

Near the end of the tour, the visiting Marines gathered around the statue of two wounded service members, a Philippine and an American, and read aloud the inscription that immortalizes the sacrifice of those who served on Corregidor.

"In these hallowed surroundings where heroes sleep, may their ashes scatter with the wind and live in the hearts of those who were left behind," the Marines read. "They died for freedom's right and in Heaven's sight, theirs was a noble cause."

Saving money though energy innovation

Lance Cpl. Rubin J. Tan
Staff Writer

The fourth annual Energy Fair, sponsored by public works, was held at the Officers' Club, Nov. 1.

Graphs, charts, monitors and electrical equipment demonstrations were used to visually display the amount of energy used yearly and the effects changes made on the Air Station have had on energy consumption.

"The purpose of the Energy Fair is to let people know what the base is doing to conserve energy," said Belton Tisdale, Energy Fair coordinator and Air Station public works utility director and energy manager.

Light bulbs across Fightertown have been switched from traditional tungsten bulbs to energy efficient fluorescents, decreasing the overall consumption of electricity.

"Switching to fluorescent light bulbs would have been expensive in the past, but with technology moving forward, the cost has decreased," said Tisdale, a Charleston native. "Sixty-watt traditional light bulbs are no longer produced by manufacturers due to energy consumption and short bulb life."

Fightertown began using energy efficient alternatives in 2007 to comply with Executive Order 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management.

Cogeneration plants, which create both hot water and electricity, and solar panel parking garages, such as the ones found at the explosive ordnance disposal facility, are just some of the other innovative steps Air Station personnel have taken to save energy.

"It is nice to know we can spend money on other things with the money saved on electricity," said Keystone, Fla., native, Cpl. Dale Riviere, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31, pyrogenic equipment operator.

Motor regulators are used in office buildings on base to control the power of air conditioning units depending on work hours.

In addition, personnel can do their part to help save energy by turning off air conditioning units, lights and electronics before leaving their barracks room, and reporting broken items such as air conditioning units and windows to public works at 228-7527.



Lance Cpl. Rubin J. Tan

A power analyzer is used to electronically monitor watt usage differences between fluorescent and traditional light bulbs during the annual Energy Fair at the Officers' Club, Nov. 1. Most light bulbs on the Air Station have been switched to fluorescent, a more energy efficient alternative to traditional bulbs.



A Spokesman from Trane Air Solutions speaks to Department of Defense employees about clean, cost-efficient air conditioning systems used in facilities aboard the Air Station during the Energy Fair at the Officers' Club, Nov. 1.

Sports:

Service members, family run inaugural half marathon

Lance Cpl. Timothy Norris
Staff Writer

Thirty-three participants ran 13.1 miles during the inaugural Marine Corps Community Services sponsored 2011 Half Marathon aboard the Air Station, Nov. 5.

The windy Saturday morning brought out running enthusiasts who challenged themselves to defeat the distance, cold, inexperience or running in boots and utilities.

Robert Sprouse, a marathon participant, makes a weekly habit of running perimeter road in boots and utilities. Sprouse added two extra miles to his routine to finish the half marathon finishing in 2 hours, 50 minutes, 24 seconds.

"You can't be [afraid] of the unknown and I wanted to see if I could do it," he said, adding that in the end, the rigorous run was worth it.

While Sprouse was the only participant who ran the race in boots and utilities, clothing was not the only hindrance to the runners. Cold winds made the 13 miles uncomfortable, but also kept runners on their toes.

"It was tough going out, but on the way back it pushed me to get out of the cold and finish," said Joe Love, who finished first with a time of 1:30:30, averaging a seven minute mile pace.



Lance Cpl. Timothy Norris

Awards await the runners of the 2011 Half Marathon held aboard the Air Station, Nov. 5. Joe Love took first place with a time of 1 hour, 30 minutes, 30 seconds.

Despite the numbing cold, there were still a lot of participants, said Chuck Culpepper, MCCS, athletic director. He held the belief that there was enough interest in this type of race to make it an annual event.

"Marines like to ride through these kinds of challenges, we want to do our part and provide these challeng-

es for them," said Culpepper, a Mobile, Ala., native.

The final participant crossed the finish line with shouts of motivation and congratulations from all the race participants, leaving everyone with the feeling no one would be left behind, rather, they would be greeted with enthusiasm and respect.

EVOC

continued from page 1

David Warren, EVOC instructor and Provost Marshal's Office military policeman.

The Huntsville, Ala., native was in the passenger seat giving instructions while each student drove the course.

Serpentine cones, unexpected obstacle avoidance, random lane changes, high speed U-turn, reverse and parallel parking were all included in the 25mph-maximum driving course.

The difficulty in navigating the course came with the handling of the steering wheel, explained Warren. A driver can not use one hand, or reach a hand across the other.

This technique of firmly keeping both hands on the steering wheel is paramount because it allows the driver to stay in control of the vehicle while driving at higher speeds, reducing the risk of accidents.

Military policemen must recertify in the course every three years. However, a refresher course is recommended by PMO each year, keeping the MPs ready to confidently respond to an emergency situation.

The techniques take time and patience, but build confidence in our abilities to react, said Lance Cpl. Jerry Thomas, PMO military policeman.

"The training makes you more confident," said the Westland, Mich., native. "At low speeds it's not so bad, but at higher speeds it's an adrenaline rush."

Running the course each year may seem redundant in theory, but even seasoned MPs learn something new every time.

This is why the mandatory training is good for new Marines, says William Reeves, field training officer.

"They may not realize until later how important this training is," said Reeves, a native of Jackson, Ga. "Just like any other intense situation, your training takes over and it can save lives."



Photos by Sgt. Gina C. Rindt

Jimie Woods, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, family readiness officer aboard the Air Station and local veteran, prepares food while volunteering at the Beaufort Loyal Order of Moose, Nov. 1. Woods, the governor for the order, helps as much as he can during events held on a daily basis for members and guests. The order is just one of many veteran infused organizations helping their community.

VETS

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“Having veterans in roles aboard the installations guarantees an understanding of what needs to be done and making sure it is done properly,” said Gregory Craft, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Egress Trainer Facility supervisor with Station Training, and recently retired master sergeant.

Veterans choose many different paths after their time in the military. Some stay in a military work environment, while others choose to become more involved in their community.

“When I retired and decided to stay in the Beaufort area, I joined an organization that cares for children in need and senior citizens,” said Woods, a native of Corpus Christi, Texas. “The good things the Loyal Order of Moose does – not only for the community, but for the children and elderly



Preparing hamburgers and hotdogs is one of many ways Woods, along with many other veterans, show their support for their community and the individuals in need by volunteering and continuing to make a difference.

nationwide – make me love what I do even more.”

The local community will be celebrating with a Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony today. The office of Beaufort County Veterans Affairs scheduled the Veterans Day Parade for 9:30 a.m., and the ceremony will follow at 11 a.m., at the Beaufort National Cemetery.

“Weather you are an active duty service member, retiree or served your country for a few years, you are still a veteran and deserve the honor and respect that comes with all you did for this country and what you continue to do no matter how big or small,” said Craft, a Houghton, La., native.

Change of Command



Lance Cpl. Eric Warner

Lieutenant Col. George Rowell, outgoing commanding officer of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533, passes the unit colors to incoming commanding officer, Lt. Col. Branden Bailey, Nov. 4. In June 2011, Bailey, then executive officer, deployed with VMFA(AW)-533 in support of the Unit Deployment Program to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

OIL

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mental Training and Education Program coordinator.

The spill management team has the responsibility of contacting the necessary governmental agencies such as the Coast Guard, or the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Jackson said.

Hard booms and containment booms are long floats used to create barriers in the water that control the path of the contaminant.

“Oil does not mix with water and the weight difference allows oil to sit on top, which makes the booms effective,” said Ralph Dagin, Air Station pollution prevention coordinator and situation unit leader for the facility spill management team.

A ‘U’ shaped booming method was used south of the pier to prevent the simulated oil on the water from traveling down stream. The

team then had to respond to a change in the current.

A platform boat began to drop containment booms north of the simulated spill, creating a funnel shaped barrier directing the contaminants toward the skimmer vessel, a boat used to vacuum up the spillage into a back truck.

“We cannot capture all that has been released during an oil spill,” said Jackson, a Michigan City, Ind., native.

He continued, through the course of removal, only about 20 to 30 percent of waste is able to be extracted by the team efforts. The remainder however, is removed through natural means of evaporation and carbon dioxide in soil.

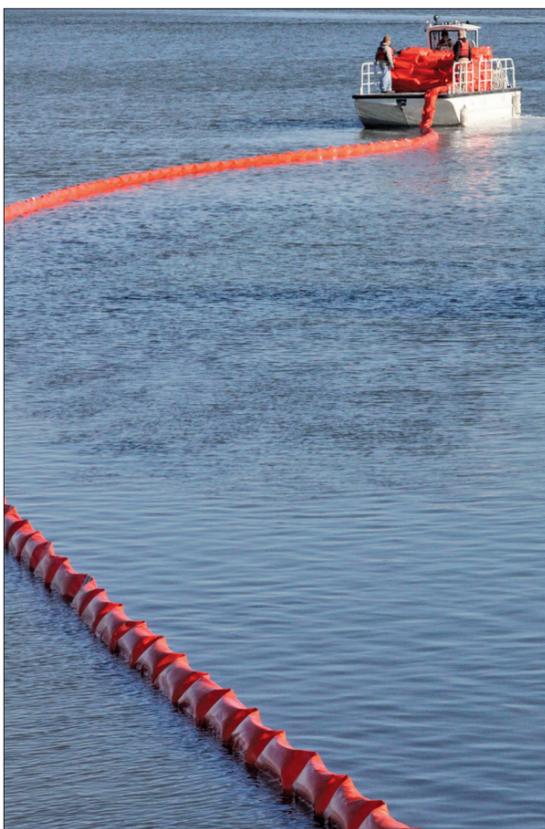
“Teamwork and communication is very important during an oil spill,” said Dagin, a Beaufort native. “If there is no teamwork, it can just be a disaster in a disaster.”

For those who wish to be a part of the spill team contact Jackson at 228-7884.



Lance Cpl. Rubin J. Tan

Clockwise from the top: Members of the spill management team deploy a hard boom into the water at the Air Station fuel pier, Nov. 2; Todd Lawson, the recovery unit leader, pulls a rope guiding the deployment of a hard boom used during the exercise to help regulate the direction of spilled oil; Jason Tomlinson, a spill management team member, attaches a vacuum hose to a skimmer used to extract oil from water using a vacuum and back truck, a truck holding a large empty tank; Facility response team members position a skimmer vessel to capture oil during the training.



CIVILIANS

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Among the employees was Dennis Trimmer, a Chambersburg, Pa., native, and retired first sergeant with 21 years of active duty service.

“It feels great to know Col. Murtha truly believes and fully supports us as true members of the team,” said Trimmer, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and Air Station Transition Assistance Program manager. “Just like in the Corps, there are not many pats on the back in the civilian world, so it feels great to be recognized.”

The event provided a sense of camaraderie between civilians and service members as each other’s company was enjoyed with food, entertainment and appreciation that will carry them forward to help in completing the day-to-day mission aboard the Air Station.



Lance Cpl. Rubin J. Tan

Attendants fill their plates during the Civilian Appreciation Day at Afterburners Nov. 3. Department of Defense and nonappropriated fund employees were acknowledged for their contributions to the Air Station.

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Marines secure time in Corps

Multiple ARFF Marines raise right hand, reenlist to shrinking Corps

Lance Cpl. Timothy Norris
Staff Writer

Seven Marines with Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting raised their right hand and took the oath of enlistment at ARFF aboard the Air Station, Nov. 1.

Despite the reality of a shrinking Marine Corps, these ARFF Marines have secured another four years in an environment and job they love.

Reenlisting allows them to continue being two great things—a Marine and a firefighter, explained Cpl. Brandon Kelly, ARFF, crash crew.

Measurements to make reenlistment more competitive have already been set in place beginning the cut in the total force of the Corps.

“A lot of Marines at ARFF understand they have to be proactive and not reactive,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Cedric Gray, ARFF officer in charge.

The Jackson, Miss., native added it is no surprise the Marine Corps is downsizing, “so there is no time to wait to push education for these Marines to be competitive in their job field.”

Amid an economy where finding and holding a job is difficult, it is no surprise that job security is one of the main reasons cited by the ARFF Marines for reenlisting.

Another reason, however, is because of the strong sense of camaraderie and support each has found within the Corps.

“It is a great feeling that I am not the only one who wants to reenlist,” Kelly said. “I’ll be with Marines who love their job just as much or more than I do.”

Corporal Dorian Conrad, ARFF crash crew, went on to say, further proof that camaraderie is important is in the intangibles.

“The motivation and brotherhood feed into a sense that the Marine Corps is a family and can accomplish any task,” Conrad said.

Similar sentiments were expressed by each of the Marines who reenlisted, saying, regardless of the situation or location, Marines will support each other through the trials and tribulations, which surely come and they will greet each challenge gladly.

Such esprit de corps gives them faith in their responsibilities, unit and in themselves.

These Marines stood together and reenlisted not only in support of their own livelihood, but in support of each other and the Marine Corps.

Corporal Kenneth Kohler left his hometown of Athens, Ga., for the best jobs he could think of: Marine and firefighter. He has been stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, where he deployed to Korea. An avid baseball fan and player, he was named Most Valuable Player during the Far East Softball Tournament on Okinawa, Japan. The opportunities to travel and build camaraderie with his fellow Marines are reasons why Kohler loves the Corps.



Corporal Dorian Conrad initially joined the Marine Corps to get ahead in life. The high standards, appearance and conduct of Marines led him to stand on the yellow footprints. The ease of taking care of his family while maintaining job security brought the Huntingdon, Penn., native to reenlist – this will also give him the opportunity for another deployment. Conrad also held the honor of being Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron color unit bearer for a year and a half.



Corporal Tyler Smith joined the Marine Corps to be a firefighter because he, “thought it would be fun.” This noncommissioned officer from Rome, Ga., stands out in his accomplishments. Smith was meritoriously promoted to lance corporal; selected for Marine of the Quarter; and received a meritorious mast. He loves the competitive spirit of the Marine Corps. Although he has not deployed yet, Smith reenlisted for the opportunity to do so.



Corporal Erick Owens originally enlisted so he could get paid to see the world. A goal that already seems accomplished from his first duty assignment at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, where he also deployed to Korea in support of Operation Key Resolve. The Griffin, Ga., native reenlisted to maintain job security and travel abroad as a Marine Security Guard. Owens expressed his love for the Marine Corps by saying, “I love waking up to the sound of cadence, tightening my boot laces and taking full 30 inch steps.”

Corporal Christopher Nelson was not only looking for a paycheck, but had a desire to serve his country when he first enlisted. He received a meritorious mast during his first tour. After serving on Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan and in the Philippines, the Strasburg, Colo., native has reenlisted in the hopes of getting deployed to Afghanistan. Nelson loves the camaraderie and brotherhood of the Marine Corps.



Corporal James Turner wanted to be more than normal, he wanted to make something of himself. Leaving his hometown of Worcester, Mass., and enlisting in the Marines has helped him reach that goal. As an Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter, Turner enjoys the lifestyle the Corps provides his family. He loves being one of the few and the proud because of the opportunities presented in his beloved Corps.



Corporal Brandon Kelly signed on the dotted line to fulfill a desire to serve in the toughest military branch, get a higher education and travel the world. The Whispering Pines, N.C., native has served aboard Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Japan. Kelly reenlisted not only to keep a steady paycheck in these economically turbulent times, but because he truly loves his job.



Photos and biographies by
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