

# FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 14 Issue 1

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

January 9, 2012



## Turning up the heat

ARFF Marines brave  
heat and smoke



### Boosting morale with mail

During the winter months, postal services increase as Marines send and receive more.

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### Service engine soon at Auto Skills Center

The Auto Skills Center provides tools and a location for Marines and their families to repair, maintain or modify their vehicles.

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### The fog of rescue: ARFF Marines conduct post-fire training

Marines with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting responded to a simulated KC-130J crash on the flight line.

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

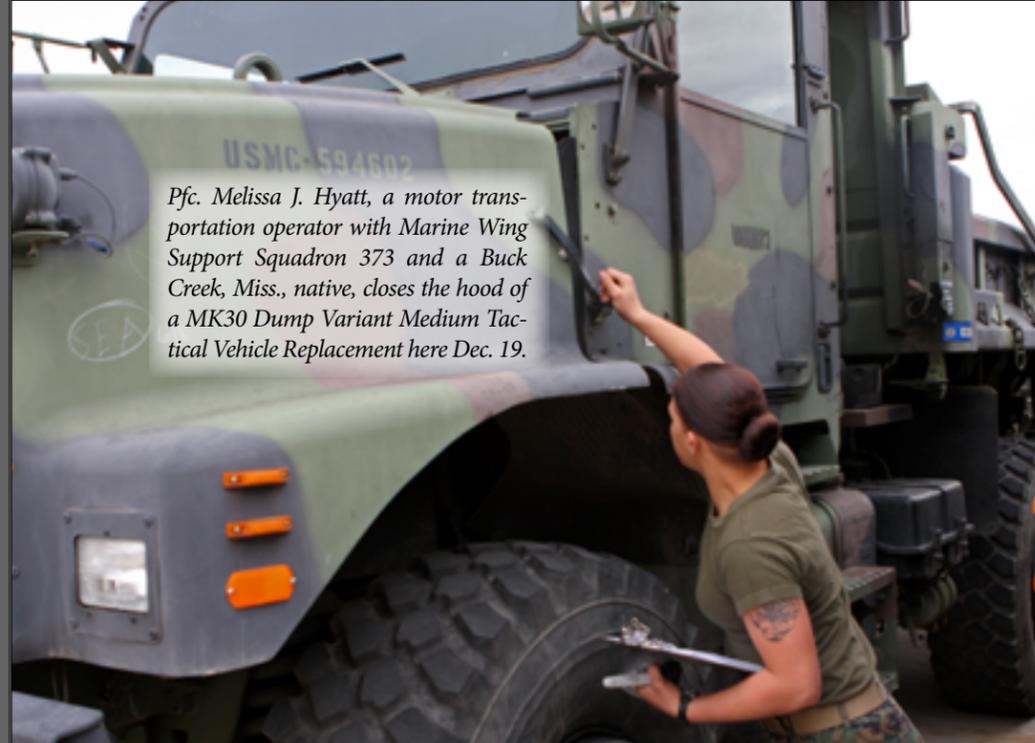


**Col. Frank A. Richie**  
Commanding Officer  
MCAS Miramar

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*Pfc. Melissa J. Hyatt, a motor transportation operator with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and a Buck Creek, Miss., native, closes the hood of a MK30 Dump Variant Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement here Dec. 19.*



*Pfc. Shelby F. Fischer, a motor transportation operator with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and a Huntington Beach, Calif., native, tests the durability of a M1152 Expanded Capacity High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle hitch during a weekly preventative maintenance check here Dec. 19.*

# Motor-T checks every truck

Photos by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo



*Pfc. Shelby F. Fischer, a motor transportation operator with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and a Huntington Beach, Calif., checks the oil of a M1152 Expanded Capacity High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle during a daily preventative maintenance check here Dec. 19.*

## ON THE COVER:

A Marine with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, walks toward a KC-130J to extinguish the simulated flames during a training exercise here, Jan. 6. The training was treated as an actual emergency, so none of the Marines expected the call. (Photo by Cpl. Sarah Fiocco)

# SRBs turn to electronic format

Story by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo

While there were once approximately 8,200 service record books held within the Installation Personnel Administrative Center aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., all were not only converted to electronic format but released back to Marines' units for distribution before the new year.

A team of 10 IPAC administrative clerks worked in continuous 8-hour shifts since September, scanning and sorting service record books.

"Every base Marine Corps-wide is now converting to an electronic format for SRBs," said Master Sgt. Rachel R. Peralta, the IPAC customer service staff noncommissioned officer in charge with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and a Fremont, Calif., native. "One of the commandant's planning guidances was to switch over to e-records. [All of the surrounding] bases have already switched, and we are

about to finish up as well. We are actually one of the last three bases left to switch over to the new format."

The change was a lengthy process involving four phases. Administrative clerks had to scan each book, sort them by unit, distribute, and finally fix any errors within the books that were reported to the IPAC personnel.

"We only had two scanners to work with," said Peralta. "Most other bases had anywhere from 5 to 50 scanners at their disposal. Each SRB is made up of anywhere from 20 to 52 pages. To make up for the difference, we worked 24 hours a day to get everything done as quickly as possible."

To meet the time requirement of getting everything done before the holiday season was complete, Marines began scanning hundreds of SRBs for release during each 8-hour shift they worked.

"We had a 300-count minimum for each shift, creating a minimum of 900 SRBs prepared for release each day," said Lance Cpl. Jasmin A. Tovar, an administrative clerk with H&HS and a Pomona, Calif., native.

The new system will allow every Marine to view their SRB each time they visit their Marine Online account.

"Marines will no longer need to visit IPAC to get copies of administrative records. They can just print them off," said Peralta. "The e-record format also is a good tool for unit leaders and commanders to see your service record directly. There is even a slideshow on [[https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M\\_RA\\_HOME](https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME)] to show commanders the benefits and accessing capabilities of the online format."

To view a SRB, a Marine must click on the OMPF tab at the top of their MOL home page. Once the OMPF home page is visible, he or she must click the field tab followed by clicking the field service option. All SRB pages are visible at that point.

For any questions regarding retrieval of individual SRBs, Marines are to contact their unit's administrative section.



Lance Cpl. Jasmin A. Tovar, an administrative clerk with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and a Pomona, Calif., native, confirms that the unit currently listed for each service record book is accurate here Dec. 27. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo)



Three Marines with the Installation Personnel Administration Center sort the service record books of more than 8,000 Marines here Dec. 27. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo)



Lance Cpl. Andres Contreras, an administrative clerk with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and a Los Angeles native, verifies various Marines' units before separating service record books here Dec. 27. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo)

# Boosting morale with mail

Story by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller



With the holiday season comes an increase in postal services aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar as Marines begin to send and receive packages.

Beginning as soon as November, postal receives an influx of mail, continuing until Valentines Day.

Postal clerks on base worked persistently to ensure the Marines' mail was distributed on time during the holiday season.

That required postal clerks to work more than the average Monday through Friday job. Marines in the post office are dedicated to ensuring Marines on base receive their mail in a timely manner, even if that means working on Saturdays.

"During the holiday, they're working until the day before Christmas Eve," said Gunnery Sgt. Dorenzo Whatley, the postal chief with the station post office, and a Brunswick, Ga., native.

On average, the post office receives about five carts of letters and packages, but during the holiday, the shipment doubles.

"It gets stressful sometimes," said Lance Cpl. Alex Favuzzi, a postal clerk with the station post office, and a Long Island, N.Y., native. "Around the holiday, there is an increase of packages we have to separate."

"The Marines here at postal are just trying to service all the Marines, and make sure they have a happy holiday and everyone gets their packages on time," said Whatley.

Mail has the ability to make Marines feel connected to their families. When they get a

picture of their family, it makes being away easier, added Whatley.

"Sometimes for a Marine, this may be their only line to get communication through to their family," said Whatley. "Some Marines don't have email; some Marines may not have a phone."

Mail arrives every day around 8 a.m. with the exception of Sundays. The postal clerks have to scan tracking labels on all packages and distribute mail to the appropriate unit or into Marines' post office boxes.

Postal is important year round, not just during the holiday. While on deployment, Marines look forward to receiving mail, explained Whatley.

"A lot of the time when we're overseas, we deliver to that individual. No matter where they are at, we go to them," said Whatley. "Just to see that Marine's face when he gets that package or letter makes it worth it."

The Marines who work in the post office feel a sense of pride in their job because they are able to deliver Marines a piece of home.

"Postal is important when you deploy," said Favuzzi. "Everyone on deployment looks forward to receiving mail. Receiving mail definitely makes everyone happy."

Postal clerks aboard MCAS Miramar make a difference by delivering morale to Marines throughout the base on a daily basis.

(Above) Lance Cpl. Travis Manners, a Miami, native, and Lance Cpl. Alex Favuzzi, a Long Island, N.Y., native, both postal clerks with the station post office, sort through packages delivered in the morning here Dec. 20. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller)

(Left) A holiday package is placed in its appropriate bin after arrival to the station post office here Dec. 20. Postal clerks sort through mail delivered and distribute packages to the proper unit or Marines' post office box. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller)

(Right) Sgt. Shawn Bear, operations non-commissioned officer in charge with the station post office, and a Bakersfield, Calif., native, reads packages to ensure they are sorted properly here Dec. 20. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller)



# Miramar fitness guru wins game show

Story by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo

“It was just so surreal, I couldn’t believe I had won,” said Mike Relucio, the fitness coordinator for the High Intensity Tactical Training Center aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. “I had really just won ‘The Price is Right’ and was going to be on [television].”

Relucio won the long-standing game show Nov. 29, after receiving an invitation to be part of the audience during his 10-year Sweetwater High School reunion in National City, Calif., Oct. 17.

“One of my friends asked if I wanted to join him and about 20 others to go on the show,” said Relucio. “I never thought I would be picked to participate, let alone win. I tried to be motivated and loud, because those are the people that usually get chosen, but I wasn’t even the loudest one.”

Relucio guessed the price of a high definition camcorder on the first attempt and was then sent to spin the Price is Right’s infamous wheel. The contestant with the spins closest to or equaling without exceeding the \$1 amount advances to the Showcase Showdown portion of the television show.

After winning the wheel round, Relucio then competed for both a new car and a trip to see the 2012 World Figure Skating Championships, held in both France and Canada.

“I managed to spin the wheel for the highest amount and make it to the Showcase Showdown, where I just kept thinking this is crazy,” said Relucio. “While I didn’t win the car, I did win a seven-day trip for

two to Nice, France and [Vancouver, British Columbia] in March. I plan on taking my wife and buying an extra ticket for my daughter so she can come too.”

While many might find the prize to be the best part of any game, Relucio claims being part of the show that he grew up watching was by far the most rewarding.

“Even if I hadn’t won, the coolest part was definitely just being on the same show I used to watch with my grandparents as a kid,” said Relucio. “It is crazy how the [The

Price is Right] is one of those few shows you never get tired of. You watch it when you are little and when you get old. I never expected to get to be part of that. It was just incredibly surreal to know that I was going to be able to say I was on the same TV show I watched when I was younger.”

The episode is set to air Jan. 27. Relucio cannot claim his prize until the episode is released, but is already planning the trip for himself and his family in the upcoming months.



Mike Relucio, the fitness coordinator for the High Intensity Tactical Training Center and manager for The Barn Fitness Center, creates time schedules for gym personnel here Jan. 4. Relucio won a trip to see the 2012 World Figure Skating Championship while competing on “The Price is Right” game show Nov. 29. The prize included a seven-day trip to Nice, France and Vancouver, British Columbia. The episode will air Jan. 27. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo)

Mike Relucio, the fitness coordinator for the High Intensity Tactical Training Center and manager for The Barn Fitness Center here won “The Price is Right” game show Nov. 29. Relucio competed for a trip to see the 2012 World Figure Skating Championships held in both Nice, France and Vancouver, British Columbia. The episode will air Jan. 27. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo)





Ground support equipment electricians check the voltage on an aircraft simulator here Dec. 29. Marines with ground support equipment maintain all the ground equipment used to help fix aircraft.

Pfc. John K. Ferguson, a ground support equipment electrician with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, and a Huntington Beach, Calif., native, starts the NC-10, a mobile electric generator, to produce voltage to an aircraft simulator here Dec. 29. Marines with ground support equipment maintain all the ground equipment used to help fix aircraft.

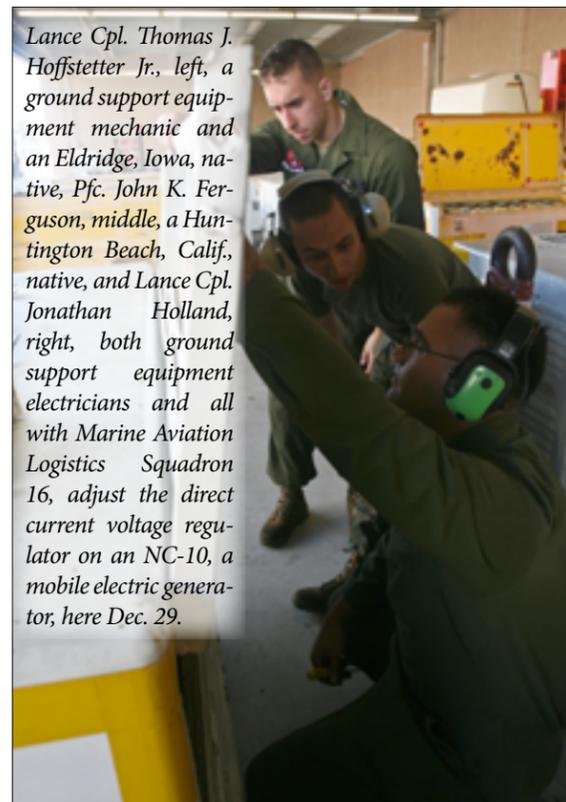


# Ground support equipment: helping fix aircraft

Photos by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller

[Click HERE for more photos](#)

Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Hoffstetter Jr., left, a ground support equipment mechanic and an Eldridge, Iowa, native, Pfc. John K. Ferguson, middle, a Huntington Beach, Calif., native, and Lance Cpl. Jonathan Holland, right, both ground support equipment electricians and all with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, adjust the direct current voltage regulator on an NC-10, a mobile electric generator, here Dec. 29.



Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Hoffstetter Jr., a ground support equipment mechanic and an Eldridge, Iowa, native, and Pfc. John K. Ferguson, a ground support equipment electrician and Huntington Beach, Calif., native, both with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, watch for any changes in the voltage on an aircraft simulator, ensuring the proper amount is constantly being outputted from the NC-10, a mobile electric generator, here Dec. 29.



# Service engine soon at Auto Skills Center



Staff Sgt. Derrell Brathwaite, an aviation maintenance administration management training instructor with the Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit North Island and a San Diego native, secures the lug nuts after upgrading his tires here Jan. 4. The Auto Skills Center provides tools, knowledgeable staff and a location for customers to repair, maintain or modify their vehicles. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller)

Story by Lance Cpl.  
Rebecca Eller

**T**he Auto Skills Center here provides tools and a location for Marines and their families to repair, maintain or modify their vehicles.

Trained mechanics who staff the center are ready to assist and answer maintenance questions.

“My staff and I will give you any advice you need,” said Mike Young, the Auto Skills Center manager and a San Diego native. “We can diagnose it and tell you what you have to do, so you can do the repairs.”

The Auto Skills Center offers cheap prices to rent bays depending on the service needed for the individual’s vehicle.

After repairs are made, the Service Excellence Certified automotive mechanics can look over the vehicle to ensure the job was done correctly.

“Even if you don’t want to do the repairs yourself, this isn’t a bad place to bring your car,” said Young. “We can tell you what is wrong, so you can talk intelligently to your mechanic.”

Depending on how many customers are at the center and the depth of the job, mechanics can train individuals looking to learn how to maintain their vehicle.

“If you need help, that’s why they’re here,” said Council Burton, a retired Marine Corps captain and San Diego native. “They’re here to help you out.”

Usually customers wait until after they purchase a vehicle to find problems. The center also offers inspections for used vehicles before making the big commitment, said Young.

The majority of the center’s customers perform fluid maintenance, such as oil changes or changing brake fluid. However, Marines come to Auto Skills Center to work on a variety of maintenance issues.

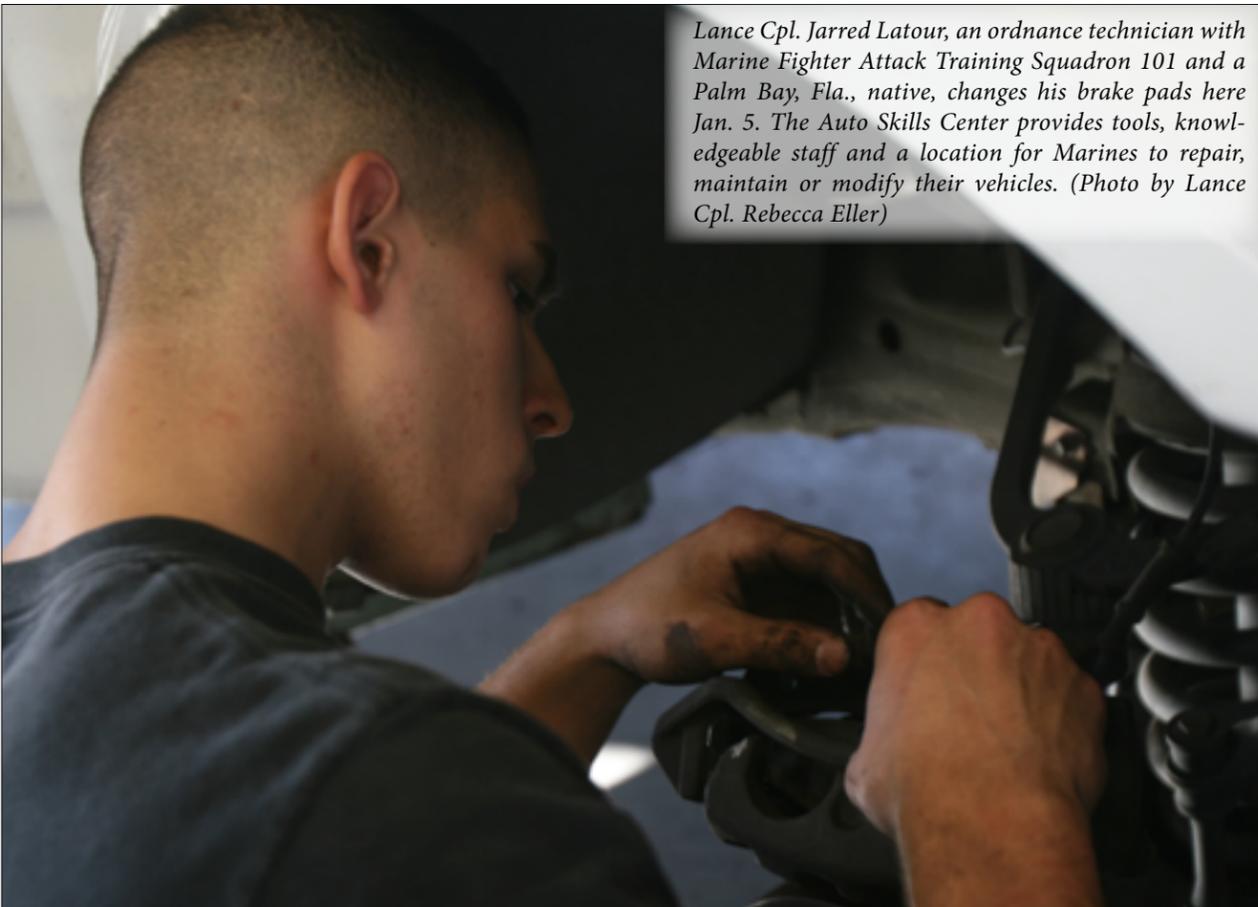
“I’ve been coming here for 14 years,” said Burton. “I come here for everything.”

For service members living in the barracks, the center also rents out storage units.

“When you go on deployment, you can put your stuff in here as opposed to making your friend hang on to it until you get back,” said Young.

For a price list and more information on the Auto Skills Center, visit

<http://www.mccsmiramar.com/autoskills.html>.



Lance Cpl. Jarred Latour, an ordnance technician with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 and a Palm Bay, Fla., native, changes his brake pads here Jan. 5. The Auto Skills Center provides tools, knowledgeable staff and a location for Marines to repair, maintain or modify their vehicles. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller)



Lance Cpl. Jarred Latour, an ordnance technician with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101, and a Palm Bay, Fla., native, inspects his brake pad before placing new ones on his vehicle here Jan. 5. The Auto Skills Center provides tools, knowledgeable staff and a location for customers to repair, maintain or modify their vehicles. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller)

# THE FOG OF RESCUE



A Marine with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting ensures all of the simulated flames on the KC-130J are extinguished during a training exercise, Jan. 6. In order to make the scenario seem more realistic, Marines wore their full flame-retardant gear and had to navigate their way through a dense environment created by a smoke machine. (Photo by Cpl. Sarah Fiocco)



## ARFF MARINES CONDUCT POST-FIRE TRAINING

STORY BY CPL. SARAH FIOCCO

**M**arines with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting responded to a simulated KC-130J crash here, Jan. 6.

The training required Marines to recover “casualties” from the aircraft in smoky, post-fire conditions.

In order to make the scenario seem more realistic, Marines wore their full flame-retardant gear and had to navigate their way through a dense environment created by a smoke machine.

“We do a drill at least once a week,” said Sgt. William French, assistant section leader with ARFF and a Whittier, Calif., native. “This drill dealt with after the burn was over and how to handle that situation.”

The training was treated as an actual emergency, so none of the Marines

expected the call.

“This training is important to us because it sets the standard for our job,” said Sgt. Jason Rutzinger, a rescue man with ARFF and a Beaumont, Calif., native. “We learn from our mistakes in training and from each other.”

Once the Marines pulled both the “deceased” and “injured” personnel from the aircraft, they placed them into four different categories based on the severity of their injuries.

Personnel in the black category are dead, victims placed in red need treatment within the next two to five minutes, those placed in yellow can hold out a little longer and personnel in the green category have minor injuries, French explained.

*Continued on page 16*



*(Left) A Marine with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting supports the neck of a simulated KC-130J crash victim during a training event here, Jan. 6. All of the Marines with ARFF are basically trained in first aid. (Photo by Cpl. Sarah Fiocco)*

*(Bottom Left) A Marine with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting communicates with one of his fellow firefighters over his radio during a training exercise here, Jan. 6. In order to make the scenario seem more realistic, Marines wore their full flame-retardant gear and had to navigate their way through a dense environment created by a smoke machine. (Photo by Cpl. Sarah Fiocco)*

*(Bottom Center) A Marine with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting connects the filter to his gas mask during a training exercise here, Jan. 6. The training was treated as an actual emergency, so none of the Marines expected the call. (Photo by Cpl. Sarah Fiocco)*

*(Bottom Right) Two Marines with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting carry an "injured" Marine out of a smoky KC-130J during a training exercise here, Jan. 6. In order to make the scenario seem more realistic, Marines wore their full flame-retardant gear and had to navigate their way through a dense environment created by a smoke machine. (Photo by Cpl. Sarah Fiocco)*



Marines with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting move an injured Marine to a stretcher during a training exercise here, Jan. 6. All the Marines with ARFF are basically trained in first aid. (Photo by Cpl. Sarah Fiocco)



“We [evacuate] personnel in red first and work our way down to green,” French added. After the Marines categorize each victim, they then perform basic first aid as needed. “We have a good portion of [emergency medical technicians] and then the rest are first responders,” French said. “[First responders] can deal with the first stages of injuries.”

Although the steps to pull victims out of a deadly situation can take the firefighters only minutes to accomplish, the training leading up to real emergency situations is a long and rigorous journey. “We save lives,” Rutzinger said. “We have to have endurance, so if there is a fire, we can get in there quickly, put the fire out and pull out the victims. It makes you think, ‘did I push myself hard enough?’”

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