

FLIGHT JACKET

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

April 23, 2004

MALS-11 receives prestigious award for safety

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Aviation Association presented Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 with the Marion Carl Squadron Aviation Support Squadron Safety award April 12, as sponsored by the Hornet Industry team.

The non-profit organization honored the "Devil Fish" for maintaining operational merit, professionalism, leadership, readiness and safety while displaying a superlative level of dedication to combat readiness and mission accomplishment.

This award covers everything that makes up a squadron, said Brig. Gen. Terry G. Robling, assistant wing commander, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

"Safety is a bi-product of professionalism in everything that you could do," said the Ellensburg, Wash., native to the Marines and Sailors of MALS-11.

"You've come through, and you deserve everything this award encompasses."



Brig. Gen. Terry G. Robling, assistant wing commander, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, speaks to Marines and Sailors of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 who received the Marion Carl Squadron Aviation Support Squadron Safety award. Photo by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MALS-11, which was established in 1921, is the oldest and largest squadron in the Marine Corps. The "Devil Fish" deployed as the fixed-wing aircraft lead in support of Opera-

tion Iraqi Freedom and currently have more than 80 Marines deployed to Iraq.

The "Devil Fish" were nominated in 2003 for the Secretary of Defense Main-

tenance Phoenix Award as a large organization for their excellence in logistics and maintenance support. In addition, the "Devil Fish" received a certificate of recognition from the Partnership and Education Program for volunteering time at Sandburg Elementary School.

"I am proud at (MALS-11's) commitment to excellence and ability to overcome adversity," said Sgt. Maj. Keith L. Williams, sergeant major, MALS-11, and La Puente Calif., native.

Lt. Col. Shaugnassy A. Reynolds, commanding officer, MALS-11, who accepted the award on behalf of the "Devil Fish," said he is proud of the Marines of the squadron.

"I am proud. This signifies operation of excellence in peace time and in combat," stated the Cape Girardeau, Miss., native. "They have met both missions' set of requirements."

The MCAA began in 1972. It was established after its founding organization, the First Marine Aviation Force Veterans Association, and honors the accomplishments of aviation units with awards named after significant men and women in military history.

See SAFETY, page 11

Miramar community supports families

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Community Family Assistance Center, formerly known as the Crisis Family Assistance Center, held a meeting at the Lifestyles, Insight, Networking, Knowledge, Skills House here April 14 to update members and volunteers on the expanding support network for Operation Enduring Families II.

CFAC is a multifaceted support system for servicemembers and their families or significant others put together by the Family Readiness Office and Marine Corps Community Services volunteers.

As a refresher for CFAC volunteers, the meeting featured presentations given by the Family Readiness Office from the I Marine Expeditionary Force and officers from the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing who outlined where Marines are in Iraq and the support system for Marines and their family members or significant others.

"Although there are fewer 3rd MAW Marines deployed to Iraq compared to last year during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the situation is different now," said Ruth Mushallo, director, MCCS Counseling Center.

"It's been one year since our last meeting, and we want to let our volunteers and other people know that we still have the capability to open our CFAC facility, even in the event of a crisis-related situation."

Although CFAC is not currently up and running, the commanding general can stand up the facility in the event of a crisis-related situation, said Mushallo.

The meeting began with a presentation by Maj. Mary Bradford, family readiness officer, I MEF, who thoroughly reviewed and discussed the methods by which next of kin are contacted in the case of a Marine fatality or hospitalization. Bradford went on to outline the various levels of support that stand ready to assist family members or significant others, especially in times of grief.

"We want to make sure the community and families are always connected and have someone to call," said Bradford.

The services and support that is available for families with deployed Marines include crisis response teams serving as counselors, childcare providers and chaplain support.

See CFAC, page 11

Anti-Iraqi forces disregard peace initiatives with attacks

Compiled by I MEF PAO

Marines near Fallujah continue to defend against anti-Iraqi force attackers, who have disregarded the peace initiatives there.

Approximately 40 to 60 anti-Iraqi forces attacked Marines at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades. Marine battlefield reports stated the RPG fire was so intense there were "too many to count."

One company of Marines engaged in the battle reported hearing music lyrics, "God is good, God is great. Holy warriors come out to fight." A nearby mosque was heard broadcasting messages and giving orders, telling people to "rise up and fight." An anti-Iraqi force sniper engaged Marines during the fight, but with poorly aimed shots having little effect.

One report from a Marine in the fight stated, "The enemy sniper can hide well, but not shoot well." At 11 a.m., a Marine sniper reported killing an anti-Iraqi force sniper.

Marines responded to the attacks with overwhelming small-arms and mortar fire, as well as close-air support, killing 36 anti-Iraqi forces.

Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



76°/55°
Today



76°/56°
Saturday



75°/57°
Sunday

Future deployment technology



Page 3

Marine serves with pride



Page 8

Foundation focuses on children of fallen Marines

Thousands of scholarship dollars set aside for families of those killed during war on terror

Story by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - With increased U.S. Marine deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is stepping up fundraising so it can honor its pledge to award scholarships to all children of Marines killed in combat during the war on terror.

The foundation also has pledged to award scholarships to all children of Navy corpsmen killed in combat while serving with the Marines and to any children of Marines and former Marines killed on Sept. 11, 2001.

Scholarships run up to \$10,000 each, according to Rose Gault, the foundation's director of development.

'We have always given special consideration to children whose Marine parent was killed or wounded in combat, and this policy is a continuation of our support for the Marine Corps family.'

Retired Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Oster

All scholarships are funded through private donations.

Retired Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Oster, chairman of the foundation's board, called the special scholarships part of the foundation's 40-year tradition of helping young men and women.

Since its inception in 1962, the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation has awarded more than \$22 million in scholarships and education bonds to children of Marines or former Marines.

During 2003, Gault said, the founda-

tion awarded 982 scholarships totaling more than \$1.5 million. That figure is expected to increase as more Marines make the ultimate sacrifice in Southwest Asia, she said.

When terrorists blew up the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983, the scholarship foundation awarded \$10,000 education bonds to every child who lost a parent in the attack, including children of Navy and Army servicemembers.

Similarly, the foundation awarded

\$10,000 education bonds to all children of servicemembers killed during Operation Desert Storm, regardless of the parent's branch of service.

"We have always given special consideration to children whose Marine parent was killed or wounded in combat, and this policy is a continuation of our support for the Marine Corps family," Oster said.

"We want our warriors to know that we will be there for their family," he said. "Our unwavering commitment to youth, education and the values that have made our country strong will continue."

For more information about the scholarship program or to make a donation, visit www.marine-scholar.org or call (800) 292-7777.

Marines need to keep watchful eye as threat of terrorism attacks increase

Commentary by Maj. Kevin Kelley

COMCABWEST Antiterrorism/Force Protection Officer

The recent terrorist attacks in Spain illustrate that Al Qaeda is actively seeking to influence the geopolitical scene. The fact that their attack seems to have influenced Spain's elections will only encourage them to try the same here in the United States.

President George W. Bush's National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, recently stated that terrorist groups could find the approaching presidential election "too good to pass up" and that Washington was already considering measures to deter an attack seeking to influence the election's outcome.

Keeping that in mind, everyone assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar needs to stay vigilant for possible indicators of surveillance. Surveillance is defined as keeping a close watch over someone or something with the intent to gain information on a target and enhance the probability of a successful operation. This can be done on foot, in vehicles or buildings using cameras or some other form of recording

device. Al Qaeda is known for being patient and conducting extensive pre-operational surveillance.

Groups conducting surveillance are looking to identify information such as terrain, choke points (i.e. gates), weaknesses and vulnerabilities, routine operations, general security posture of target and existence and capability of local response forces.

Our objective is to detect surveillance by being familiar with the surroundings. Sentries need to know what the normal routine is and be alert for changes from the norm. Possible indicators of surveillance include new workers, strange or suspicious vehicles, unidentified persons loitering in the area, person(s) trying to gain access without proper ID or vehicle decal and suspicious individuals or circumstances.

Detecting surveillance is the key to interrupting a terrorist operation.

If you suspect surveillance of yourself or the installation do not confront the person(s) you suspect, call the Provost Marshal's desk sergeant at 577-4068 and make a report and be prepared to accurately describe suspect/vehicles.

MIRAMARKS

"How do you feel about the new boot policy?"



SGT. BETHANY K. KOSHUTA
French Horn Player
3rd MAW Band

"I'm not looking forward to buying the new boots. However, we had plenty of time."

CPL. JUAN A. CISNEROS
Heavy Equipment Operator
MWSS-373

"I prefer the new boots. We have a uniform allowance that is sufficient enough for the funding."



GUNNERY SGT. PAUL J. COFFMAN
Avionics Technician
MALS-11

"I like the new boot policy. After 20 years of shining black boots, I cannot wait."



MAJ. GEN. JON A. GALLINETTI
Commander
Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area
Commanding General
MCAS Miramar

MAJ. GEN. JAMES F. AMOS
Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

MAJ. CURTIS HILL
Public Affairs Director 3rd MAW Forward

CAPT. MICHAEL J. FRIEL
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Staff Sgt. Houston F. White Jr.
Staff Sgt. A.C. Mink
Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte
Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III
Forward Deployed



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MWHS-3 transfers power in Al Asad

Story by Staff Sgt. Houston F. White Jr.

3rd MAW Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq – The torch of leadership was passed to Lt. Col. David A. DeMorat here April 15 during the change of command for Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

The ceremony also marked the conclusion of 20 years of dedicated Marine Corps service by former MHWS-3 Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Glenn A. Murray.

Murray, a United States Naval Academy graduate from Lima, Ohio, relinquished command of MWHS-3 to Lt. Col. David A. DeMorat, a Pennsylvania State University graduate from Philadelphia.

DeMorat was commissioned a second lieutenant in May 1987 through the Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps program and completed The Basic School in December 1987. He was designated a Na-

val flight officer in February 1989 and attended Electronic Warfare Training at Naval Station Correy Field, Fla.

After reporting to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., in June 1989 for EA-6B fleet replacement training, DeMorat continued on to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., in April 1990 for duty with Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 2.

While assigned to VMAQ-2 he was promoted to captain and performed duties as airframes division officer and assistant operations officer. DeMorat was designated a weapons and tactics instructor in April 1992 and completed two deployments to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, with VMAQ-2 detachment x-ray and VMAQ-2.

In June 1993 he reported to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 at Marine Corps Air Sta-



Lt. Col. Glenn A. Murray, former commanding officer of Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, addresses Marines and Sailors shortly after relinquishing command to Lt. Col. David A. DeMorat April 15 in Al Asad, Iraq. Photo by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

See **POWER**, page 11



1st Lt. Joe Mederos, pilot, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163, previews a field deployable server from Tag Advanced Computer and Service Solutions during the Technology Exposition at the Officers' Club April 8. Photo by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

High-speed exposition draws inquisitive crowd

Technology show demonstrates latest, greatest

Story by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The air station hosted a technology exposition at the Officers' Club April 8 to offer Marines and Sailors here a glimpse at the possible future for deployments.

According to Becky Young, representative, National Conference Services Inc., turnout was better than that of past expos.

"We've got about 20 high-end technology customers here to demonstrate the latest and greatest in technology to the Marines," she said. "We do this twice a year, and surprisingly even with the recent deployments our turnout's better than usual."

Electronic companies from as far away as Virginia, Wisconsin and Maryland were represented, showing off everything from the newest advances in hand tools to field expedient computer servers.

Marines and Sailors took time from their lunch hour to see the products. One

Delano, Calif., native just checked into his new unit only a few days earlier before heading to the expo.

"I wanted to come out because I'm just starting my career and wanted to see what will eventually be available," said 1st Lt. Joe Mederos, pilot, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163. Mederos was looking at a demonstration of a field deployable server from Tag Advanced Computer and Service Solutions.

"It's interesting to see how it can be employed in the desert. It's really impressive and nice, but I wonder if it will be able to last and what's next for technology," he added.

Technology expositions are held approximately twice each year at the Officers' Club for the benefit of Marines and Sailors here.

"They're a great way to see the latest technologies without sales pitches," said Young. "It's nice because it's only exhibitions – there's no pressure to purchase anything."

Reserve Marines bring civilian skills to OIF II

Atlanta-based business owners go to war in Iraq with MWHS-3 devil dogs

Story by Sgt. Rob Henderson

MarForRes Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq - In a world where time is money and the business market waits for no man, how do you keep your clients happy when you have to leave them for an unspecified amount of time?

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, thousands of businessmen and women have climbed down from America's corporate ladders to don uniforms and defend the American way of life as mobilized reserve Marines.

For two Atlanta-based reserve Marines, activated to support Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., the transition has given them an opportunity to employ the business skills they have honed as small business owners.

Atlanta natives Staff Sgt. Jeffery S. Stanhagen, logistics chief, MWHS-3, and Cpl. Bryan L. Carson, embarkation specialist, MWHS-3, have given a lot of time to the global war on terror since Operation Iraqi Freedom began in 2003. Originally assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 42, Marine Forces Reserve, the Marines have both been mobilized twice and sent away from their homes and their businesses.

Stanhagen was activated last January to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his eight-month mobilization at MCAS Miramar, Stanhagen worked in several roles, finally landing the job as the MWHS-3 Substance Abuse counselor. In August, Stanhagen reported back to Marine Aircraft Group 42 where he stayed on active duty, and in early February, was again mobilized to support MWHS-3. This time, he jumped at the opportunity to come to Iraq.

"When I was on active duty in Atlanta, they asked for 25 volunteers to come to Iraq," said Stanhagen. "Since I didn't get a chance to go forward last year, I felt obligated to this time, so I volunteered to come to Iraq for OIF II."

Stanhagen left his business, Waterford Development Inc., in the hands of his family to volunteer for duty in Iraq. As most reserve Marines well know, there are inherent obstacles that must be overcome before and during a deployment.

"The challenge is making sure everything at home, at the business, stays the same while you are deployed," said Stanhagen. "When you go back, you know things will have changed. You have to go through the routine of meeting the new people and getting back in the swing of things."



Staff Sgt. Jeffery S. Stanhagen, logistics chief, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, loads plywood into a humvee to build the floor of a gym in Al Asad, Iraq, April 3. Photo by Sgt. Rob Henderson



Reserve Cpl. Bryan L. Carson, embarkation specialist, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, directs an Iraqi worker in Al Asad, Iraq, April 3. Photo by Sgt. Rob Henderson

Stanhagen believes the skills he uses as "the boss" at home have helped him complete his mission in Iraq.

"A lot of the managerial tools and knowledge I have from my business translate into my Marine Corps job," said Stanhagen. "Everything from coordinating working parties to dealing with third-country nationals goes back to the basic leadership skills I learned from the Marine Corps and I've gotten to practice in my business."

Carson was also activated in early February last year, and he spent four months at Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base in Kuwait. Deactivating at the end of July last year, Carson

would only spend six months off active duty. He was reactivated Jan. 5 and landed back in Southwest Asia Feb. 28.

Bryan's Window Cleaning, the very definition of a small business, lost its best and only employee when Carson deployed to support the war on terror, but Carson sees value in the lessons he's learned working for himself.

"Back in the rear, I've got to get my job done; otherwise, the day isn't over. The same goes here. Mission accomplishment is the number one priority," said Carson. "Here in Iraq, there are other people to help accomplish the mission, but you still know if the job isn't done, your day isn't over."

While attached to the MWHS-3 logistics shop, the reserve Marines have done everything from building gyms and managing Iraqi workers to fortifying living spaces and sandbag-

ging work spaces.

"Since I've been at Al Asad, it's been really busy," said Carson. "The biggest challenge for us is understanding the Iraqis we have working here on base. It's hard to get a read on them, but I think they are really glad we are here."

In Iraq, Stanhagen and Carson have worked on levels in which neither of them was familiar, but both feel the time they spend here will pay dividends back at their businesses. Understanding people is universal, so getting familiar with a different culture will help the entrepreneurs with their future clients, according to Carson.

For the only two reserve Marines working in a shop with five other enlisted Marines and one officer, Stanhagen and Carson have earned the respect of their peers and leaders alike.

"These two Marines are more mature than a lot of Marines in their respective pay grades," said 1st Lt. John Siracusa, logistics officer, MWHS-3. "We could not complete our mission here without them, and I think their civilian experience gives them some perspective to how small things fit into a bigger picture. They are really putting to rest any negative myths about reserve Marines."

Climbing down from their places in the American workforce, Stanhagen and Carson have figured out the secret to success in business - honesty, dedication and daring. Those principles, identical to the "honor, courage, commitment" credo of the Marine Corps, are the cornerstone of their success as Marines and entrepreneurs.

HMM-165 receives top aviation unit award

Story compiled by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

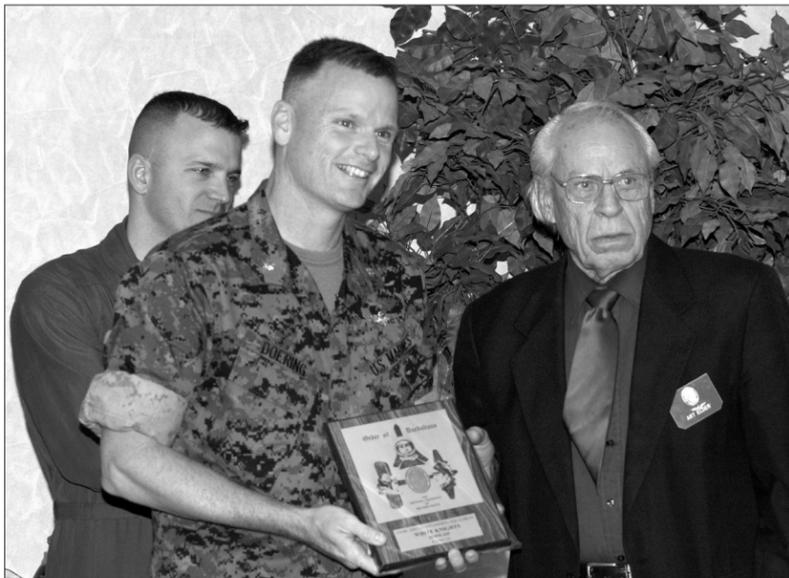
The Order of the Daedalians, America's premier fraternal organization of retired military pilots, presented the Outstanding Aviation Unit (Navy/Marine) award to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 here April 7 in a formal ceremony at the Officers' Club.

For their outstanding service in the Pacific area of operations in 2003, the Daedalians recognized the Marines and Sailors of HMM-165 for their distinction, performance in excellence and service to both the country and the Corps.

"Since its founding in 1965, this squadron represents the finest military aviation tradition and service, and we are proud to present the operational squadron of the year award to HMM-165," said Robert L. Dodge, 13th Flight awards presenter, Order of the Daedalians.

Beginning in January, the "White Knights" of HMM-165 deployed on *USS Boxer* and cruised to the Arabian Gulf. After offloading in Kuwait, the squadron was tasked with supporting Regimental Combat Team 1 for the duration of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On the night of April 1, 2003, HMM-165 comprised the CH-46 element of Task Force 20, the special team that extracted prisoner of war Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch. The "White Knights" operated from the Jalibah Forward Operating Base before retrograding to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, in preparation for their return home.

HMM-165 spent most of November 2003 in Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., in order to support Combined Arms Exercises with the 1st Marine Division. The "White Knights" are currently continuing training in preparation for deployment with a Marine Expeditionary Unit in December 2004.



Lt. Col. J.G. Doering (center), commanding officer, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165, accepts the Outstanding Aviation Unit Award from the Order of Daedalian's 13th Flight President Art Elder at the Officers' Club April 7. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

With fellow Marines and pilots at his side, the award was accepted on behalf of the "White Knights" by Lt. Col. J.G. Doering, commanding officer, HMM-165, who thanked the order for their recognition and military service.

"The Marines and Sailors of HMM-165 thank (the Order of Daedalians) very much for a great honor from what we see as the greatest generation that defended our country over 50 years ago," said Doering. "We are honored and humbled to be here in your presence, and we are glad to take the time out of our schedule to talk to some of you and learn from your experiences. The same true grit that you had is with the Marines that serve today."

Founded in 1921 shortly after World War I, the Order of

Daedalians first honored all World War I aviators who were commissioned as officers and rated as military pilots no later than the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918. It perpetuates their names as the first to fly America's airplanes in time of war, according to www.daedalians.org.

The order's membership of commissioned, warrant and flight officer military pilots and (Women Air Force Service Pilots), with its worldwide network of Daedalian Flights and its comprehensive awards program, supports the military services and other aerospace activities.

The Order of Daedalians works to encourage several objectives including military aerospace activities, supporting the advancement of flight and flight safety, youth aerospace programs and development for military aerospace careers and to educate and stimulate the service of younger generations in the field of military aerospace, according to the order's Web site.

The Daedalian Foundation was established in 1959 to conduct educational, scientific and charitable activities in support of the order's tenets and objectives. The foundation is a non-profit, tax-ex-

empt organization that relies on contributions, donations and bequests from the Daedalian membership to fund a comprehensive and varied award and scholarship program that encourages patriotism, integrity and good character in our nation's youth, military careers as commissioned pilots, safety of flight and excellence in the performance of military duties in service to America's armed forces.

"Our squadron's motto is 'Whatever it takes' because we know what we need to do to put our nation first for the country and the Corps," Doering said to the audience of Daedalians and fellow Marines in his acceptance speech. "We will do whatever it takes in the future to secure what you fought so hard for in your careers."

'Pit Bull' passes command of MAG-16 to Close in Iraq

Story by Staff Sgt. A.C. Mink

MAG-16 Combat Correspondent

ALASAD, Iraq - Col. Stuart L. "Pit Bull" Knoll relinquished command of Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, to Col. Guy M. "Guyser" Close, here April 16. Among those in attendance was Maj. Gen. James F. Amos, commanding general, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

Knoll, a Chippewa Falls, Wis., native, passes on a MAG with an outstanding safety record to Close, who grew up in Wellsboro, Penn.

"I have a tough act to follow," said Close in his remarks. "It is indeed my honor and privilege to assume the reins of a group possessing such a proud and magnificent history, and I cannot think of a grander place for such a ceremony."

It is fortunate that the two chose to have to change of command during the deployment instead of in the rear. In the weeks prior to the passing of the colors, Close spent several weeks shadowing Knoll and the MAG-16 staff.

This is a second deployment for both colonels - Knoll, who deployed as Landing Force West commander in 2003, and Close, who served as Operational Support Aircraft Detachment officer-in-charge at Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base in Kuwait.

Close was a commissioned second lieu-



Marines of Marine Aircraft Group 16 stand in formation during the change of command ceremony at Al Asad, Iraq, April 16.

tenant in 1979, and following graduation from The Basic School in 1980, attended flight school in Pensacola, Fla., to become an aviator.

His deployments include a Northern Atlantic Treaty Organization deployment to Norway, two Mediterranean deployments, the first of which supported the United States Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.

Close has served in billets ranging from aircraft maintenance officer to executive officer and on to commanding officer, in a myriad of duty stations. He has served around the globe, before arriving in Iraq to take command of the forward-deployed group.

"It has been an honor serving with these men and women, and I'm ready to put up my spurs," said Knoll to Close. "Your solid leadership, common sense and good humor will serve you well as you embark on your journey."

Mobile PX brings elements of home to Marines

Story and photos by Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte

MAG-16 Combat Correspondent

AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT, Iraq - The worried Marine paced back and forth examining each stack of items like a private eye pours over a stack of evidence. He realized he had someone relieve him from duty for nothing - there weren't any Corn Nuts. He walked away, contemplating how cruel life could be and how he had the worst luck in the Corps, when an exchange Marine walked up with an unopened box of Corn Nuts and all was well with the world again.

"Thanks gunny, I really appreciate it," Lance Cpl. Zachery T. Serad exclaimed as he walked away from the mobile exchange line like a pirate of old, hoarding his treasure.

As the 20-year-old Marine walked away, Gunnery Sgt. Heath A. McIntyre smiled, confident in his success. All in a days work for the exchange Marine of Combat Service Support Battalion 7.

The Western Area operations chief's mission is to bring forward-deployed Marines the simple wants of life.

"We're here to bring the (Post Exchange) to the Marines that can't come to it," the 32-year-old claimed.

Back home, the PX carries anything and everything someone could want, according to McIntyre. They carry hygiene products, junk food and health products.

The exchange Marines use Warfighter's Express Service Teams, or WES teams, to try their best to accommodate the Marines here, he added. The teams are designed to bring PX supplies to Marines who are forward



Staff Sgt. Wesley M. Nelson (center) from Rifle, Colo., and a fellow Marine from Combat Service Support Battalion 7, exchange money for goods from the Marines of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, April 2. The cashiers are part of a Warfighter's Express Service Team that brings mobile exchanges to forward-deployed Marines.

deployed to remote locations.

In order for a WES team to launch, a few administrative and logistics steps must take place, McIntyre noted.

"We'll let the units know that we can offer a mobile exchange, disbursing and postal capabilities," he described. "Afterwards, we have them request from us what they need, and if we aren't already slated to go somewhere else, we show up."

The exchange Marines will then send a two-to-three man team with supplies to the location and get a small group of Marines from the requesting unit to help set up shop.

"In the rear we have the luxuries of working in buildings," McIntyre said. "We do the same things here, except we might be selling off the (ground) and dealing with the weather."

The teams can usually handle approximately 400 Marines in a matter of hours. With an hour of set up and one for break down, the team can perform one mission a day depending on the distance of the camp from their home base, Al Asad Air Station, Iraq.

A lot of coordination goes into the moving of supplies from one base to another to include coordination with convoys, palletizing of merchandise and inventories, claimed Staff Sgt. Wesley M. Nelson, Al Asad exchange assistant manager and Western Area logistician, CSSB-7. Even after the team is back, the inventories and re-supplying of the team's gear will take more time.

The benefits to everyone involved are just too good to worry about any possible drawbacks, the 32 year old stated.

"It's all about morale," the Rifle, Colo., native said. "They are stuck in the middle of nowhere and a mobile PX shows up bringing 'pogey-bait' and hygiene items. It's a good thing for everyone."

Although the Marines are supplied with chow, a simple bag of chips or just something different helps the Marines to cope.

"(Meals, ready to eat) will only get you so far until you think you just have to have something else, so we try and bring out what

we can for these guys," said McIntyre, a Constantine, Mich., native. "This gives them a chance to get the little things from home, whether it's a sports drink or a lunch snack. It's a chance to re-attach to their homes."

Marines are ready to deal with the rigors of combat, but these little bonuses in life make a big difference, said Serad.

"Morale is good out here, but things like this help out a lot," the Seattle, native claimed. "This is a good thing, and any little thing is big. We really appreciate it."

A simple thanks is all the exchange Marines need to help them realize what they do makes a difference, McIntyre noted.

"I enjoy it, it's what we come for, and it's our role in war," he said. "We're taking care of the Marines that protect us every day."

A sandstorm began to pick up as the last of the stragglers made their way through the line. Not one Marine left without saying "thanks gunny, we really appreciate it."

All in a day's work, McIntyre smiles, knowing today's mission is complete.



Staff Sgt. Wesley M. Nelson sets up his mobile exchange point for business at an ammunition supply point in Iraq April 2.

Feature

Stables bring servicemembers together

Story by Cpl. Kristen L. Tull

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Being in the military and moving duty stations every three years may make it difficult to own what some families call a luxury, such as owning a horse. But here on Miramar, Marine Corps Community Services brings a little taste of country to the city of San Diego.

The Miramar Stables have been around for 49 years. It offers 140 stalls to active duty military members, retirees, Department of Defense personnel and all of their families at a very low price.

"For \$175 a month you can keep your horse here and be assured that it will be properly taken care of," said Doris Cronkhite, Miramar Stables manager. This provides shelter, food twice a day and water for the horse as well as stall cleaning every day except for Sundays and holidays. The employees also keep a good eye out for any signs of colic or other illnesses, contacting owners if their horse needs medical attention.

"Civilian veterinarians are here three days a week, and we are also under the direction of the Army veterinarians," said Cronkhite.

All horses must be registered on station in order to be permitted into the stables.

"The stables are open from six in the morning until nine at night, and we do have a night watch posted so there's always someone here," said Cronkhite.

There are five riding arenas, one lit for night riding.

"The lighted arena is very important especially during the winter months. People will get off work and come out here to ride, and it's already dark," said Cronkhite.

Even though the stables are stuck between two highways there are 2,200 acres of riding trails with two access points, one located under Highway 15 and the other under Miramar Way.

Although most horse owners know how to handle and ride their four legged friends, lessons are still available to

those who may be a little uneasy or for children that are just beginning.

"We have four instructors and trainers on board for our customers that will train in English and Western riding styles as well as pleasure and jumping," said Cronkhite.

The stable also holds different events such as sleepovers for the kids and horse shows.

"The horse shows include a halter class where they aren't aboard the horse but the horse is still required to do certain things, then they have the kids on horseback and an English class and a jumping competition," said Cronkhite.

Cronkhite said they've had re-enlistments and weddings on horseback, and they recently had a retirement done on the property.

Extracurricular activities are often a positive outlet for servicemembers especially during the current trying times. Cronkhite says that when you board your horse here you become part of their community and their family.

"Horses generally are major stress relievers for a lot of people, we find too that a lot of the dependents have their husbands in Iraq or deployed and they just get that real family feeling here. Everyone looks out for each other," said Cronkhite.

Horses are very kinesthetic and generally want to be with their owners, she added.

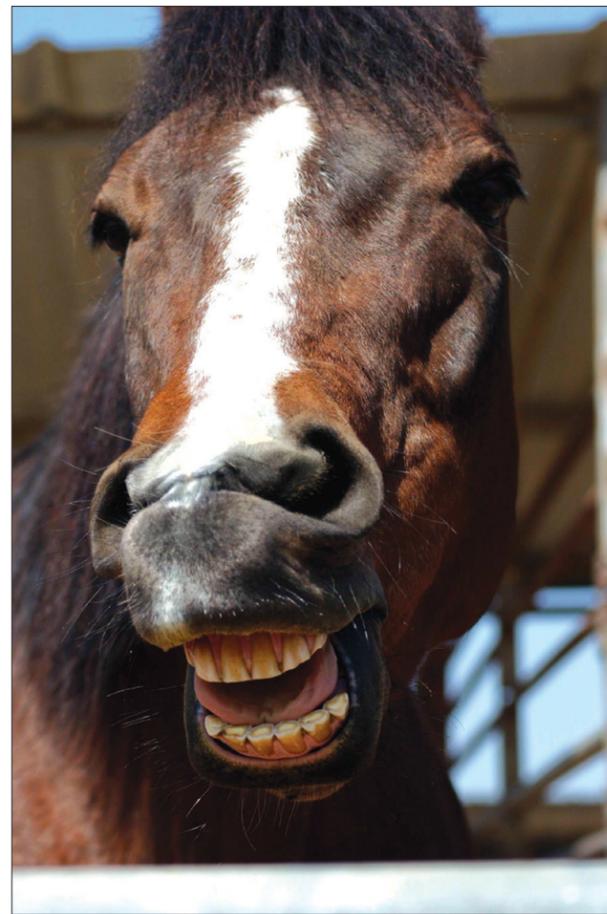
"Owning a horse is a very unique partnership. The animal has to trust you. It's a really great thing," said Cronkhite.

Trisha Thomas boards a horse here that she and her children received from her husband before he deployed to Iraq. "I love it, it's really a big family affair especially on the weekends," said Thomas. "My children love to ride her, and it's great exercise. I love the trails; they're beautiful."

She said her husband wanted to give her something to keep her busy while he was gone.

"He was right, that's what I do, and on all of my extra time I'm down here. I really needed it," said Thomas.

Thomas said they will keep their horse, Lacy, boarded



Regular trips to the dentist are a routine practice at the Miramar Stables, but this horse would show you his teeth without any hassle as long as someone was scratching its back. Photo by Cpl. Kristen L. Tull

here for the next two years until her husband retires, and they will take Lacy to their permanent home.

MCCS tries to provide a safe, adequate environment at a reasonable cost so that military families who want to have a horse can have one, and Cronkhite says it's amazing how families come out and spend their weekends with their horses.

Motivated Marine reenlists to support the Corps, OIF II

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Many Marines find out that they have to go back to Iraq just months after arriving back in the states.

Sgt. Jason E. Lyons, CH-53 helicopter mechanic, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, reenlisted in the Marines just to go back to support Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"I'm just glad I get a chance to do what I enlisted for," said the Plainfield, Conn., native. "I want to serve my country."

Not only did Lyons join to show his red, white and blue pride, but also to work on helicopters like his brother, who repaired airframes on CH-53s.

At his brother's Marine Corps boot camp graduation, Lyons "sealed the deal" and decided without hesitation that the Marine Corps was indeed for him. Now Lyons is a motivated devil dog who cannot wait to come into work every day.

Lyons advises other Marines to make the best of their military occupational specialty.

"Your job is what you make of it. If you wake up each morning with the wrong mentality, you are not going to be happy."

Cpl. Scott I. Cude, HMH-462 CH-53 helicopter mechanic, said Lyon's presence "is a big boost to morale."

"He's an inspiring and proficient leader," added the Baytown, Texas, native.

Lyons brought his expertise to Iraq when his squadron deployed last year. He earned a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for being a flightline supervisor and collateral duty inspector in the largest breakdown of a CH-53E Super Stallion in support of OIF in the Marine Corps.

"I feel like my job's not done. I want to go back over and continue to do my part," explained Lyons. "Someday I want my son to ask me questions on what he reads about in his history books."

In order to be a part of history, Lyons had to fight to go with his unit when they deployed to support OIF the first time.

Gunnery Sgt. John C. McGilvery, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge at the HMH-462 flightline shop, remembers when Lyons had surgery.

"He just had an operation on his knee



Sgt. Jason E. Lyons, a CH-53 Super Stallion mechanic with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, adjusts a ratchet before performing maintenance on one of his squadron's helicopters on the flightline here April 1. Photo by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

and became medically disqualified to go to war," said the Woodward, Iowa, native. "He convinced his doctor that he was all right and then he took his case to the commanding officer. I said, 'This Marine wants to deploy, sir,' and eventually he got his chance. Lyons wasn't going to take no for an answer."

Lyons commented, "I was not going to miss that opportunity, and I would do whatever it took to deploy."

After returning from his second deployment in Iraq, Lyons plans on attending college to become a vehicle mechanic. He also plans to get his Federal Aviation Association airframes and power plants license so he can work at an airport.

"My motto is 'Semper gumbly,'" stated Lyons. "In the Marine Corps there is a lot of hurrying up and then waiting. Things are going to change constantly, but you have to stay flexible. If you have a good outlook on life, everything will work out for you."



Sgt. Jason E. Lyons helps a fellow Marine repair the rear rotor of a CH-53 helicopter. Lyons was eager to deploy to Iraq even after surgery on his knee. Photo by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

Seat Shop ensures safety standard in Devils' chair

Story by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The saying "between the devil and the deep blue sea" was derived from the olden days of seafaring. Sailors often referred to the longest seam of the ship as the "devil." This seam ran the length of the boat; bow to stern and often while underway the "devil" had to be caulked while the sailor sat in the boatswain's chair – suspended between the "devil" and the briny blue.

In the aviation community today, the "devil" is the ejection seat – the pilot's last chance between life and death, and each time a pilot takes to the sky he does his best to keep things between the "devil" and deep blue sky. With a little help from some live devils on the ground, one squadron's pilots always know they never have anything to fear.

"At any time the pilot's lives are what we work on," said Cpl. Justin English, fixed-wing aircraft safety equipment mechanic, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232. "If someone else messes up on these planes it's the pilot's last chance. We're responsible for everything from the pulling of the handle until the pilot's in the air – the whole explosives part of the ejection."

English and only a handful "Red Devil" Marines work each day on the Naval Air Crew Common Ejection Seat, making sure that all inspections and upkeep is done correctly and on time. Seat Shop Marines are also responsible for the Cartridge Actuated Devices that work in conjunction with the NACCES.



Cpl. Justin English, fixed-wing aircraft safety equipment mechanic, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232, makes adjustments on a Naval Air Crew Common Ejection Seat at the "Red Devils" Seat Shop. Photo by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

English explained the CADs are explosives the size of shotgun shells that blow the canopy off the aircraft and launch the NACCES in an evacuation.

"They have a shelf-life range of 10 to three years," the 21-year-old Danville, Ill., native said. "When a CAD is manufactured it has a lot number and that begins its shelf life. When it's installed it has an install life, so it gets inspected depending on which date comes first."

Like with anything else in aviation, the NACCES has to be inspected at regular intervals. Every 14 and 42 days the seats are inspected while they are still inside the

aircraft for corrosion, and every 728 days the entire seat comes out for a full inspection.

"We break it down shotgun style," said English. "We make sure all the components are functioning properly, and if there are any adjustments we can make them. If we find a piece beyond repair we can get it turned in for another one."

When a CAD is inspected it takes a team of three people to work with the explosive devices. One Marine performs the work while another supervises and ensures safety. The third Marine guarantees the checklist is followed to the letter. English said the "Red Devil" Seat Shop

Marines can completely inspect a NACCES in as little as one-and-half days, but typically those inspections last a week to ensure safety. Since December they've pulled and fully inspected eight seats, and shop life has been severely hectic until recently.

As if being responsible for a pilot's last chance at life if something goes wrong wasn't enough to work on daily, Seat Shop Marines are also responsible for the aircrafts' Environmental Control System, which supplies oxygen to the cockpit. Although not necessarily life threatening, if the ECS isn't hooked up properly, it can make for an uncomfortable flight. English admits that it's hard to make something go wrong with the NACCES as well.

"For the seat, nothing really can go wrong with it as long as it's hooked up properly," he said. "The ECS can blow hot air, but if there's certain things disconnected (on the seat) it won't fire. The actual firing sequence is electronically controlled once the pilot pulls the handle."

After Marine Combat Training, Seat Shop Marines spend eight weeks at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., learning the general ideology of the ejection seat. Following that they spend another four weeks at either NAS Oceana, Va., or NAS Lamoor, Calif., to learn how to work specifically on the F/A-18 Hornet NACCES.

English said he and his fellow "Red Devils" realize they are the last chance for the pilot should they need to eject, but hope their services will never be used.

Chapel weekly schedule of events

Holy Family Catholic Community

- ◆ Mass: 11 a.m. Sunday, 11:30 a.m. weekdays.
- ◆ Rosary: 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- ◆ Confession: 10:15 a.m. Sunday or for appointments call Father Berchmanz at 577-1333.
- ◆ Religious classes for children for first communion, confirmation: 9:30-10:45 a.m. Sunday.
- ◆ Youth gathering and planning following mass Sunday
- ◆ Baptism: Normally the first Sunday of the month. Call the chaplain's office for details.
- ◆ Marriage: Call the chaplain for details at least six months before wedding.
- ◆ Instruction in the Catholic faith (RCIA). Call the chaplain's office for details.
- ◆ Scripture Class: 7 p.m. Wednesday in Chapel classroom.
- ◆ Choir Practice: 6 p.m. Wednesday in Main Chapel.

Liturgical Christian

- ◆ Sunday: Choir rehearsal at 9 a.m.
Liturgical worship at 9:30 a.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Bible study at 10:45 a.m.
- ◆ Tuesday: Morning prayer group (Room 4) at 6 a.m.
Contemporary Gospel Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday: Crafts and conversation at 9 a.m. Free childcare provided.
Women's bible study at 10:45 a.m.
Baptist service at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday: Liturgical choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Friday: Baptist bible study at 7 p.m.

Jewish

- ◆ First Friday of the month at MCRD San Diego at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Last Friday of the month in Edson Range Chapel Camp Pendleton at 7:30 p.m.

For more information during work hours call the Chaplain's Office at 577-1333 or the command duty officer after hours at 577-1141.

Mini Mee Soccer

The Youth Center has announced that there are a few remaining openings for Mini Mee Soccer for children age three.

Registration for the soccer league is at the Youth Center, and the fee is \$25 per child and includes individual and team pictures, individual trophies, game jerseys, shorts and socks.

The soccer league is open to all children with base access in Miramar housing areas.

For more information call the Youth and Teen Center at 577-4121.

NMCRS Budget Week

The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society is hosting a Mothers' Day/Cinco de Mayo Budget Week as a part of their 100th birthday celebration.

Sign up to have a budget done at the NMCRS today, and register for a raffle ticket to win either a \$50 gift certificate for a romantic dinner, gift basket or a bouquet of flowers for Mothers' Day.

There are five slots available from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. for servicemembers to schedule an appointment to work out a budget with a NMCRS counselor.

Contact the NMCRS office at 577-1807 to schedule an appointment, and bring your current leave and earning statement, bills and valid identification to receive a raffle ticket.

The drawing will be held May 7 at 2 p.m., and winners do not have to be present to win.

For more information contact the NMCRS Office.

Miramar circus day

The Culpepper and Merriweather Circus is coming to Miramar May 2.

The circus will take place south of the commissary, and show times are 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are available in advance at the Entertainment Office, building 2524. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Tickets purchased the day of the circus will be \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

For coupons and more information visit

Miramar Station Theater closed for renovations

The Miramar Station Auditorium/Movie Theater is scheduled to re-open its doors this summer following the completion of renovations. Station patrons can expect a grand opening celebration mid-June.

Renovations include new carpeting, tile and seating, as well as installation of an air conditioning and heating system, a fire safety system and a new roof.



the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus online at www.cmcircus.com.

AA meetings

Open discussion Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are now being held at the MCCS Counseling Center, building 2274, weekdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The meetings are open to all active duty personnel, retirees, family members and Department of Defense employees.

For more information call 577-7285.

Tackle football

Tryouts for the Miramar Tackle Football Team will be held Monday through April 30 at Mills Park from 5 to 7 a.m.

A command authorization form is required to participate.

Check writing

The MCCS Counseling Center is providing classes on the fundamentals of check writing in personal finance on Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at the center, building 2274.

Seating is limited so attendees are encouraged to call ahead.

For more information or to reserve a seat call 577-9802.

Musical salute

The commissary and Main Exchange will be hosting an American Musical Salute presented by the Desert Mountain High School Jazz Band and Jazz Choir with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band at the commissary



**For information on
deployed 3rd MAW Marines
and Sailors, call the
Dictaphone at
1-877-616-8762.
For more information, call
577-7397/7294.**

parking lot Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information on the free performance, visit www.mccsmiramar.com

Home buyers

The Joint Reception Center is hosting a free home buyers training seminar Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m.

The space-limited seminar is open to all active duty servicemembers and will focus on all aspects of real estate.

Employees of Primex Funding Services, Inc., are presenting the seminar and will be happy to answer any questions dealing with financing options, tax advantages, how to find the right home for your family, escrow information, why title insurance is needed as well as home warranty issues.

For more information call (858) 627-9155.

SAFETY,
 continued from page 1

The award for the "Devil Fish" was named after Capt. Marion Carl, a World War II pilot and the first Marine ace. In his career, Carl shot 18 and a half Japanese aircraft and led an amphibious landing in Vietnam. He retired a major general.

"I'm proud that we were recognized for what we did," said San Diego native Cpl. Derek P. Jensen, hydraulics mechanic, MALS-11. "We accomplished something great."

CFAC,
 continued from page 1

Additionally, Key Volunteer Network volunteers provide house or pet sitting, house or yard clean up, Meals on Wheels, childcare pick-up or drop-off and general errand running, said Mushallo.

"We especially want to be a caring support network for families and our volunteers are a very important part," said Bradford. "We are here to spring into action to particularly help support families and military spouses of our deployed Marines."

For more information on CFAC or on how to volunteer, contact the L.I.N.K.S.

House at 577-4810 or the MCCS Counseling Center at 577-6585.

POWER,
 continued from page 3

tion Yuma, Ariz., where he served as electronic warfare subject matter expert in the aviation development and tactical evaluation department. DeMorat also served as an EA-6B tactics instructor in the tactical aircraft department of MAWTS-1.

Following his tour at MAWTS-1, DeMorat returned to MCAS Cherry Point and reported for duty with VMAQ-3, where he served as assistant operations officer and electronic warfare officer.

Upon graduating Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in May 2000, he received orders to Tactical Air Control Squadron 12 at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif., where he deployed aboard the *USS Boxer*.

DeMorat once again returned to MCAS Cherry Point during January 2002 for duty with Marine Aircraft Group 14. He then transferred to VMAQ-4 and served as executive officer before returning to MAG-14 Headquarters as the assistant readiness officer.



Contest promotes awareness

Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Spruel, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area sergeant major, and Janice Gallinetti, judge the winners of a drawing contest at the Youth Center here in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child April 14. The theme of the contest was "Keeping Children Safe in Uncertain Times." Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas