

FLIGHT JACKET

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

March 12, 2004



Capt. Mike E. Lindblom, pilot, HMM-163, a San Diego native, holds his one-month old daughter, Macy, after he arrived from a six-month deployment with ESG-1. Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas



Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 taxis along the flightline in front of Hangar 6 here Monday after returning from a deployment throughout the western Pacific with Expeditionary Strike Group 1. Family members and other Miramar well-wishers were on hand to welcome more than 250 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines home. Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

HMM-163 home again

'Evil Eyes' return from deployment with ESG-1, 13th MEU (SOC)

Story by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

More than 250 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines returned home in formation here Monday afternoon after a six-month deployment throughout the western Pacific in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The Marines of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 (Reinforced) "Evil Eyes" arrived by ship over the weekend off the coast of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton with Expeditionary Strike Group 1 and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). They flew the rest of the way home by helicopter shortly afternoon Monday as family and friends waited to welcome home their loved ones under the growing southern California heat at Hangar 6. The Marines flew 12 CH-46s and four CH-53s in formation over the air station before taxiing in position in front of a crowd of cheering family and friends carrying signs and waving flags of support.

"It feels great," said Virgie Luna, wear-

ing a Marine Mom t-shirt in support of her son Cpl. Joaquin E. Luna, cook, HMM-163. "I am so glad that he is back from where he was."

The trip home was not an easy one to deal with for many Marines because of the time it took to cross the Pacific, according to Capt. Mike E. Lindblom, a HMM-163 pilot. Lindblom had more than a wife to get home to - a daughter who was just born last month.

"I can't describe it. This is everything I asked for. She is perfect," expressed Lindblom as he stood admiring his one-month old daughter, Macy, in his arms. "You are happy that you are steaming home, but it's long. It takes a good six weeks to two months to get home."

The squadron was joined by an AV-8B Harrier detachment, an AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopter detachment, a CH-53 Super Stallion helicopter detachment, and their supporting logistics and air control units, while attached to the 13th

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Aircraft crashes at Miramar

Four Marines were killed when their UC-35D, a military version of a Cessna Citation 560, belonging to Marine Corps Bases Western Area, crashed on approach to the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar airstrip.

The plane crashed about 8:45 p.m. Wednesday about a mile and a half east of the airstrip.

The air station's Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Recovery unit was dispatched to the scene immediately after receiving a phone call reporting what was believed to be a crash just east of the airstrip.

The identities of the four Marines on board are being withheld pending notification of next of kin. The cause of the crash is under investigation. Photo courtesy of www.fredgraves.com

Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



79°/54°
Today



77°/52°
Saturday



74°/52°
Sunday

'Vikings' deploy to Japan



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Heavy haulin' in Iraq



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February '04 safety summary

Gen. M. W. Hagee

Commandant of the Marine Corps

During February, three marines died in operational mishaps, and two marines and one sailor died in off-duty mishaps.

On-duty

A sergeant was crushed and died when the HMMWV he was a passenger in rolled over.

After washdown and during transit to ship aboard an Landing Craft, Air Cushioned, an M1-A1 tank broke loose and rolled into the outer harbor of Guam with a corporal aboard. The corporal drowned (reported as a Navy mishap).

A private first class drowned during initial reconnaissance screening training.

Off-duty

A corporal died after he lost control of his motorcycle and crashed.

A Navy petty officer assigned to a Marine unit died in a motor vehicle mishap after he collided with two other vehicles in a head-on collision.

A 1st lieutenant died in a private airplane crash.

Trends/observations

Motor vehicles accounted for 13 of this years 21 off-duty fatalities. Excessive speed and operator error caused a loss of control in at least 11 of these fatalities. Five of the fatalities were passengers which highlights the fact that operational risk management applies to all vehicle occupants; passengers also need to conduct ORM prior to and while riding in a vehicle. I encourage marines to build on the following ORM for passengers and use it to increase safety awareness and reduce mishaps within their unit.

Identify hazards as a passenger. Closely examine these factors; your driver, the vehicle, and the road conditions. Irresponsible drivers pose the greatest danger by driving

tired, too fast, recklessly or under the influence of alcohol. Inspect the vehicle for unsafe conditions created by faulty equipment such as worn tires and inoperable lights or seatbelts. Consider the effect external factors such as weather and road conditions will play in safely operating the vehicle.

Assess the hazards associated with riding in a vehicle by evaluating their severity and probability. Make no mistake, if you are riding with an irresponsible driver, in an unsafe vehicle, or in poor weather conditions, the likelihood of a mishap is high and the consequences are deadly. You need look no further than these monthly safety summaries to verify this fact.

Make decisions that minimize your risk to an acceptable level. If an individual is incapacitated, unqualified or unsafe, then do not let him drive. Elect another driver or personally offer to drive. Evaluate travel in another vehicle or by alternate means when safety concerns are present.

When schedules permit, delay travel until a driver is rested or road conditions improve. If necessary, elevate risk decisions to your chain of command.

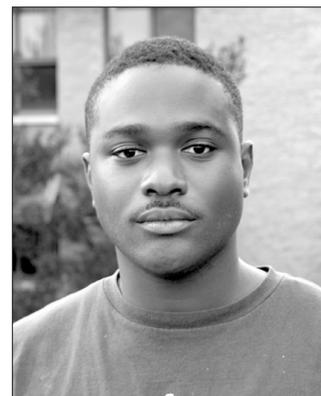
Implement controls to further eliminate or reduce the degree of risk. Issuing a simple warning to drivers to slow down or be more careful can significantly reduce risk. Check the weather prior to departure and adjust accordingly when traveling.

In an operational environment, ensure drivers have sufficient training and experience by checking their license; review the vehicle's preventative maintenance checks and services to determine the vehicle's condition; and wear personal protective equipment such as a helmet and flak jacket.

Most importantly, supervise. Monitor your driver, the vehicle, and road conditions. As changes occur, review your form and take corrective action.

Semper Fidelis.

Miramar Mail



"What is the policy for parking motorcycles on the air station?"

Cpl. Keith Howard
air support operations operator
MTACS-38

Motorcycles should park in designated parking areas whenever possible. When no designated parking area is available, Miramar conforms to the regulations stated in the California Vehicle Code.

Motorcycles are considered vehicles by the CVC and are subject to the same rules and regulations of a car, so motorcycles can not park on sidewalks.

If a motorcycle shares a space with other vehicles, all such vehicles are subject to citations.



Maj. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti

Editor's note:

E-mail your questions to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar at:
ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil
Please include "Question to the General" in the subject line.



Marines find motivation in Iraqi desert

Col. Stuart L. Knoll, commanding officer, Marine Aircraft Group 16, motivates the Marines of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261 while at an airfield in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

Knoll visited the squadron to give the Marines his vision for this phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Knoll said when he commanded forces during the first phase of OIF, he did not lose a single Marine under his command.

Knoll continued by saying that he wants to bring all his Marines back home from this deployment as well. HMM-261 is based out of Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., and is in Iraq augmenting MAG-16 and supporting their mission of troop and gear transport. Photo by Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte.

FLIGHT JACKET

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MWHS-3 Marines support OIF II in Iraq



Cpl. Patrick Riley, supply clerk, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, pounds a steel bar into the ground while making a horseshoe pit. Riley, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom deployed to Iraq last year with First Marine Division. The horseshoe pit is just one of many things being built to improve the morale of the Marines and Sailors deployed to the Al Anbar Province in support of OIF II. Photo by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

Story by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

MWHS-3 Combat Correspondent

AL ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq – July 2003 marked the return of the last units from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

Now, less than one year after their return home, the Marines and Sailors of Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 have returned to provide the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing with logistical support and force protection.

“We are here to prepare and maintain work and living spaces for the Wing Headquarters element,” said Lt. Col. Glenn Murray, commanding officer MWHS-3.

Flying more than 8,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean and touching ground on three separate continents, many of the Marines and Sailors of MWHS-3 are returning veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Jonathan B. Davis, nuclear, biological and chemical warfare specialist, MWHS-3, was attached to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines during Operation Iraqi Freedom and witnessed first hand the reaction of the Iraqi people after they had been liberated.

“The first time I was here, we were here to topple Saddam Hussein and liberate the people of this country,” said the 22-year-old Cleveland, Tenn., native. “Now we are here to stabilize the country and jump-start the people to let them know what it is like to live free and without fear.”

The first phase of the war in Iraq saw the use of nearly all of 3rd MAWs fixed-wing

and rotary-wing assets to support troops on the ground. This time, only the workhorses of the 3rd MAW will be used.

“We did not bring any tactical air support (F/A-18 Hornets) or any AV-8B Harriers to Iraq this time,” Murray said. “We brought everything else, to include CH-46 Sea Knights and CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopters from MCAS Miramar and Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 from Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

“The whole force that is here under the 3rd MAW is a compilation of units and personnel from all four Marine Aircraft Wings,” he added. “We have Marines from Yuma, Ariz., Okinawa, Japan and New Orleans.”

As part of the largest group of coalition forces to assist in the rebuilding of Iraq since conflict ended last year, the Marines and Sailors of MWHS-3 want to do their part.

One of these Marines, Sgt. Doug Harris, signals intelligence analyst with MWHS-3, was based out of Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait, last year and has only supported the Wing through his military occupational specialty.

“I provided indications and warnings to the intelligence field of any incoming missile launches,” said the 34-year-old Bradenton, Fla., native. “This time I am very glad to be out here doing something other than my MOS.”

Harris has been part of a large group of Marines tasked with installing Hesco secu-

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Marines raise nation's flag, spirits during historical re-enactment

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. – Marines made history on top of Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima, Japan by raising the American flag Feb. 23, 1945.

Six Marines recreated the historical scene at the Palm Springs International Tattoo event Feb. 27 and 28.

Cpls. Brian J. Martin, Matthew Digiosaffatte, Samuel A. Jacobs, Dylan D. Walker and Matthew D. Rock and Sgt. Heriberto Serrano worked together to bring the scene to life.

“It’s very motivating to be part of the re-enactment,” said Rock, an aviation logistics tactical information systems specialist for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16. “It is one of the biggest symbols that we have in the Marine Corps.”

Pfc. Ira Hayes, Pfc. Franklin Sousley, Pfc. Rene Gagnon, Cpl. Harlan Block, Sgt. Michael Strank and Navy Pharmacist Mate Second Class John Bradley, were the Marines and corpsman that recreated the flag raising during the fifth day of battle during World War II.

“We looked at several original photographs to duplicate the event,” said Serrano, a trumpet player in the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band. “Each person had a different character to emulate. We wanted the end product to be as close to the original event as possible.”

The Marines even wore the old service uniforms of World War II while replicating the historic flag raising.

“It’s a great way to top off the show. I really can’t explain all of the feelings that it generates,” said Serrano. “The crowd’s reaction means something, and it creates the reactions that you feel inside.”

When the Marines dashed out behind the curtain carrying the American flag, a great applause grew from the audience. Civilians, servicemembers and retired military leaped from their seats as soon as they caught a glimpse of the Marines.

To top off the experience, the 3rd MAW band played the Marines’ Hymn during the re-enactment.

“I feel a lot of pride and respect inside knowing that there were actual Marines who raised the flag during World War II,” said Rock. “We’re bringing back those memories.”



VMFA(AW)-225 deploys to Iwakuni

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Approximately 190 Marines from Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 here departed for Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Tuesday and today for six months as a part of a Unit Deployment Program.

"They are going to do an awesome job over there," said Lt. Col. Christopher Mullin, executive officer, Marine Aircraft Group 11. "They are incredibly well prepared."

During the UDP deployment, the "Vikings" of VMFA(AW)-225 will be working with various U.S. and international forces, including the U.S. Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force and military forces of South Korea, according to Maj. John E. Passant, operations officer, VMFA(AW)-225.

Accompanying the "Vikings" to Japan were a detachment of Marines from Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron 11 who will be working with MALS-12 as a part of the UDP.

"This deployment gives our squadron a chance to train using different ranges and is a great opportunity to practice our skills in a different environment," said Capt. Rodney C. Rodriguez, adjutant, VMFA(AW)-225.

The Marines onboard the Air Force KC-10 refueling tanker flying with the Hornets perform an important safety role during the long flight to Iwakuni, said Rodriguez.

"During normal training operations here if we have a problem with the aircraft during a flight we can contact the tower or someone at the hangar on station who will consult the flight manuals that are too large for the cockpit," explained Rodriguez who will be making the more than six-hour flight for the first time. "As a safety measure in case we have any problems in the air, we can contact those Marines in the refueling tanker."



'Vikings' ground crew signal farewell to Capt. Matthew C. Shortal, pilot, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225, and Capt. Edward M. Bahret, weapon systems officer, VMFA(AW)-225, who return the squadron's unique signature salutation as they taxi to the runway here Tuesday before taking off for Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

Before coming home to Miramar in mid-September, the "Vikings" will visit Australia, South Korea and Alaska to participate in various joint exercises that are excellent opportunities for training, said Passant.

"They will do well," said Lt. Col. John Rupp, commanding officer, VMFA(AW)-225. "We deployed to Iwakuni in 2002 and just returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom last year almost nine months ago, but (the Marines of this squadron) are eager to deploy again and do the job that they have been trained to do."



The first group of six 'Viking' F/A-18D Hornets deploying to MCAS Iwakuni line up for take off on the flightline here Tuesday morning. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht



Maj. Steve L. Wilson, executive officer, VMFA(AW)-225, waves good-bye to fellow Marines and family members while pilot Lt. Col. John Rupp (left), commanding officer, VMFA(AW)-225, conducts his pre-flight cockpit check before leaving Miramar for the 'Vikings' six-month deployment to MCAS Iwakuni. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

3rd MAW band conductor leads Marines by example

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

He stepped on the yellow footprints 14 years ago ... nine years later he came back to influence and inspire future Marines with his spark.

Former Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. Ramon F. Villa Jr. and Enlisted Conductor of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band continues to motivate Marines wherever he goes.

"He's the type of Marine I want to be like in a few years," said Cpl. Jennifer Jones, clarinetist in the 3rd MAW band. "He's an outstanding Marine. I have a deep respect for him."

After recruit training, Villa attended the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, Va., to become a trumpet player in the Marine Corps.

"Everything is a gift, and it can be taken away from you at any time," said Villa.

"I can remember when I was a junior in high school and I had gotten into a car accident. I had broken

two teeth and had upper lip damage resulting in stitches. I was told I couldn't play the trumpet any longer. My mouth was chopped liver. A few months later, I competed in a district competition with a solo and had placed in the top of the competition. My gift was shortly taken away from me, making me realize its importance."

After graduating the course, Villa went to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., then on to the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force in Okinawa to play in their bands.

While in Okinawa, Villa applied for a drill instructor billet, something he had dreamt about since he was a private first class. However, he was denied because of a shortage of instrumentalists in his MOS.

Eventually Villa went to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, and applied again to be a drill instructor. His request became fulfilled this time.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man does to another," he said. "If you can influence just one percent of the Marine Corps and help change people for the better ... you know that you've made a difference.

"He knows how to get the best out of his Marines," said Lance Cpl. Mary Ellen Edwards, clarinetist for the 3rd MAW Band. "He makes us rise to his standards. He is a remarkable leader."

Villa recalled something he would say to his recruits as they prepared to graduate.

"The Marine Corps emblem is tattooed to your soul forever, and never forget that you will always be a United States Marine."

After his tour as a drill instructor, Villa went back to the school of music for the Ceremonial Conductors/Drum Major Course and Enlisted Bandleaders Course to become a conductor, where he was ranked first in his class.

"I would see him at night practicing, even though he was already a great musician," recalls Jones, who was attending the school of music while Villa was there. "He would practice just as much as a Pfc or lance corporal."

Before stepping up in front of a group to conduct, Villa said he practices in front of a mirror until he is fully prepared. When the 3rd MAW Band practices a section of music during a rehearsal, Villa goes to the side to practice his conducting.

"Every good leader tries to lead by example," he added. "Marines look up to you to see how you are responding to situations. If they see you try, they will

respond to that. Motivation is contagious, while gloom spreads like a virus."

Gunnery Sgt. Marty

K. Rector, percussionist in the 3rd MAW Band, said Villa goes above and beyond leading by example.

"He's the motivator who keeps everyone going," added Rector. "When we're tired, he'll tell us that he's tired too, but the job has got to get done."

After completing both courses, Villa received orders here.

"I am honored at the privilege to conduct a United States Marine Corps band," said Villa. "I love these Marines. They're part of my family. Each morning I step out of my car into the band hall and someone will say 'good morning gunny.' That sets the pace for the rest of the day."

"He gives us 100 percent all of the time, nothing less," said Sgt. Heriberto Serrano, trumpet player for the 3rd MAW band.

Recently, the band performed at the International Palm Springs Tattoo event, and Villa made sure all his Marines were situated and all had a place to lay their heads.

"Marines will be as committed to you as you are to them," stated Villa. "If you treat them with respect, that's what you will get back."

Villa is thankful to have a Marine Corps family in addition to his own family. His wife Lisa and four children inspire and encourage him as well. Also, he thanks God for the good things he has in life. Both families have helped Villa to be an exceptional Marine.

"Being a Marine is more than having the haircut. You are a Marine 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Villa stated. "It isn't just a career, it's a way of life."



Gunnery Sgt. Ramon F. Villa, conductor, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, conducts the band at a rehearsal in Palm Springs, Calif. Photo by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

'Every good leader tries to lead by example ... Motivation is contagious, while gloom spreads like a virus.'

Gunnery Sgt. Ramon F. Villa

Safety is everybody's business.

HMH-466 takes off in Iraq

Story by Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte

MAG-16 Combat Correspondent

AL ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq – Pilots and crews of Marine CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466 began their first flight operations here Feb. 28.

These are the first flight operations in Iraq to take place for Marine Aircraft Group 16 since its return to the country after the main combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For the squadron, however, this deployment is something new, said Maj. Roger McFadden, executive officer, HMM-466.

“This is the first time (HMM-466) has deployed to Iraq as a squadron,” McFadden said. “We have had personnel who came here before who were part of different units at the time.”

MAG-16 returned to Iraq in February and is tasked with the logistics flow for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Western Iraq.

“We bring the Marines the beans, bullets and band-aids,” McFadden explained. “Most of the flight operations will originate through here.”

The squadron will perform the same operations the flight crews have trained for, said Cpl. Joshua Coale, crew chief and weapons and tactics instructor, HMH-466.

“We can do a wide range of jobs including convoy support, re-supply, heavy lift and even raids,” he said. “Because of our range, we can also do border patrol along the Syrian border.”

As of now, space is the big issue aboard the air station, McFadden said.

“It will get better, but this is the inflow point of all Wing assets. Because the Army is still here, there is less space for now.”

For the time being, the squadron is keeping itself busy conducting area “fans” to get pilots familiar with the area surrounding the air station, McFadden said. The Army still has the official mission, so this allows Marines the time to get to know the area and ensure all planes are in good condition, he added.

“We are still in the process of getting our spaces workable,” he stated. “It would’ve been a real detriment to try and do both at the same time.”

When MAG-16 officially assumes control of the area of operations, there are many obstacles they are prepared to encounter during their time in Iraq.

“There are many hazards that we’ll face out here,” Coale said. “Things like sand, anti-aircraft missile(s) and smalls arms fire.”

To prepare for these dangers, most of the Marines participated in a new training package called Exercise Desert Talon at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., which was designed specifically to train 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines before this rotation of forces in Iraq.

McFadden said that the exercise has sharpened the flight crews’ skills, but time will tell if the training will apply in full.

Regardless, pilots have started flying and crews have started observing the landscape for anything and everything.

“Flying should be pretty much normal,

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A flight maintenance Marine waves instructions to a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter to have the pilot begin its taxi down the runway to the take-off point. The Marines are part of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466, Marine Aircraft Group 16, which began flight operations in Iraq Feb. 28. Photo by Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte

Marines, Sailors receive a formal reminder on ethics

Commentary by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Last week the Flight Jacket printed a message from the Honorable Gordon R. England titled "Expectation of Ethical Conduct."

I was actually a little shocked that the Secretary of the Navy felt the need to write such a message – especially to the Department of the Navy.

The sea services are known to the world by their Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Even before these staples were ingrained in the heads of countless recruits, Marines and Sailors stood for honor and virtue, always held to a higher standard than their military counterparts. The days are long gone when judges would force youngsters into a decision – enlist in the Marines, or go to jail. We are all free and are here on our freewill – even if your recruiter did "trick" you into enlisting as some of you claim.

Ethics has always been an integral part of who we are, and yet there are countless examples of Marines and Sailors not living up to the expectations demanded of them not just by the Uniform Code of Military Justice, but also by the blood of those who served before us. Ethical choices not only plague us in the military, but those on the outside of the military wall as well. Our civilian brothers and sisters face difficult choices every day, and the vast majority have never served in the military, where you're taught about ethics from day one in recruit training. Just ask the recently-convicted Martha Stewart about ethics. She may have some newly-found insight on this topic.

It should be relatively simple to live an ethical life. All ethics entails is always doing the right thing. Never lie, cheat or steal – the golden rule of "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." It sounds simple anyway, but the truth of the matter is that it's human nature to look for the shortcut. It's human nature to do whatever it takes to get ahead – it's called evolution – survival of the fittest. We Marines and Sailors are in a bit of a conundrum being mere humans. However, the Navy and Marine Corps, in their infinite wisdom came up with an excellent solution – the drill instructor.

During recruit training we were taught the Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Marines were even given a red plastic card to put in their wallets, explaining the Core Values. This would forever serve as a constant reminder of not just those Core Values, but of ethics as well. One of the main points of recruit training was that we were about to be reborn. Stripped of our civilian identity and ideals, we were given a new one – that of what the American public demands – a morally true and honest person willing to fight to the death in protection of the greatest free nation on the planet.

We are still mere humans, yet to be unethical is now against the very foundation of everything we stand and fight for and everything we now believe in. Not having ethics wastes all those late nights on the flightline, extra hours at the Naval Consolidated Brig and extra patients seen at the branch medical clinic. It's hard to have an ethical lifestyle. It's a very fragile thing, and doesn't require an act of insider trading to break it.

Simply put, ethics is following the rules and always doing what's right. Honor, courage and commitment fall

right in with ethics. How many times have you shown up late to work and blamed the alarm clock instead of taking responsibility for your own actions? How many times have you lied to get out of field day or a working party? How many times have you not made a complete stop at a stop sign or exceeded the speed limit? Although arguably small crimes, those are all unethical acts. Here's a project for you: guess how many times a Marine or Sailor has been reported in the news for an unethical act, no matter how small. Go to the library and research as much as you can. I bet the answer is far greater than your guess. Between Marines ordering their subordinates to lie, to a Marine telling outright lies about events during deployments to Sailors killing innocents at home, even one is one too many.

How much longer will you stand to let the image you fought so hard for in recruit training get tarnished by those around you? Even minor things like walking and talking on a cellular phone in uniform or putting your hands in your trouser pockets on a cold morning stains the image of the Marine and Sailor.

A wise and crusty old sergeant major once told me before he retired that there's only one thing a person takes with them when they leave this world. It isn't money or fame, a new car or fancy position at work. It's their honor. That's the only one true thing that's remembered about them; that they take with them when they leave. Will they be remembered for always doing what was right? It's tough, one of the toughest things to do in life, but as Marines and Sailors, we owe it not only to American people and rest of the world, but we owe it to ourselves to keep our honor clean.

'Hand up, not hand out': My experience helping out with Vietnam Veterans of San Diego Homeless Shelter

Commentary by Sgt. Joshua Stueve

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

I've been told that at least once in your life something or someone will have such a profound effect on you that you will change your beliefs and outlook on life.

It happened to me about seven months ago.

I read a book by John Grisham called, "The Street Lawyer." And in this book the main character is a high profile lawyer who is involved in an incident with a homeless man. As Grisham's character digs deeper into the homeless man's life he not only finds out things about his case, but also about himself and his true calling, working with the homeless.

After reading the book I felt there was something I should be doing to help the millions of homeless Americans in this country. It wasn't like the feeling of

wanting to redecorate a room after watching "Trading Spaces," or wanting to become a nurse after watching "ER." This was a real feeling that kept digging at me for months until I came across the opportunity to feed it.

A friend of mine mentioned that she knew someone who was involved with the Vietnam Veteran's of San Diego. She said his name was Andre Simpson, and that I should give him a call if I was interested in volunteering. So, I gave him a call that day and we ended up trading phone messages back and forth over the course of a few weeks. When we finally did get to talk to each other, he said that he was excited to have someone who wanted to volunteer his time, especially a Marine on active duty. I asked how many volunteers he had at the shelter, thinking maybe I could hitch a ride with someone else here who also volunteered.

"None," he said. "You're the only one." I was astonished.

"The only one," I thought. "How could I possibly be the only one on this station who wants to help homeless veterans?"

"Do you want to come down tomorrow and check out the shelter," he asked.

I'm sure I hesitated, still drawn back by the fact there were no other volunteers, but I think I recovered quickly and said, "Yes. How about 9 a.m.?"

"Sounds good," said Simpson. "I'll see you then."

I drove down to the shelter that cool Saturday morning with no idea what I had gotten myself into. I was sure I was doing the right thing, but there was still a part of me that was doubting myself. Afraid of the unknown, I guess.

I parked my car in the Goodwill parking lot and walked around the corner to the shelter. It was a big, yellowish tent, erected behind the Goodwill store on Sports Arena Blvd. Hung from above the doors to the tent was an American flag and a POW/MIA flag. Both bring back pleasant memories from a childhood spent with parents who were both heavily involved in the American Legion and AMVETS. I walked in and it felt like 150 sets of eyes were on me, all wondering who I was, what I wanted and what I was doing there.

Luckily when I came through the gate, Andre had been radioed and advised that I was there. He met me quickly and we shook hands and exchanged pleasantries. He gave me a quick tour and explained this was just a winter shelter whose door's close on March 14th. He told me about the programs that are provided and gave the basic run down of day-to-day life at the shelter. I was introduced to the staff, who all seemed surprised that I was on active

duty, and was shown what my duties would be if I decided to come back.

Apparently people showed interest in volunteering quite frequently but never seem to follow through.

The next Monday was my first day and one I will never forget. I walked in and was introduced to a member of the staff I had not met when I came by for my tour. He was a former Marine named Bill and we hit it off right away. Bill introduced me to the rest of the crew I would be working with on my volunteer nights, and showed me where he could most use my help. Then he told me to walk around and meet some of the guys, just to kind of let them know that I was going to be around from now on.

So, I walked off to do some meeting and greeting, not expecting to be gone for more than an hour.

I met some great guys. Guys who fit the mold of any friend anyone has ever had. Funny, personable, witty, poetic, intelligent and loveable.

Now, I'll admit, not all 150 guys were like this. As we say in the Marine Corps, "You've got your 10 percent."

But most of the guys were great. And once they found out I was on active duty, most wanted to talk to me to ask how things are in the service, what I thought about the war, where I was stationed and where I've been.

But one thing I remember distinctly about that day is the question asked to me more than any other.

"Why are you doing this?" they asked.

I got everything from, "Are you on probation?" to "Are you doing this for school?"

The last thing on their mind was that I

New soccer season gets underway after rainy weather delay

Story by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16 Forerunners outscored Navy Marine Corps Reserve Center Staff by a score of 5-3 at Mills Park here to start the 6-on-6 Soccer League season March 4.

Both teams were finally able to run the fields last week after recent rainstorms delayed the start of the soccer season, according to team coaches. The effects of the delay were clearly shown on the field as both teams struggled to get into a rhythm throughout the game.

"Right now we are barely getting familiar with each other. We hardly practiced because of the rain," said Staff player Rudy Flores.

Edwin H. Camacho, Staff coach, said although he feels he has a good team, they still have to spend time getting to know one another since many of his team members are playing with each other for the first time.

"It's going to take some time for us to become a team and score some goals since this is the first time playing for us," said Camacho, a Columbia native who resides in Orlando, Fl.

Like many other teams, Camacho explained that his team is looking to have a successful season by winning every game, but knows that the team needs to practice more and will only improve as the season moves along.

"Our first goal is to win every game if we could. I know that it is not going to be possible, but we want to at least make it to the playoffs and go from there," Camacho said.

The Forerunners were also confident in their soccer skills as they put the heat on the

Staff early by putting pressure on them offensively and keeping the Staff on the run for most of the game.

"We keep getting stuck in the backfield," Flores explained to teammates during a break in the game. "Every time you see somebody in the backfield by himself, you should be trying to get open so that we can move the ball up."

The Forerunners have some experience when it comes to playing the game, but not necessarily winning them, according to Forerunners coach Ben Ganey. Ganey, along with a few other teammates, have played together before on the base team soccer or during the intramurals season and so far are working fairly well together.

"Parts of the game we won, but there is always room for improvement," Ganey said. "From what I have seen today, I think we could be a decent team."

Ganey said that many of his players have to adjust to the game itself because of the shorter field that they have to work with. He said the smaller field leaves little room for error so players have to be more aware of where they are at on the field as well as where their opponent is moving to next.

"It's a small field and a fast pace game. For us who have to play a full field it will be kind of hard to adjust," said Ganey. "There is not a lot of room for error in this game. If somebody gets by you, you have to hustle to catch up."

With 15 teams signed up to play, it is too early to tell which team is going to be the one to beat after the Forerunners beat the Staff 5-3.

The season is expected to run through the beginning of June. Right now it is anybody's game. The team who wants to win more is the one who is going to be crowned the champion at the end of the season.



Rudy Flores, Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center Staff, and El Monte, Calif., native, attempts to get past Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16 Forerunners defense during their opening game of the 6-on-6 Soccer League at Mills Park here March 4. The Forerunners held off their opponent late to secure a 5-3 win after the beginning of the season was delayed by bad weather recently. Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

Getting out?

Get a sponsor

www.MarineForLife.com

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 chaplain for details at least six months before wedding.
- ◆ Instruction in the Catholic faith (RCIA). Call 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. Young Adults Fellowship at 5:30 p.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.

MSG screening

The Marine Security Guard Briefing and Screening Team will visit Miramar April 1 at the COMCABWEST auditorium, Bldg. 8630, at 9 a.m.

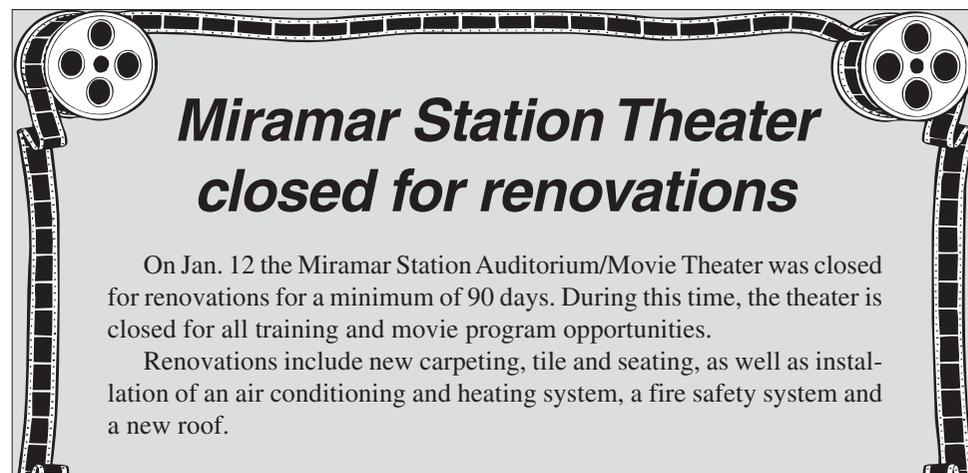
All interested Marines should contact their unit Career Retention Specialist or call Gunnery Sgt. G.T. Gordon at 577-8682 for more information.

Technology Expo

The Miramar Officers' Club will host the Miramar Technology expo April 8.

The event is open to all Miramar and Tenent Activity Personnel at no charge and will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Many different industry leading manufacturers, developers and systems integrators will be exhibiting the latest in international



Miramar Station Theater closed for renovations

On Jan. 12 the Miramar Station Auditorium/Movie Theater was closed for renovations for a minimum of 90 days. During this time, the theater is closed for all training and movie program opportunities.

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.

cell phones, computer products, ergonomic seating, tools and test equipment, COTS servers, data storage systems, data protection, disaster recovery, storage management and much more.

For more information, call (301) 596-8899, ext. 252.

Spouse seminar

The I Bar, Naval Air Station, North Island, will host a Junior Officer Spouse Seminar April 25 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. for the spouses of Navy junior officers, ensign through lieutenant commander, in the San Diego area.

Registration starts at 11:30 a.m. and the cost to attend is \$10.

Topics will include social traditions, privileges, as well as opportunities and customs.

Registration forms with fee must be sent to Junior Officer Spouse Seminar, 4851 Donaldson, San Diego, CA 92109, no later than April 20.

For more information, email jospousesemar@aol.com.

All Enlisted Ball

The San Diego Armed Services YMCA and the Navy League will host the 16th All Services Enlisted Ball at the San Diego Point Resort and Spa May 1.

The formal event celebrates and honors local enlisted military personnel from each of the five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Tickets are \$20 per person for E-5 and below, \$30 for E-6 and above and \$75 for officers and civilians.

Call (619) 232-9084 for ticket and sponsorship information.



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

HOME,
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MEU(SOC) that supported ESG- 1. 13th MEU(SOC) forces participated in operations in Iraq, the North Arabian Gulf, Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. The MEU conducted humanitarian assistance and security and stabilization missions in Iraq, as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom Maritime Interception Operations on land in southern Iraq and at sea in the Arabian Gulf during Operations Sweeney and Power Crude. They also patrolled international waters in the Red Sea and Horn of Africa to deter the transport of terrorist personnel and equipment, seizing several vessels including a drug-smuggling dhow, its 15 crewmembers, and 2,800 tons of hashish.

"I couldn't be prouder of every single Marine and Sailor in the 13th MEU for their professionalism during this deployment," said Col. Mike Regner, 13th MEU(SOC) commanding officer. "They did everything that was asked of them, and then some. It has been an honor to serve with these fine men and women."

Units who also returned with the 13th MEU(SOC) included Battalion Landing Team 1/1, MEU Service Support Group 13, and the MEU Command Element.

MWHS,
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rity barriers around large living quarters and buildings.

"I want to get out there and help out wherever I can," he said. Sgt. Kenneth E. Farmer, a combat illustrator on temporary additional duty from Headquarters Marine Corps, feels that the non-traditional purpose of the Marine Corps as an occupational force may not be a bad experience for the Corps.

"I think it is good the Marine Corps is here because it shows we are not just a force in readiness," said the 25-year-old Grants Pass, Ore., native. "If anyone thinks there is a reason to get rid of the Marine Corps, this should help prove that we are an asset to the country."

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but our 'look out doctrine' has increased," Coale said. "There is a threat out there that keeps us in the windows."

Coale said the pilots and crews need to be ready to assume command of the area of operations from the Army.

"We have to be on our toes," he con-

cluded. "We don't know exactly what to expect, so we have to keep eyes out."

VETERANS,
 continued from page 8

was doing this because I wanted to help ... that I was doing this for me, for them and for the countless veterans that I've called my friends over the years.

Each time I told them I was just volunteering some free time, they all would give me a puzzled look and say,

"Oh. OK. That's cool." But their faces told the their true feelings. They were glad someone was there because they wanted to be there, not because they had to be. That someone cared about them because they genuinely cared, not because they were paid to care.

And from that day on I looked forward to spending time each week with my new friends. Guys like Bill, Patrick, Bear, Vernon, Randal, Mike, Jeff, John, Barry, Ty, Johnson and Andre.

Guys I'll never forget.

An experience I'll never forget.

Wingspan

Wingspan airs on Channel 44 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m.

Wingspan is a local command access program that informs the Marines and Sailors aboard Miramar about what is going on around Miramar and the Corps.

**Miramar
 recycles**

For more information,
 call Station Recycling at
 577-6366.