FLIGHT JACKET

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Fallen Marines remembered

Gunnery Sgt. Francisco I. Cortes

Lance Cpl. Jeremy M. Lindroth

Lt. Col. Peter T. Nicholson

Lt. Col. Robert M. Zeisler

Memorial held at Miramar's chapel for crash victims

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

A memorial service was held Monday for the four Marines of Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area who died in a mishap when their UC-35D crashed March 10.

Fellow Marines, friends and family members gathered at Miramar's Airmen Memorial Chapel Monday afternoon to mourn the loss of the Marines and pay tribute to their years of service.

Individual eulogies for Lt. Col. Robert M. Zeisler, Gunnery Sgt. Francisco I. Cortes, Lance Cpl. Jeremy M. Lindroth and Lt. Col. Peter T. Nicholson were read by fellow Marines to everyone in the crowded chapel and surrounding grounds.

"Where do we find such men?" said Col. Joe D. Dowdy, who recently served as G-1 assistant chief of staff, MCABWA. Dowdy read the eulogy written by Col. Guy Close. "There is so much to say about (Zeisler), but foremost he was a leader willing to give of himself. He never shied away from the tough things, and he never hesitated to give."

Marines like Cpl. Peter Hill, who deployed last year under Zeisler when he was commanding officer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165, were shocked when they learned that Zeisler was involved in the fatal crash and remembered him as being "a great 'CO.'"

Master Sgt. Ann S. Brown, assistant transient chief, H&HS, read the eulogy for Cortes, who recently became a U.S. citizen.

"He had a way of charming us all," said Brown. "He took pride in helping out his junior Marines and loved to give them pointers, especially about marksmanship. He was a teacher and a mentor to Marines who flew high on life."

> **'Country, Corps and Marine Corps aviation, combined with family and faith, completed the matrix of their lives.'**
>
> **Col. Paul C. Christian**

Brown noted how eager he was to lend a hand and tried to describe the shock of his passing as she closed her remarks.

"We expect casualties of war, not casualties of training missions," said Brown.

Lance Cpl. Brooks A. McAllister, airfreight clerk, H&HS, described his friendship with Lindroth and the proud, passionate Marine that he was.

"He always motivated his friends to do more, and he did more himself by working two part-time jobs in addition to being a Marine," said McAllister. "We joked about him being a California cowboy, but he drove a Toyota with a surfboard. He had no enemies and always made you laugh. He was the type of Marine you always want to have by your side."

Nicholson, a "no-nonsense, hard-charging" Marine who garnered loyalty and loved the outdoors, was eulogized by Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon III, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

"Pete was good at all he did and was an example for all to follow," said Bowdon. "He made people want to be around him because they trusted him to do the job right, and he made hard things look easy.

"When anyone mentioned his name, people smiled. He was all about enthusiasm and his family."

During the memorial, Col. Paul C. Christian, chief of staff, MCABWA, remembered the superior leadership qualities in the Marines and conveyed his sincerest condolences and sympathies on behalf of Commander MCABWA Maj. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti.

"Country, Corps and Marine Corps aviation, combined with family and faith, completed the matrix of their lives," said Christian. "The military life is a calling where sometimes you have to lay down your life for a fellow comrade. They accepted this calling willingly and selflessly, giving their entire being."

Posthumous Meritorious Service Medals were awarded to Nicholson and Zeisler. In addition, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal was awarded to Cortes and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal to Lindroth.

Following a 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps" that echoed around the chapel grounds, the Marines received final honor as those in attendance gathered outside the chapel to witness a UC-12, CH-46s and CH-53s flying a "missing-man" formation before departing in solemn silence.

Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station

75°/56°	75°/56°	73°/55°
Today	Saturday	Sunday

Students welcome Marines

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Supplying gasoline in Iraq

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Fund drive supports NMCRS

Gordon R. England

Secretary of the Navy

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has responded with enthusiasm and compassion to the emergency financial needs of active duty and retired Sailors, Marines and their families for more than 100 years. Today, 3,000 volunteers display the same commitment and resolve shown by those first 19 volunteers who founded the society in 1904. Through the decades, the problems of our Sailors and Marines have grown more complex and, as a result, the society has implemented a full spectrum of programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our men and women in the Naval service. During its first century of service, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has responded effectively to the distress calls of nearly four million clients, disbursing more than $1 billion dollars in interest-free loans and grants.

Standing guidance for conducting the annual active duty fund drive in support of the society is contained in the Secretary of the Navy Instruction 5340.7. The fund drive is conducted each year during the month of March at Navy and Marine Corps commands around the world - afloat and ashore. This is the one time of the year that servicemembers wearing a Navy or Marine Corps uniform are asked to help themselves and their shipmates. The volunteers and employees of the society are your partners in fair weather and foul, around the clock and across the globe, 24/7. The society has a tremendously positive impact on the quality of life and readiness of our Sailors and Marines. Here are a few statistics from 2003:

- Financial assistance of $34.1 million involving 44,500 financial relief cases.

- Scholarships and loans for college education of $2.7 million to assist students in 3,842 cases.

- Approximately 8,500 Navy and Marine Corps families received complimentary junior sea bags, each containing an assortment of baby items, some handmade by society volunteers.

- Visiting nurses conducted more than 33,000 patient contacts.

- Thirty-two thrift shops provided low-cost clothing and household items to help families stretch their paychecks.

I have nothing but respect, admiration and gratitude for the society's volunteers and employees whose commitment, hard work and perseverance ensure assistance is available to those in need. Let me leave you with these two thoughts:

During this, the society's centennial year, please give generously to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. One hundred percent of your donation is returned as financial relief to shipmates. During the 2003 active duty fund drive,

See **NMCRS**, page 11

3rd MAW CG visits Marines in Iraq

AL ASAD, Iraq – Maj. Gen. James F. Amos, commanding general, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, speaks to Marines and Sailors of Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 at an operating base March 11 in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. Third MAW has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II as the Air Combat Element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photo by Capt. Robert B. Fanning*

Miramar Mail

"Why are coveralls not allowed at the seven day store?"
Sgt. E. Parks
airframes
VMFA(AW)-225

According to Marine Corps Order P1020.34, unit commanders may perscribe the wear of organizational clothing, such as food services uniforms and coveralls.

Under Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area Order 1020, personnel stationed at, or deployed to, Marine Corps Air Stations Yuma, Miramar and Camp Pendleton have been afforded the privelage of wearing clean and serviceable coveralls in dining facilities, however, they are not authorized to be worn in any Marine Corps Community Services activity or commissary with the following exceptions: the flightline exchange and Base Operations snack bar.

To learn more about uniform regulations aboard the station, log on to *www.usmc.mil*.

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.

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Ramona students welcome home deployed Marines

Story by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Nine-year-old Carl Steidl could not hold the excitement in too much longer. He had to say something to somebody because what he found out was the best news he had heard in almost five months – dad is finally coming home.

His excitement only grew over the next month, and it showed both at home and at school.

"Carl has been so ecstatic for the past month that it's been hard to keep him in line, and it's understandable because his dad is coming home," explained Randy Schimpf, Carl's 4th grade teacher at Barnett Elementary School in Ramona, Calif.

'The sacrifice the families have to make is phenomenal. I have more and more respect everyday for the people who serve our military.'

Kim Jose

Word spread quickly among students in the classroom that Carl's father, Lt. Col. Eric Steidl, executive officer, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 (Reinforced), would return March 8 from a six-month deployment along with more than 250 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines who supported Expeditionary Strike Group 1 while attached to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operation Capable).

13th MEU(SOC) forces participated in operations in Iraq, the North Arabian Gulf, Red Sea and Horn of Africa.

"My son's class found out that his dad was deployed, and they were very supportive," said Steidl's wife, Treva.

She said her son's classmates sent notes to the ship Steidl was stationed on to show their support of the military members serving overseas. They were also going to set up pen pals for the students, but the e-mail system was so irregular that Carl's teacher thought it would be great idea for the class to attend the homecoming to show their support for Steidl and other returning Marines.

"Most of the kids, including their teachers, have never been to a homecoming before," said Schimpf, who helped arrange the homecoming visit. "They see it all the time on the news that a lot of military stuff is going on in Afghanistan and Iraq and other parts of the world. I just thought it would be a great opportunity for them to come down and realize that these are people who left their families."

About 70 students and parents attended the homecoming after a month of planning and getting final approval from the school principal. They showed up at the flightline with excitement and much anticipation on seeing the Marines return home.

It was no surprise to Steidl that the students would be at the homecoming. He greeted them with as much enthusiasm as he could because of the long trip that he endured while returning home. After a short gathering, Steidl gave the students a tour of the helicopters before they returned to Ramona.

Barnett Elementary School students attend the homecoming of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 (Reinforced) here March 8 to welcome Lt. Col. Eric Steidl, executive officer, HMM-163, back from a six-month deployment with Expeditionary Strike Group 1. ***Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas***

"I feel honored to be here because I know it is a rare opportunity to be able to attend a homecoming," said 48-year-old Kim Jose, a Ramona resident who came with his 9-year-old daughter.

Jose said that the support within the community of 3,500 homes is very strong because of the close proximity to military installations in the San Diego area and the many other public service personnel who live within the community. He hopes that the public will give more credit to servicemembers because of the many sacrifices they have to make while protecting the citizens of this country.

"I think (the military) is doing a great job. I feel that they are doing a good job and making some real progress," Jose said. "The sacrifice the families have to make is phenomenal. I have more and more respect everyday for the people who serve our military. "

Operation Enduring Families provides support

Story by Sgt. Joshua Stueve

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Operation Enduring Families is back again, and Ruth Mushallo, director of Family Service Center, Marine Corps Community Services, said this time it is refined, retuned and designed to provide even better support and unique opportunities for families waiting for their servicemember to come home.

According to Mushallo, the program offers a wide variety of recreation, support and entertainment activities all directed toward servicemembers and families taking care of the "homefront."

Through the support of family members, MCCS officials hope OEF II will serve the dual purpose of reducing stress for active duty personnel, their spouses and children while also preparing a family crisis center if the need arises.

An outreach program has also been established to assist schools attended by military children.

The Community Outreach Program provides information on deployment concerns, drug prevention and dealing with children.

Presentations can be made in schools or community groups. Another speaking program is the Key Volunteer's Network Speaker's Bureau. A speaker can be scheduled to talk to any group about such things as stress management, children and deployments and legal issues.

Many organizations aboard the station have conformed their programs from a traditional role to become more family oriented while others were added or expanded. Servicemembers and their families can benefit greatly from OEF II because the programs are provided at little or no cost to the families.

Family members are not the only one's benefiting from OEF II. The program has also developed a way to send care packages and letters to forward-deployed Marines. This provides the vital link "home" for deployed servicemembers.

In addition to the services they provide, MCCS is also finding opportunities for families to have fun together.

A Child Abuse Prevention Family Fun Run/Walk has been scheduled for March 27. Also, MCCS will host its annual Spring Carnival March 27 with rides, games and photo opportunites for children.

Another place for parents and children to have fun together is the station Youth Center. From a "Parents Nite Out" to dance classes and martial arts, the Youth Center has organized numerous activities to keep family members busy.

For more information on OEF II, call MCCS at 577-6585 or log on to their Web site at *www.mccsmiramar.com*.

'Green Knights' win F/A-18 combat award

Story by Cpl. Kristen L. Tull

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Three officers from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121 were recognized recently for their accomplishments in the F/A-18 Hornet.

Majs. David Stohs and Michael R. Waterman, along with Capt. Michael R. McGahee, received an award from the Boeing Corporation for flying more than 100 combat missions.

According to Stohs, a weapons systems officer, the common denominator amongst all three aviators has been location.

"We were all stationed on the East Coast when Operation Deny Flight (occurred) as well as (during) other operations over Bosnia and on the West Coast after September 11, deploying twice from Miramar over the past two years," said Stohs.

He said the Marines were just doing their job, flying all the missions that were assigned.

"I've had a chance to do exactly what I came into the Marine Corps to do and that was to fly in operational missions as a 'back seater,'" said Stohs. "I feel fortunate to be receiving this award. It was a surprise to all of us."

McGahee, a Hornet pilot, didn't fully understand the significance of the award until a Boeing representative told him he was one of the first pilots to receive this award.

"I'm very honored and lucky enough to be able to get 100 missions. It's all about timing, being in the right place at the right time. I've done nothing more than anyone else, just perfect timing," said McGahee

Being a pilot was a childhood dream for McGahee. He started flying when he was 15 years old in a local airport, worked his way up and eventually flew as a corporate pilot.

"I decided I wanted to do something more, so I joined the Marine Corps and was fortunate enough to get a pilot slot. The rest is history," said McGahee.

McGahee said there are other Marines behind the scenes that also deserve the recognition for this award.

"There's hundreds of Marines that actually deserve all the credit for this. They're the ones that make the airplane fly. They're the ones that keep it together. They're the ones that put the bombs on it. I just happened to be the 'stick actuator,'" said McGahee. "To me, the most impressive thing in this world is a 19 year old who, with some of the most sophisticated equipment in the world, can keep this thing flying, and they know more about it than I do. So that to me is highly respectable, and those are the guys that I look up to."

John Valovich (left) presents the award for 100 Combat Missions Flown in an F/A-18 to Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121 Marines Capt. Michael R. McGahee and Majs. Michael R. Waterman and David Stohs. ***Photo by Cpl. Kristen L. Tull***

The recipients were all honored to receive such an award, and when asked what their next goal is, the answer was universal.

"Our most important job is to support the troops on the ground," said Waterman, a weapons systems operator. "I want to always be ready to fly, but hopefully I will never have to fly another combat mission again."

VMFA(AW)-121 reaches 30,000 mishap-free hours

Story by Cpl. Kristen L. Tull

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The 'Green Knights' of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121 proudly display numerous citations and awards commemorating their 63 years of unsurpassed excellence.

This year, they've passed another milestone - 30,000 Class A mishap-free hours.

"That means we haven't had a mishap that has rendered anyone permanently injured, killed or sustained damage to an aircraft of $1,000,000 or greater since 1997," said Maj. Glenn Ritchie, director of Safety and Standardization for VMFA(AW)-121.

This was no easy accomplishment with the squadron participating in two Western Pacific deployments and Operations Bright Star, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Ritchie says the entire team has done a great job.

"These Marines are working hard. They are working long hours and are constantly deploying. The aircrew is always training, and the maintenance Marines are always perfecting their skills, keeping our airplanes operating in a safe and tactically efficient manner," said Ritchie.

A F/A-18D Hornet from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121 flies over the city of San Diego during a recent flight. ***Photo courtesy of Maj. G.R. Ritchie***

He explained that flying with VMFA(AW)-121 is not like working for a normal airline where pilots are mainly concerned about getting the airplane and passengers from point A to point B.

"In our job, we have to get our planes from point A to point B, fight to point C, egress to point D, and get back home to point E. So there's a whole tactical mission in there," said Ritchie.

The mission of accomplishing 30,000 mishap-free hours was no easy task, he added, but with a lot of hard work, the Marines reached their goal.

"Everybody has to be focused on the job, more importantly, adhering to the safety standards that are set forth by the Wing," said Staff Sgt. Eric Stapleton, Powerline division chief, VMFA(AW)-121.

Stapleton says that he's not required to be out on the flightline all the time, but when his Marines get bogged down, you will see him throwing on a pair of coveralls and getting his hands dirty.

"If we don't work together, you don't get those 30,000 hours because the jets don't get off the ground," said Stapleton.

According to the squadron's Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Matt Shihadeh, it's the people in the squadron that make it work so well.

"The squadron has been lucky a little bit, as far as the people we've gotten. We've also kept those people because it's been a great place to work," said Shihadeh.

"We've had some success, won some awards, but the biggest award is bringing everybody back and preserving our assets," he added.

California Highway Patrol, PMO enforce speeding laws

Law enforcement program designed to slow speeding motorists in San Diego

Story compiled by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

They are out there.

Drivers don't know when and where they will see them, but when they do, let's hope they don't have their blue and red lights flashing as they pull you over for doing 70 in a 65 mph zone.

The California Highway Patrol began an aggressive enforcement program recently that will hopefully reduce the amount of speeding motorists on California roads, according to Officer Mark Greg, San Diego CHP spokesman.

The program began March 4 and is expected to continue periodically statewide throughout the foreseeable future, according to Greg.

CHP Commissioner Spike Helmick initiated the program after he saw a statewide increase in the number of traffic accidents attributed to speeding.

In 2001, CHP officers issued 48,146 speeding tickets in San Diego. Last year the number jumped to 60,001, according to Greg.

"The problem with speeding is that you have a higher rate of crashes," he said. "It is an issue we take seriously and want to keep pushing it in order to reduce accidents."

There are over 272,000 vehicles that drive around the air station daily, said Greg.

The numbers vary in other areas around the county, but the concern to officers is the number of accidents as a result of speeding in addition to motorists not obeying the laws of the road.

"We would like people to take this issue seriously," he said. "If people take speed limits to heart and drive with not only their safety but the safety of other drivers (in mind), then I think this program will go a long way in reducing the number of accidents related to speeding."

The patrols will involve a mixture of both on-duty officers and special enforcement teams specifically assigned to issue citations for speeding and other related driving violations, said Greg.

The San Diego CHP department, who patrols highways from the border to as far north as Del Mar and Solano Beach, will be in different areas throughout the county including some of the major highways frequently used by motorists such as Interstates 5, 8, 15 and 805.

"We are doing these operations unannounced," Greg mentioned. "Sections where people know there is a higher rate of speed, that is where we are going to be at. We will be all over, but we will looking at all areas including the I-15."

A speed monitor clocks drivers as they travel down Mitscher Road Tuesday. With more than 272,000 vehicles traveling on the air station daily, enforcement of speed limits is a priority. ***Photo by Sgt. Valerie A. Martinez***

3rd MAW Marines play pivotal role in success of Transfer of Authority

Story by Sgt. John L. Zimmer III

MWHS-3 Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq – Third Marine Aircraft Wing Marines and Sailors, who have been in the Al Anbar Province for approximately one month, are assisting the I Marine Expeditionary Force and 1st Marine Division in completing their Transfer of Authority from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

According to Maj. David J. Vail, 3rd MAW future operations planner, the sequence of events to finalize the TOA took less than three months to complete and is being executed nearly one week early.

'It's the young corporals and sergeants who are pushing this thing through.'
Maj. David J. Vail

"This is the first phase of the Marine Corps assuming responsibility for this region of the Al Anbar Province," said Vail, a 40-year-old Billerica, Mass., native. "Eventually, the Corps will take complete control of the province."

Vail praised the hard work of all 3rd MAW elements in supporting the MEF and Division with the completion of the turnover.

"Our subordinate commands - Marine Air Control Group 38, Marine Wing Support Group 37 and Marine Aircraft Group 16 - have done next to impossible things to affect the time of the turnover," Vail said. "We are on time and on target."

Because of the hard work and diligence of the junior enlisted Marines, this turnover is going as planned, continued Vail.

"The hardest things we do are the logistics and command and control functions," he said. "It's the young corporals and sergeants who are pushing this thing through."

Although the threats in this region are real, 3rd MAW is prepared to fight the battle, added Vail.

"We are prepared to support the MEF and the Division in all applicable Marine aviation functions," he said. "So far, the transfer of battle spaces has gone very well."

Have gear – will travel

Embark Marines wait for trucks

Story by Staff Sgt. A.C. Mink

MAG-16 Combat Correspondent

CAMP UDAIRI, Kuwait – Marines are used to waiting - waiting in line for shots, waiting in line for the computer, waiting in line for a haircut. However, the embarkation Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 are waiting for the trucks that will take the rest of their equipment north into Iraq.

"I had 170 pieces of rolling stock gone by the third," said Warrant Officer Sean Melanphy, embark officer, MWSS-374, "but all outsized cargo, containers and heavy equipment are waiting for the transport."

Plagued by schedule delays, changes and cancellations, the cargo sits waiting to go forward, and the Marines sit with it.

"We arrived in country February 23," said Cpl. James L. Hicks. "Now we are waiting to go up north until it's all gone."

Prepared to be there for quite awhile, the Grangeville, Id., native added. "We're just going to do what it takes to get the job done."

Added to the difficulties is the constant threat of ordnance and incidents along convoy routes, making the way treacherous for both equipment and personnel.

"Much of this equipment is mission essential for sustainability," said Melanphy, of Fairhaven, Mass. "We're ready to get it out of here. All we need is the trucks to do it."

According to Melanphy, the transport is not only coming from Marine Corps assets.

"We have to rely on the Army or local contractors to haul our heavy equipment," said Cpl. Chad T. Hutchinson, a 21-year-old heavy equipment operator whose hometown is Lewiston, Id.

In addition, the coordination can be time-consuming and a lack of communication with their forward unit adds to the difficulty, according to the MWSS-374 Marines.

This is the first deployment for the squadron also known as the "Rhinos." The mission of the squadron, which is based out of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., is to operate and support expeditionary airfields.

Lt. Col. Glenn A. Murray, commanding officer, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, is at the other end of the trail, waiting for the gear to arrive.

"Without that equipment, we are mission capable, but not sustainable," said the New London, Ohio, native, reemphasizing Melanphy's comment.

"Overall we're doing good," added Murray. "The Wing is doing significantly better than some of the other major subordinate commands. We're going to meet our current timeline."

That's good news to the Marines in Udairi, but they aren't packing their bags just yet.

"We're here until the last of that cargo is forward," said Melanphy. "That's our job."

Cpl. Chad T. Hutchinson, heavy equipment operator, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, guides Lance Cpl. David C. Moore, heavy equipment mechanic, MWSS-374, in palletizing forks for convoy transport March 13. ***Photo by Staff Sgt. A.C. Mink***

CSSB-7 keeps Marine equipment in the fight

Story by Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte

MAG-16 Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq – Fuel fumes drift through the air as the warm, Iraqi sun cuts through the rolling dust cloud that precedes the approaching convoy of rumbling vehicles.

A sergeant signals his Marines, who have been milling about waiting for the convoy since dawn, to get ready for the approaching vehicles. He doesn't want to be caught off guard. The convoy is almost upon them when the Marines spring into action, rushing forward with their ... fuel nozzles?

After the smoke clears and the convoy is gone, Sgt. Adam L. Miller, section leader, Combat Service Support Battalion 7, and his crew of Marines locate a comfortable spot in the shade of their supply boxes and relax until the next set of trucks roll through.

"This is our mission," said the Macungie, Penn., native. "We support all operations out of the Al Anbar Province with fuel. This is our area of operation."

The Al Anbar Province in western Iraq is a huge area to cover, according to the 26-year-old Marine sergeant.

"We have to dispense to tactical and civilian vehicles and later to (helicopters) on the flightline," Miller described. "We won't issue the fuel there, but we'll supply it."

The Marines will work with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, which is operating here, Miller said. To help CSSB-7 with this, they have made some allies within the Wing, he added.

"We are working together with Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 to get the fuel to the helicopters," he said.

MWSS-273 has set up a Tactical Airfield Dispensing System to refuel the helicopters. The TAFDS will hold its own fuel but will draw fuel from the main body of fuel set up at another location.

Fuel for the TAFDS will come from the main fuel storage point called an Amphibious Assault Fuel System, said Miller.

Lance Cpls. Michael W. Hartman and Walter M. Barry, Marines from 8th Engineer Support Battalion, Bulk Fuel Company, attached to Combat Service Support Battalion 7, fix a two inch meter at the fuel farm at Al Asad Air Station, Al Anbar Province, Iraq. ***Graphic illustration by Sgt. Kenneth Farmer***

The AAFS in Iraq is slightly modified from the average set up, he explained.

"Normally, a ship would push fuel to us," he said. "This can be designed to push about five miles inland."

The fuel is pushed to the AAFS through a series of hoses and sets of booster stations that are set up as a precaution in case there is a break in the line.

When the fuel gets to the AAFS it is stored in four 50,000-gallon storage bladders. This is where this operation deviates from the norm, explained Miller.

"I've done small deployments, and we usually have to keep our storage and dispensing to a minimum," he said. "This is huge compared to anything I've ever done, but you never really have a really large scale mission unless you're in combat."

The initial effort of getting started was the hardest part of the fuel operation, said Lance Cpl. Daniel J. Duke, bulk fuel specialist, CSSB-7.

"At first it's a lot of work to build and set up," he said. "Once you get going, it's a lot smoother."

One of the reasons for the initial hardship is the building of berms, or dirt barricades, to hold the fuel bladders, Miller said.

"Building a berm is hard work," he explained. "It has to hold the bag and all the fuel if the bag breaks."

The berms have been built, but the Marines are running into other snags in the process, said Lance Cpl. Michael B. Toler, bulk fuel specialist, CSSB-7.

"The gear has been a problem," said the 23-year-old Roanoke, Va., native. "A lot of it leaks, but we've been able to fix it for the most part."

This can sometimes be aggravating for the Marines, said Miller.

"You put the gear together, but you don't know if there is a solid connection unless you run fuel through it," he revealed.

Although a leak is a serious problem for a bulk fuel Marine, it is nothing new for a deployment, Duke said.

"We've run into this before, but we just change stuff out and do what we can," the 21 year old explained. "This is stuff you just can't prevent."

Through all the problems, the Marines of bulk fuel will keep the fuel flowing, Duke said.

"It's all little problems, and we'll compensate the best we can," said the Kokomo, Ind., native said. "It works out.

"We have to supply our forward troops in a fast and expedient manner," he said. "We do this so they can keep doing what they do and not worry about it."

The Marines are accomplishing this mission under adverse circumstances, and that is what matters, Miller concluded.

"We work long days, but what makes the difference is the Marines taking charge and doing their jobs," he said. "They get tired, but regardless, the fuel is still running all the time."

March highlights women's history

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Women were beaten, slapped, mobbed and spit at when they marched in front of the White House to gain the right to vote March 13, 1913.

Approximately 10,000 women participated in the march on President Woodrow Wilson's re-election day. Because of their unwavering strive for equality, Congress adopted the 19th amendment to the Constitution Aug. 26, 1920, giving women everywhere in the United States the opportunity to vote.

March is National Women's History Month, and the theme for this year is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility."

"I feel privileged to be a Marine," said Lance Cpl. Lesa A. Morrison, individual material readiness list manager, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16. "Being a Marine gives other women someone to look up to."

Pvt. Opha Mae Johnson opened the door for women Marines Aug. 13, 1918, by enlisting in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Women would not be in the Corps today if wasn't for Johnson and the other 305 female reservists who joined during World War I to "free a man to fight," said Col. Sandy Campbell, administrative reserve affairs officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.

Campbell added it must have been hard for the first female Marines to join the Corps because of the amount of negativity that they must have encountered, but they pushed forward.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Holcomb, 17th commandant of the Marine Corps, proclaimed the formation of the Marine

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Boy Scouts collect food items

Boy Scout Tigers and Wolves of the Mason Elementary School Pack 1201 display some of the food items they managed to collect during their annual food drive. The children, who mostly come from military families, collected nearly 400 food and clothing items to donate to the air station's Food Locker. This is the second year the Scouts have donated to the Food Locker. ***Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro***

Marine Corps Times Marine of the Year nominations being sought

Story by Sgt. Joshua Stueve

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Do you know someone who may be worthy of the title Marine of the Year? Someone who displays the core values of honor, courage and commitment? A Marine who is a great leader to their troops and who sets the proper example at all times? An individual whose volunteer service in their community has made it a better place to live?

Maybe the individual has over come an extreme hardship in the last year while maintaining their high level of professionalism. Or maybe it is someone who went above and beyond the call of duty during Operations Enduring or Iraqi Freedom. If you know someone like that, here is an opportunity to have that Marine recognized.

The staff of the Military Times is handing out its 4th Annual Marine Corps Times Marine of the Year award. The award has been handed since 2001 and was initially done to recognize exemplary achievement by a servicemember beyond the call of duty. This year the staff will also base their selection on heroism, patriotism and selfless service to country in the face of trying circumstances. Nominations can be made on the Marine Corps Times' Web site at *www.marinecorpstimes.com*.

Last year's recipient, Staff Sgt. Karl C. Garrison, an organics chief with Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity at Camp Pendleton, received the award after completing an extremely painful bone marrow donation. Garrison was also chosen not only because of the countless hours he spent mentoring and teaching his Marines, but because of the large amount of time he volunteers to youth organizations and programs each year.

Marine Corps Times says that many candidates will likely be among those performers often overlooked and unsung. And don't worry, the nominations and voting are done by the servicemembers and not through bureaucracies.

When nominating a Marine, the Marine Corps Times requires an essay of 300 words or less describing the Marine and what he/she has done to be deserving of the award. All nominations will be looked at and evaluated by the marketing and editorial staffs of each service's Times weekly, and they will select a winner for each service. If you wish to nominate a fellow Marine, there are a few criteria that have to be met. The Marine has to be active duty, Guard or Reserve and be contracted through August of 2004. Also, the last day to nominate a Marine is April 7.

The ceremony will be held at the Reserve Officers Association on Capitol Hill July 8. Presenters of the award will be Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii and Sen. John McCain of Arizona. Also, the winner's home state congressmen are requested to attend the event. In addition to the all expenses paid for a week-long trip to Washington, winners also receive an award box at the ceremony with a flag that has been flown over the Capitol.

In Kuwait ... without my camera

Commentary by Staff Sgt A.C. Mink

MAG-16 Combat Correspondent

While sitting here in sunny Kuwait, I realized the San Diego sun's got nothing on the weather here in March, but not even the periodic sand blasts can get me down.

I arrived here last week, a public affairs pogue … without a camera. Well, I have a camera, I just don't have any lenses. Those got embarked so that they weren't destroyed on the trip over.

Busy as my schedule has been with going to the chow hall, reading and the random Marine Corps Martial Arts Program classes (by the way, acclimate yourself before throwing punches in the noon sun here), I have had some time to make a couple observations.

You'll find several different groups of Marines here – and no, I'm not talking about units.

The first ones you've got are the workers. These guys put in 12-16 hour days and don't even blink. I'm talking about your operations clerks, admin pogues and those scary guys who are constantly checking the secured Internet for "word." They are in the command post tents or at their sections from sun up to sundown.

From the amused expression on their faces when you ask when the next flight out is going, you know that not only have they already been here for quite awhile, but they're resigned to the fact that it may be a while before they go anywhere else - especially home. But they still answer your questions patiently.

The workers can tell you where anything is, but they can't show you – that would take them away from their work.

There's the PT junkies who run at 0-dark-30, shower then hit the chow hall, are in the gym early, at the chow hall at noon, head back to the gym and pretty much stay there until time for the boxing matches. Then they might take in a quick run before showering and hitting the rack.

You can talk to the PT junkies, but you have to jog to catch up.

The busy bees are those that know what is going on and where, and if there isn't anything, they start something up – anything to kill time and keep busy. They can find you classes, MCMAP, movies in the command post tent and any number of other activities. There are a couple of officers here that I swear don't sleep – they sit up all night inventing things to keep the Marines from going stir crazy.

The sleepers are hard to spot – but you'll know them when you see them. They are that misshapen lump in the center of the sleeping bag in the darkest part of the hooch. Only waking to eat and take care of essential bodily functions, they can be found, day and night, in their rack.

You might think it's funny to wake them, but do so with caution – they can be VERY cranky.

Then you've got the night crawlers. That's pretty much me.

I'm stuck in Pacific Standard Time. I'm wide-awake all night and fall over passed out at 10:30 a.m., Kuwait time - that's 11:30 p.m. in California, in case you wondered.

Most are pretty much in limbo, waiting for our ride/flight up north or whatever. The night crawlers are the ones up all night in the CP tent reading or on the computer so we don't drive the Marines in our hooches nuts.

And that's where I am – six days in the desert, no camera, waiting on my flight north. But I wouldn't trade places to sit behind my old desk for anything in the world.

Lane splitting: A reason to envy California's motorcyclists

Commentary by Sgt. C. Nuntavong

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

With summer around the corner, more and more motorcycle enthusiasts will be dusting off their bikes and occupying California roads. Some of us will be "splitting" lanes between cars on the freeways and city streets.

Why do motorcyclists lane split?

One of the main reasons why we lane split is because we can ... but there are other, more fundamental reasons.

Lane splitting is a way for motorcyclists to save time, which may be why car-bound motorists sometimes resent us. Do we like to play tag with immature drivers who think it's fun to "merge" into our path or open their car door just as a motorcycle is approaching? We don't.

Lane splitting reduces congestion and helps improve traffic flow by creating an "extra lane."

Is lane splitting legal? Splitting traffic is not specifically addressed in the California Vehicle Code, but according to the California Highway Patrol's Web site, "Lane splitting by motorcycles is permissible under California law but must done in a safe and prudent manner."

An immediate reaction to lane splitting, for most people, is that it's dangerous.

The U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Motorcycle Safety Foundation Web site states, "A motorcycle's narrow width can allow it to pass between lanes of stopped or slow-moving cars on roadways where the lanes are wide enough to offer an adequate gap. This option can provide an escape route for motorcyclists who would otherwise be trapped or struck from behind. There is evidence that traveling between lanes of stopped or slow-moving cars (i.e., lane splitting) on multiple-lane roads (such as interstate highways) slightly reduces crash frequency compared with staying within the lane and moving with other traffic. Although lane splitting is allowed in just a few areas of the United States, notably California, it appears to be worthy of further study because it offers a means of reducing congestion in addition to possible safety benefits. It is widely used in many other countries."

Another reason for lane splitting comes from the fact that motorcycles are air-cooled. This means they are cooled by the flow of air over the engine. Cars have large radiators that allow them remain idle for any length of time. Motorcycles don't. When a motorcycle fan turns on, it is usually a signal that the rider should find a clear stretch of road to get the engine cooled down or pull over to the side and shut down before over-heating.

In Southern California, lane splitting is our way of life. It is tolerated by law enforcement and the CHP testified against a bill that would have banned it several years ago.

Personally, I like Japan's law - in any accident involving a motorcycle and a car, the driver of the car is at fault. I wonder if we'll ever do that here? Maybe … this is California.

The moral of this story is … be aware of what is going on around you. Your friendly neighborhood motorcyclist may be riding past.

Miramar's best firefighters are the boys at Station 61

Commentary by Sgt. Joshua Stueve

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

He's exactly the type of person you would want to come to your rescue. For you ladies, he's your knight in shining armor. For you guys, he's your supermodel that arrives to give you mouth to mouth.

John Meyer (not to be confused with John Mayer), is one of the firefighters here at Miramar and for my money one of the best firefighters on the planet. I haven't seen him work yet, but then again, I never saw Picasso paint either, but I still know he can throw the brush around with the best of 'em.

It's the same type of deal with Meyer and the guys down at Station 61. The chances they have to use all of their training in a real-life situation are few and far between, but when they do get an opportunity they take full advantage of it.

I stopped by the station last week to see if I could weasel my way inside and get a look at what goes on at a "real" fire station. My perception of life inside a firehouse consisted of two hours I spent watching "Backdraft" about 15 years ago.

Meyer and Capt. Doug Bouck showed me around the place and tried their hardest to explain to me how all of the high tech equipment they have works. I'll admit, I didn't understand half the stuff they showed me. I felt like a two year old in a ceramics store. I wanted to touch everything I saw.

Meyer gave me the grand tour of one of the trucks first. I swear he knows more about fire trucks than NASA knows about space shuttles. The truck was easily the highlight of the day. From the cab to the roof, the thing has more hidden compartments than Neverland Ranch.

After they were done showing me all their gadgets and gizmos, Meyer and Bouck decided they were going to take me for a ride. So, we jumped inside the big red truck and headed out for a little drive.

It's impossible to explain to you how it felt to sit in the captain's seat of a fire engine.

If you ever get the chance, jump all over it. I turned on all the lights, made every siren whale and sound checked every

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Marine officer in Iraq earns another title

MWHS-3 nominee awarded Marine Corps Female Athelete of the Year

Story by Sgt. John L. Zimmer III

MWHS-3 Combat Correspondent

AL ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq – Competing in track and field events, playing hour upon hour of basketball and sweating like a National Football League lineman may not seem all that appealing while deployed to the desert.

But a second lieutenant attached to Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 does just those things, and then some, just about every day of her life.

Second Lt. Kristen Kavanaugh, MWHS-3 budget officer, has been competing in sporting events most of her life and credits her love of basketball toward receiving the Marine Female Athlete of the Year award in January.

"I was nominated by Bob Stopp, athletics director at MCAS Miramar," she said. "He coordinated my tryouts with the coach of the All-Marine Basketball Team at Camp Pendleton, California, since I was still at (Military Occupation Specialty) school in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He made it possible for me to try out for the team even though I was going to show up two weeks into the tryouts."

According to Kavanaugh, Stopp submitted her resume to Headquarters Marine Corps after Lt. Col. Glenn Murray, MWHS-3 commanding officer, approved it.

"One of the questions on the resume asked about accomplishments during (the past) year," she said. "I felt my biggest accomplishment was my participation as a member of the All-Marine and All-Armed Services Basketball Teams."

Soon after submitting the nomination, Kavanaugh received her orders to deploy at the end of February. She did not know she had won the award until she was eating dinner with the head of her shop, Lt. Col. Dan A. Pinedo, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing assistant chief of staff, comptroller office.

"Lieutenant Colonel Pinedo jokingly told me over dinner the first week we were here 'congratulations,'" said the 24-year-old Ironton, Ohio, native. "I asked my sergeant, Sergeant Wall, if she knew what he was talking about, and she had no idea.

"It wasn't until I received an e-mail about the award that I realized what he meant that night. I was definitely in shock that I had won," she added.

Kavanaugh added that her participation on the All-Marine Basketball Team for one month and then the All-Armed Forces Basketball Team were probably some of the reasons she won the award.

Kavanaugh did not hesitate to call her parents the next day at 5 a.m. Eastern Standard Time and tell them about her accomplishment.

"When I called them and told them about being (Marine Corps Female Athlete of the Year), they couldn't believe it," she said.

Kavanaugh added the only way she could describe her parent's reaction was "pleasantly surprised."

In high school, she placed in the top three spots for three track-and-field events - hurdles, long jump and high jump - in the state of Ohio.

"My best sport is not basketball," she said. "My best sport is track-and-field. But I love basketball, and that is why I play," she added.

Another sport Kavanaugh recently added to her accomplishments is triathlons.

"I competed in one triathlon before the season ended and was going to join the San Diego Triathlon team this year but was sent to Iraq instead."

Sgt. Jessica M. Wall, fiscal budget technician, MWHS-3 comptroller office, works for Kavanaugh and highly regards her athletic ability.

"She is good at basketball," said the 22-year-old Highland, Calif., native. "There are so many other athletes in the Marine Corps who could have won, so she definitely did not expect to receive the award."

Kavanaugh was modest about earning the title Marine Female Athlete of the Year.

"Someone thought I deserved the award," she said. "I am honored that I was chosen, but I know there are some equally as good, if not better, athletes who were nominated and could have won."

Team Marine Baseball ready for some tough competition

Story by Sgt. Joshua Stueve

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Tryouts for the top baseball team in the Marine Corps opened here a few weeks ago. More than 100 players showed up with hopes of making the prestigious Team Marine.

Coaches Lloyd Dawson and David Sandoval had the daunting task of choosing the 30 best players to fill the roster. Players from the East Coast, Hawaii and Okinawa are arriving within the next few weeks to be a part of the team as well.

"I think tryouts went really well this year," said Sandoval, the assistant coach who has played with the team for the last five years. "We had tryouts every Saturday for about a month, and we made sure the Marines knew what kind of players we were looking for," said Sandoval. "The level of competition in this league is excellent. You can't just play baseball once or twice a week and come out here and expect to be able to compete with the type of talent that's in our league. Players in this league range anywhere from college All-Americans to amateur players who know what they're doing when they step onto the diamond."

Sandoval said the depth of pitching the team has this year is the best he's seen in a long time.

"Usually we have two or three guys we really depend on to carry us through the season," explained Sandoval. "The past few years we've had to pick up a few civilian pitchers to play with us because of our lack of pitching. But, luckily this year we have five to 10 pitchers we can call on to give us some strong innings."

Offensively the team is as strong as ever too. Good news for the Marines. Bad news for opposing pitchers.

"We got some real good bats coming back," Sandoval said. "A few of our big bats missed last season because of deployments. But now everybody's returned and with them back in the lineup we should score a ton of runs."

Team Marine will begin playing in the Western Semi-Pro League and the South Bay Wood Bat League March 27. Most of the 45 games in the regular season will be played in Southern California, but the team also has planned trips to Central California and Las Vegas. Sandoval also thinks the team has enough talent to make it back to nationals in Wichita, Kan., like they did two years ago. The highlight of the season will be the game against the Navy at the San Diego Padres new PETCO Park Aug. 1. The game will be

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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 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. 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.

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.

Body builder team

Gunnery Sgt. Philip M. Ricardo Jr., imagery staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242, and reining American Bodybuilder Association Professional and Natural Mr. Universe, will be competing with seven other Miramar bodybuilding team members in the upcoming Max Muscle Naturals show Saturday in Pacific Beach, Calif.

For more information on costs, time and directions to the competition, visit *www.musclecontest.com* or call 577-9117.

Diabetes seminar

The Semper Fit Center, Bldg. 2002, will host a Diabetes Awareness Seminar Tuesday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the training room.

The seminar will be presented by Anne E. Whittington, diabetes program manager, Naval Medical Center San Diego.

The seminar will cover issues such as who is at risk for type II diabetes, how diabetes affects the body, the difference between type I and type II diabetes, how the illness is treated, complications and prevention.

To sign up for the seminar, call the Semper Fit Health Promotions Office at 577-1331 or visit *www.mccsmiramar.com.*

Child abuse prevention

Servicemembers and families are invited to participate in a one-mile family run/walk for child abuse prevention March 27 at 9:30 a.m.

The event, hosted by the Marine Corps Community Services Counseling Center and Semper Fit, will include fun give-aways to the first 100 children who participate.

The awareness run/walk will finish at the Spring Carnival.

Families participating in this event are eligible to enter the free drawing for a family ticket pack to Sea World (one entry per family).

For more information, call the Fitness Center at 577-1702.

Mongolian BBQ

The Miramar Officers' Club will host a Mongolian Barbeque Night today from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The cost for non-members is $12.95 for adults, $6.50 for children ages 4 through eleven, with children under 4 eating for free. Members save 10 percent. The buffet dinner includes many items including desserts

There will also be a chicken finger plate for children ages eleven and under for $5.25.

The event is open to all officers, senior enlisted staff (E-6 and above) in appropriate civilian attire, retirees and Department of Defense civilian employees.

Reservations are required.

For more information, call 577-4808.

Sleeves up

The change of seasonal uniform for the summer period will begin April 4, at which time Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area Marines and Sailors will wear their camoflauge utilities with sleeves up.

Commanders are authorized to permit sleeves down to accomodate temperature fluctuations.

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you contributed approximately $9 million. During that same year, the society disbursed $34.1 million in interest-free loans and grants. Let's make this year's campaign the most successful ever in the history of this wonderful organization.

When you or someone you know in the Navy or Marine Corps is experiencing financial difficulties, chances are the society will be able to assist them. Please make the society your first resource; not your last resort.

The key to success is an early, strong commitment throughout the chain of command that focuses on providing every Sailor and Marine an opportunity to contribute. Our Navy and Marine Corps family deserves nothing less.

Thank you for your support of this year's fund drive.

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Corps Women's Reserves Feb. 13, 1943.

"They don't have a nickname, and they don't need one. They get their basic training in a Marine atmosphere, at a Marine post. They inherit the traditions of the Marines. They are Marines," stated Holcomb in 1943.

Women everywhere received the opportunity to serve in any branch of service in the active or reserve forces when President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948.

"Women are more accepted into the military today," mentioned Campbell, who has served in the Corps for 24 years. "We are competent in areas other than administration."

Today, women make up 6.2 percent of the Marine Corps, according to *www.usmc.mil*. Women serve in 93 percent of every occupational field and 62 percent of billets.

"We've come so far, and the word should get out to acknowledge women's achievements," said Morrison.

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horn on the truck.

As Bouck was explaining to me how they can use their radio to talk to virtually anyone else with a radio in the universe, I was trying to figure out how I could steal their gadget that turns all the stoplights green.

It would really shorten up my commute, you know. Or I could sell it on eBay.

When we pulled back into the station I took off my headset and sat there a second. Part of me didn't want to get out of the truck. Another part of me felt I was somehow intruding into some brotherhood that I didn't belong to. Either way it was an awesome experience I'll never forget.

Meyer then took me inside to finish up the tour and show me around the firehouse. But as we walked in a voice came over the loud speaker saying there was an emergency somewhere on station. Meyer and Bouck listened to the announcement, gathered the information and located the building on the map of the station they have inside the house.

As they suited up and jumped into the truck I stood there watching them in awe.

No panic, no stress - just confidence in their abilities and trust in each other.

For people like you and me who have to rely on these men if we ever have a fire emergency or a car accident, it's got to be nice to know what kind of guys are going to be showing up to save your life.

The best.

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played after the Padres face the Dodgers and anyone can stay around to watch the ninth installment of the exciting series.

Since there is not an official All-Marine baseball team, Team Marine has been funded by Camp Pendleton's Marine Corps Community Services for the past eight years.

"Team Marine is considered one of our varsity sports at Camp Pendleton," said Jim Duckworth, MCCS Athletic Director, Camp Pendleton. Duckworth said in '96 he got a call wondering if the Marines would like to play the Navy in a game at Qualcomm Stadium, the Padres old ballpark. "The general was supportive of the team so we started it up, and we've been playing the Navy for eight years now, and we've won six of the eight games."

Miramar recycles

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