

FLIGHT JACKET

MARINE CORPS MERIT AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Vol. 11 No. 13

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

April 3, 2009

Miramar golf clubhouse now open for business

LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER O'QUIN
Combat Correspondent

Col. Christopher E. O'Connor, the former commanding officer of the air station, senior officers and executives with Marine Corps Community Services and Stronghold Engineering officially opened the new Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Golf Clubhouse, Rockers staff noncommissioned officer's club and the Palms Restaurant at a ribbon cutting ceremony here March 26.

The grand opening commemorates more than 14 months of construction on the new \$6.6 million facility.

"It was great to be here for the groundbreaking," said O'Connor. "This building is a response to an MCCS survey and this is what the people here want."

Leading up to the grand opening, clubhouse personnel offered a series of promotional events. Patrons could receive a professional golf club custom fitting from representatives with Ping, while other golfers swung their clubs in an attempt to beat the golf course assistant manager's long drive.

Sgt. Maj. Louis M. Espinal, the sergeant major of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and Master

GO TO CLUBHOUSE, PAGE 7

Marine rises above the rest

CPL. MELISSA TUGWELL
Combat Correspondent

Outstanding Marines are not hard to come by if you know where to look. Often, they excel in their job and volunteer in the community and always remain one step ahead of their peers.

Sgt. Kathleen Arsenault, one such Marine, was chosen as the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's Junior Enlisted Woman of the Year at a ceremony at the Marriott Hotel in Mission Valley March 24.



Sgt. Kathleen Arsenault

Women Marines from all over Southern California were nominated, but it was Arsenault who took home the award.

She kept actively involved in many activities throughout the her high school years at Sunapee High School in Sunapee, N.H. Soccer and softball fueled her competitive drive while cheerleading kept her spirits high. Though often quiet and somewhat reserved, she also participated in spring and fall plays.

Her hunger for com-

GO TO ARSENAULT, PAGE 7

New Sgt. Maj. posts at air station



Sgt. Maj. Doneil C. Yarn



Sgt. Maj. Roger E. Jenness

Sgt. Maj. Doneil E. Yarn is scheduled to relinquish duties as sergeant major of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar to Sgt. Maj. Roger E. Jenness in a ceremony April 7 at 10 a.m. on the parade field. Yarn retires after 30 years of faithful service to the Corps.

COMPILED BY
Flight Jacket Staff

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar will welcome a new senior enlisted advisor when Sgt. Maj. Doneil C. Yarn relinquishes his duties to Sgt. Maj. Roger E. Jenness during a post and relief ceremony on the

parade field here, Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Jenness joined the Marine Corps March 23, 1982. After completing recruit training he reported to Redeye Gunner, Forward Area Air Defense Course at Fort Bliss, Texas.

In 1984, he reported to 2nd Forward Area Air Defense

Battery, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. Jenness deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit and participated in exercised Alpine Warrior in the Arctic Circle.

In June 1989, Jenness served as a stinger section leader and

GO TO POST, PAGE 3

Great Escape to host alcohol-free weekend

LANCE CPL. RYAN RHOLES
Combat Correspondent

In coordination with National Alcohol-Free Weekend, The Great Escape will host its first 60-hour alcohol-free challenge

from 11 a.m. Friday until 11 p.m. Sunday.

The event offers video game tournaments, a movie marathon, an eating contest and individual and team sports.

"We just wanted a different,

more age-specific way to educate Marines about alcoholism," said D.J. McCluskey, the social recreation director for Marine Corps Community Services here.

GO TO ESCAPE, PAGE 3

MCAS Web site

Want to know all the buzz? Then check out the Flight Jacket online.

www.miramar.usmc.mil



SWIMMING, ANYONE?

HMH-462 takes Camp Pendleton Marines for a dip in the Pacific Ocean. For full story, see page 12.



FLY SKY HIGH

The Raiders of VMGR-352 train with the 11th MEU to prepare for an upcoming deployment. See full story on pages 8,9.

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Saving the Brave: Doctors' Day honors sacrifice of military doctors

SUBMITTED BY:
Shari Lopatin
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

uniform is extraordinary. That's why Doctors' Day, March 30, recognized and honored all they do.

sailors, airmen and Marines that all too often die or face life-altering changes. That's a lot to take in, day after day.

they answered the call." Those who left the war zone alive will always remember their time serving. Throughout her book, Dr. Kraft reminisces over the experiences that fueled her emotions from exhilaration to heartbreak.

Navy clinical psychologist Heidi Kraff learned her toughest lesson in Iraq.

"One of the best things about being a military doctor is the feeling you have when you're part of a team—not just a medical

"You'd be looking at somebody without a leg, and they'd be asking about one of their buddies," Maguire said. "And boy, if that doesn't touch you . . ."

"Walking, every day, and having literally every single person who passes by say 'Oo-rah, Ma'am'...meeting the one who threw himself on a grenade to save the men at his side...my patients, some of them had courage unlike anything I've ever experienced before. And last, but not least...holding the hand of that dying Marine."

She wrote a moving memoir, "Rule Number Two: Lessons I Learned in a Combat Hospital," about her time serving and titled it after a line from the television show M*A*S*H: "There are two rules of war. Rule number one is that young men die. Rule number two is that doctors can't change rule number one."

team—but the overall mission," said Dr. Frank Maguire, who served as a Marine battalion surgeon. Today, Maguire (USN, ret.) is the senior vice-president of health care services and chief medical officer for TriWest Healthcare Alliance, which administers the TRICARE health benefit in 21 Western states.

Breaking bad news to families, watching young men and women lose limbs – military doctors do this over and over again. The toll it takes is unavoidable. To deal, they surround themselves with others who have lived through similar experiences. Support is the key to sanity in the world of military medicine.

Military doctors don't do their jobs for the money. They don't do it for the recognition. They do it for the service, for the people.

This quote didn't just hit home for Dr. Kraft. In fact, it sums up what so many military doctors face on a regular basis. They have many stories, but one reality.

Although military doctors deliver babies, listen to elderly heartbeats and treat the average cold, they are unique from their civilian counterparts. Their patients are often young, healthy soldiers,

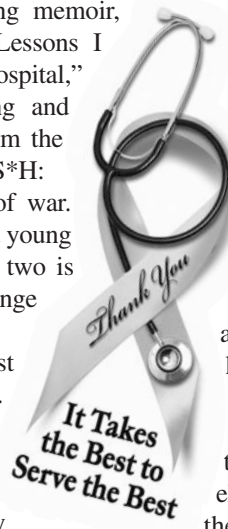
And sometimes, the doctors themselves don't make it.

They do it because it's the right thing to do.

Their service to this country and their fellow men and women in

During a March 11 ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery honoring fallen military medics, Dr. S. Ward Cassells, assistant defense secretary for health affairs, said, "Their motto is 'Good medicine, bad places.' When it mattered most,

And perhaps that's why they deserve their special day above all else.



Maj. Gen. Terry G. Robling
Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



Col. David C. Myers
Commanding Officer
MCAS Miramar

Maj. Jay Delarosa
Public Affairs Director

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Holy Days of Obligation



- April 9: Holy Thursday**
11:30 a.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper in Main Chapel
- April 10: Good Friday**
11:30 a.m. - Catholic Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Felix Chapel.
Noon - Protestant reflection on the Suffering of Christ in Main Chapel.
- April 12: Easter Sunday**
7:30 a.m. - Protestant Easter Sunrise in Main Chapel
8 a.m. - Fellowship Breakfast, Gonzalez Chow Hall
9 a.m. - Protestant Easter Service
11 a.m. - Catholic Mass of the Lord's Resurrection in Main Chapel.

Potluck lunch to follow and Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Chapel lawn.

Religious Services

The Chaplain's Office, located in building 5632 on Bauer Road, coordinates regularly scheduled services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain's Office at 858-577-1333, or visit www.miramar.usmc.mil.

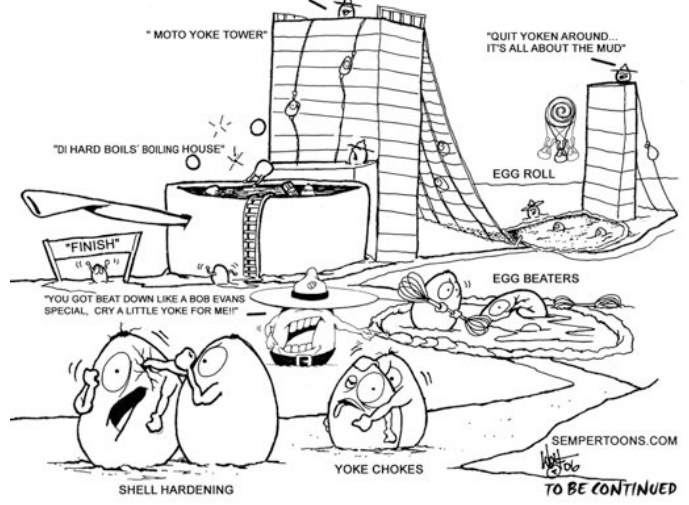
- Sunday:**
 - 9 a.m. Protestant Worship Service
 - 9:30 a.m. Protestant Children's Worship
 - 11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist
- Religious Education/Sunday:**
 - 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. Catholic CCD Children K-12
 - 10 a.m. Protestant Adult Bible Study
- Wednesday 6 - 7 p.m. Baptist Service**
- Weekday Worship Service:**
 - Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
 - Monday 6:30 p.m. Contemporary Praise and Worship Service
 - Wednesday 7 p.m. Baptist Service
- Study Groups:**
 - Monday Night Bible Study 7 p.m. Classroom in the Chapel area
 - Tuesday morning Prayer Service and study group 6 a.m.
- Islamic Worship Service:**
 - Fridays at noon.
 - Located in the Chapel or visit www.icsd.org
- Jewish:**
 - Jewish Outreach at 858-571-3444
 - www.jewishinsandiego.org

SemperToons: Born Created by GySgt C. F. Wolf (USMC Ret.)

PART 3 of a 4 PART SERIES SemperToons Presents: How Easter Eggs get hard for Easter.

The final test before becoming true Hard Boiled Eggs is the "CRACKABLE" This 2 minute event will push a YOKE to their very limit. Not all yokes make it through each of the grueling events, but those that do find an Easter pride most eggs only talk about while on the shelf at FOOD LION.

"It's tuff to be Hard, but, tougher to be HARD Boiled"
LETS GO EGGIES...MOVE IT, MOVE IT, ALMOST THERE!!



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POST,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

battalion operations chief while assigned to 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, 3rd MAW.

He deployed with the 13th MEU in January 1990, and completed a tour of duty during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Jeness earned his current rank in November 2003 following his tour with Electronics Maintenance Company, 3rd Material Readiness Battalion.

Jeness came to the station command deck after serving as the senior enlisted advisor Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd MAW. He deployed with MWSG-37 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His personal awards include a Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with

two gold stars in lieu of third award, a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with five gold stars, an Army Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal.

Sgt. Maj. Doniel C. Yarn will retire from the active ranks of the Marine Corps after 30 years of service.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps June 4, 1979, and graduated from recruit training in August 1979.

After completing Basic Helicopter Course in November 1979, he reported to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162, 2nd MAW where he served as a CH-46E Sea Knight crew chief.

In January 1987, Yarn reported to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., where he served as a CH-46D search and rescue crew chief and flight line division chief.

He received orders to Marine Helicopter Training Squadron in December 1992 as chief aircrew instructor.

After completing First Sergeant's Course in 1998, he reported to Communication Electronics Maintenance School, Marine Communication Electronics School, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, where he assumed the duties as Alpha Company first sergeant.

In January 2005, he reported to MWSG-37 where he served as the group sergeant major. Yarn deployed with the group in January 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His personal awards include a Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal and Navy Achievement Medal with gold star.

ESCAPE,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hopefully, the weekend will serve as an innovative alternative to briefs and lectures to help convey the importance of avoiding excessive drinking, added McCluskey.

To help demonstrate how large amounts of alcohol can affect your judgment and vision, Marines participating in the simulated grenade toss will wear beer goggles.

Although this challenge will show Marines they can have fun, productive weekends without alcohol, it will also demonstrate the financial burden of supporting a heavy drinking habit.

"Finding new ways to unwind without alcohol is not only healthier, but may save these Marines money," said Julie Carlson, the Semper Fit health promotion director here. "Drinks

in town usually range from about \$4 to \$6."

Events scheduled for the weekend include a Halo 3 tournament for four-man teams and individuals, a Guitar Hero tournament and a video game challenge. There will also be a glow-in-the-dark two-man volleyball tournament, midnight three-man basketball tournament, a combat fitness challenge and a ping pong tournament.

Marines are encouraged to fill out commitment forms, obligating themselves to negate from alcohol consumption during the 60-hour period. The forms are based on the honor system, and the unit with the most completed commitment forms will receive money for their recreation fund. Marines do not have to attend the event to complete the form.

For entry and commitment forms, visit the MCCA Web site at www.mccsmiramar.com.

April marks Military Child Month, Child Abuse Prevention

CPL. FREDRICK J. COLEMAN
Combat Correspondent

Former Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger declared April as Month of the Military Child, a time to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by children with parents who serve in the armed forces.

For more than 20 years, military installations around the world have planned family-

oriented events in recognition of the declaration set by Weinberger in 1986.

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar will host a free family event every Thursday throughout the month of April at the

Bob Hope Theatre.

"The events we have planned aren't only for children, but also promote healthy families," said Nicole Wright, special events coordinator for the station's



Marine Corps Community Services.

Events planned are a Ronald McDonald show April 9 and a Sea World San Diego animal display April 16. Other events include a Walk on the Wild Side

with animals such as the arctic fox and albino burmese python April 23 and a San Diego Civic Dance Arts show April 30. All events begin at 1:30 p.m. Families can enjoy a free movie after each show.

April also marks Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to increase the awareness of child abuse and neglect.

Representatives from the station's New Parent Support Program and Counseling Center will

give information to those who attend the free events.

For more information about Month of the Military Child events, visit the MCCS Web site at www.mccsmiramar.com or call 858-577-6365.

San Diego Military Child Month Happenings

Dads on Duty - Military dads get together and discuss child rearing topics such as child development, discipline and how to have fun with their children. The class is designed for dads with children under 6 years old. For information, call Bryan Jersky at 858-496-0044.

14th Annual Military Youth, Children Appreciation Event - The Healthy Start Military Family Resource Center will host its Child Appreciation Event May 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. behind the Youth Center at 4867 Santo Rd. Admission is free and families are encouraged to bring their gently used clothes to exchange for "new" items. Call Debbie Bilka for more information at 858-496-0044. Enjoy music, games, food, crafts and prizes.

Parents as Teachers Program - Parents as Teachers is a nationally certified program that provides home visits by a trained parent educator. It emphasizes healthy child development in a fun way for both parents and children age 3 and under. Development screenings are also available. Call 858-496-0044 for information on Murphy Canyon's free services to all military families.

Science takes flight aboard MCAS Miramar

LANCE CPL. MANUEL GUERRERO
Combat Correspondent

More than 200 people attended the “Where Science Takes Flight” event here March 28, as part of the 2009 San Diego Science Festival.

The event was one of 250 events across San Diego during the month-long science festival.

The three-hour expo highlighted how the station applies science to daily operations. Children interacted with Marines, which helped them further understand the military lifestyle.

“Hopefully this will spark an interest in the children to study science further,” said Janine M. Koffel, a school liaison for Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. “They could see science at work.”

Visitors viewed radio controlled flyers and interacted with crash crewmen from Aircraft Rescue Firefighting. Children

also stepped into Marine’s boots when they tried on equipment.

“The radio control flyers taught more complex flight principles on a small scale and the attendees also got to talk to Marines who are responsible for maintaining and flying the aircraft,” said Koffel.

Visitors also took the opportunity to view and explore the cockpits of both a CH-53E “Super Stallion” and an F/A-18C “Hornet.” They also talked to pilots and aircrew from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 and Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101.

“The event showed the differences between fixed and rotary wings and how weather affects mission accomplishments,” said Koffel.

The community got a chance to see their neighbors and learned more about what Marines accomplish on a daily basis.

“With this event, hopefully the

community understands our mission a little better and get to appreciate the demands and sacrifices our service members and their families make each day,” said Koffel. “Miramar has a role to play in the community above and beyond our military mission – we are a neighbor and this was an opportunity to welcome everybody by showcasing who we are and what we do.”

At the end of the day, visitors left with a better understanding of how science in the military works.

“The military is one of the biggest science recruiters and researchers in San Diego so they play a big part in the festival,” said Larry Bock, the coordinator of the San Diego Science Festival. “This was a chance to demonstrate how science can be used to protect us.”

The science festival culminates in an Expo Day Saturday at Balboa Park from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Lance Cpl. Manuel Guerrero

Cpl. Brandon T. McDonald, a crash crewman with Aircraft Rescue Firefighting for Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, assists Evan Thompson, a visitor from Newport Beach, with putting on proximity gear March 28.



Lance Cpl. Christopher O'Quin

Janine Koffel, a school liaison for the air station, demonstrates how to effectively aid students in reading mechanics during a training brief for the "Everyone a Reader" program inside the air station headquarters auditorium March 31. The brief informed the volunteers about the schedule and the tutoring process.

Volunteers needed for school reading program

LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER O'QUIN
Combat Correspondent

Marines, sailors and civilians aboard the air station can help elementary school students improve their reading comprehension with the "Everyone a Reader" volunteer program.

Volunteers dedicate one hour each week to tutor first-grade students at Mason Elementary School.

"This will be our first opportunity to work with this program. It seems promising and is definitely worthwhile," said Janine Koffel, a school liaison for the air station.

For the next three months, Marines will visit the school and read with students as part of the air station's formal Partnership in Education agreement.

"Reading is the premiere base for future educational success," said Elizabeth Barnes, a school liaison here. "Reading opens the door to opportunities that nothing else can. It is vital that children learn to read at a young age to prevent educational struggles as they progress through school. Literacy is our primary focus within the younger elementary grades."

Each volunteer attends a training session that takes less than an hour to complete.

"I always enjoyed reading when I was younger and still do to this day," said Sgt. Joseph Aiello, an aviation support equip-

ment hydraulic and diesel mechanic with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16. "I would like to see future generations reading more instead of watching television or playing video games."

In addition to the experience of helping a younger generation excel at reading, service members can accumulate volunteer hours toward the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

"The volunteers listen, prompt and praise," said Erica Tse, a first-grade teacher with Mason Elementary School. "They also monitor and reinforce classroom reading strategies as students practice reading in a one-to-one environment"

Questions are asked to support comprehension, and the tutors record notes for the teacher to provide additional information about the student's progress, explained Tse.

The program also focuses on the child's strengths in order to help build their self-confidence, which helps in all school subjects.

The next training session is April 21 at 8 a.m. in the air station auditorium. This program will continue in the fall and will grant another volunteer opportunity when school resumes in September.

Those interested in volunteering can contact the School Liaison Office at 858-577-8625 or 858-577-6633.



Lance Cpl. Christopher O'Quinn

Col. Christopher E. O'Connor, the former commanding officer of the air station, along with senior officers and executives from Marine Corps Community Services and Stronghold Engineering, officially open the new golf clubhouse, Rockers staff noncommissioned officer's club and Palms Restaurant at a ribbon cutting ceremony here, March 26.

CLUBHOUSE,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gunnery Sgt. Angel Figueroa, the SNCO club president, officially opened Rockers with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"The Marine Corps is closing more clubs than opening, so we are very privileged to have a place designated for us," said Espinal. "The station has taken

care of 3rd MAW and all the support we get is phenomenal. This is not only a place for Marines to break bread together, but a place of fellowship."

MCCS awarded the building contract to Stronghold Construction, a company based in Riverside, who oversaw the development of the 16,000-square-foot project.

"It was a huge team effort and

this outstanding facility is going to serve people for many years to come," said Chuck Gossage, the executive vice president of Stronghold. "The project had its challenges but it came together beautifully."

Some of the challenges stemmed from creating a first-class facility that would house several energy and environmentally-friendly design features.

"This facility is one of the first Marine Corps facilities to achieve the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Award," said Frank J. Guasti, the director of planning and construction with MCCS. "Basically it is one of the most ecological-friendly buildings with everything from crews using recycled building materials to using reclaimed non-potable water for the toilets and sprinkler system."

"Miramar has the best quality of life facilities," said O'Connor. "We are the gold standard and are raising the bar for the military quality of life."

ARSENAULT,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

petition made it an easy decision to join the Marine Corps.

"Every one knows the Marine Corps is the most difficult branch and I wanted a challenge," said Arsenault.

Since joining the Corps four years ago, the 26-year-old has excelled as a maintenance controller for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 and managed her busy lifestyle by staying involved in different activities such as holding the position of president of the Single Marine Program for a year.

"She's the smartest person in this shop," said Gunnery Sgt. Jason Cohen, HMH-462 staff noncommissioned officer in charge of maintenance control.

When she arrived the shop, she quickly learned every aspect of her new job and proved she could handle added responsibilities, explained Cohen.

"Normally, we would constant-

ly check on beginners in her position, but she would say 'I got it,'" said Cohen. "And she had it."

The key to her intelligence lies with her thorough reading and research, explained Cohen.

"She researches everything and finds out every aspect of her job that she's supposed to do and goes beyond it," said Cohen.

She fills the shoes of a billet normally held by a SNCO while supervising maintenance on the helicopters.

"She has the training and possesses the mental knowledge and skills it takes to screen an aircraft for any discrepancies that would down the aircraft and make it non-mission capable," said Cohen.

She is the last line of defense to ensure the safety of the aircraft before a flight.

"Nothing gets past her," said Cohen. "If Marines try to get away with anything, she catches it."

As Arsenault continues to strive to be the best, she plans to become an officer and continue her career in the Marine Corps.

SKY

Raiders' crossbones soar th MEU's air-ground exerc



Staff Sgt. Robert Bardash, loadmaster, signals to crew chief Lance Cpl. Nicolas Peters as the KC-130J Hercules turboprop aircraft prepares to take off from Castle Airport, Atwater March 28.



Aircrew chief Staff Sgt. Jamie Bellamy, left, and crew members Lance Cpl. Joseph Frey and Sgt. Michael Beasley, load baggage and equipment onto a KC-130J Hercules at Fort Hunter Liggett March 26.

HIGH

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
GUNNERY SGT. SCOTT DUNN**
11th MEU

ATWATER, Calif. — Transporting equipment and personnel and refueling other aircraft are the primary missions of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352.

They accomplished these missions March 26 and 28 by supporting the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's air-ground task force exercise.

"(The squadron's) support was a prime example of sharing military assets to allow the most realistic training," said 1st Lt. Brendan Shue, assistant officer in charge of the MEU's 1st Radio Battalion Detachment.

The 11th MEU, which is comprised of 2,200 Marines and sailors based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, is carrying out its exercise plans from Fort Hunter Liggett and getting ready for a deployment later this year.

The San Diego-based Raiders flew a dozen members of the 11th MEU's

embassy-liaison team from the remote Army post to Castle Airport in this San Joaquin Valley city, which served as a simulated sovereign country for the MEU's training missions.

Squadron executive officer Maj. David Peterson piloted the refueling mission. The Hercules left Castle Airport and 25 minutes later circled 22,000 feet above Hunter Liggett.

Harrier pilot Capt. Daniel S. Fiust of Marine Attack Squadron 513 flew from the squadron's home station in Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., stopping to refuel at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego.

The Harrier linked up three times to the Hercules via an aeronautical hose, taking on 2,206 gallons of fuel in total, according to Hercules loadmaster Staff Sgt. Robert Bardash.

Six of the Harrier squadron's jets will reinforce the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's aviation combat element, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166 (Reinforced) when the unit deploys.



The unit ensign for Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, a skull and crossbones, flies above a KC-130J Hercules at Castle Airport, Atwater, March 26. The Hercules model serves as the Marine Corps' aerial refueling tanker and tactical airlifter.



Co-pilot 1st Lt. Jon "Ponch" Baker flies a KC-130J Hercules above Fort Hunter Liggett during an aerial refueling mission March 28. The San Diego-based Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 flew refueling and transport missions to support the 11th MEU's command element and aviation-combat element, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166 (Reinforced).



Lance Cpl. Justis T. Beauregard

A Marine from the Radio Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Radio Battalion, jump from one of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462's CH-53E "Super Stallions" at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, March 25. This training is part of the platoons Radio Reconnaissance Indoctrination Program.

HMH-462 help recon Marines take dive

LANCE CPL. JUSTIS T. BEAUREGARD

Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON – A day at the beach for most people involves surfing and jumping over waves – reconnaissance Marines pack their gear and jump from helicopters.

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 trained with Radio Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Radio Battalion, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton March 25.

The training was part of the Radio Reconnaissance Indoctrination Program and to prepare for upcoming deployments.

Pilots from HMH-462 flew the Marines to the coast near Camp Pendleton where they practiced insertion and extractions.

"When the Marines hit the water, whether they are wearing a pack or not, they immediately put on fins and begin treading," said 2nd Lt. Nathan A. Wood, the Radio Reconnaissance platoon commander. "When helocasting with a pack, the Marines tow it with a leash or push it in front of them as they swim."

In a real-life tactical situation the Marines would then swim to shore and conduct their mission.

Afterward, they return to sea for extraction using the Special Patrol Insertion and Extraction system, explained Wood.

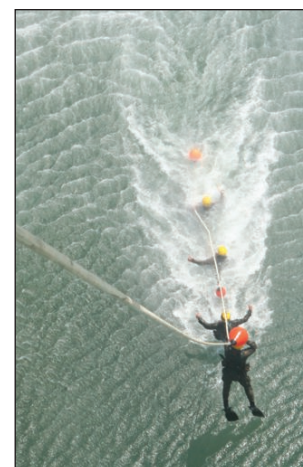
"Swimming to the rope feels like you are in the Olympics trying to bring home the gold," said Staff Sgt. Christian Stokes, RRIP training chief. "The rotor wash takes away most of your vision and you have a 25-pound weight around your waist."

Constant communication between cast master, crew chiefs and pilots ensure the Marines safety when jumping into the water and hanging from the rope during the flight back to base.

"The air crew is very important during helocast and SPIE rigging missions because we are responsible for the safety of the Marines preparing to be inserted into the drop zone," said Cpl. Robert C. Hagstrom, a crew chief for the "Heavy Haulers." "We are the eyes and ears of the pilots because they can't see what's happening below the aircraft during SPIE operations. By keeping good crew coordination, everyone in the aircraft knows what's happening at all times."

The Marines of HMH-462 were an essential part in making sure the Radio Recon Marines got the training they need for their upcoming deployment.

"The pilots and crew chiefs play a major role in the casting and SPIE training," said Wood. "It is their expertise that allows RR to conduct high risk maneuvers."



Lance Cpl. Justis T. Beauregard

Four Marines from Radio Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Radio Battalion, are lifted from the ocean near Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton by one of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462's CH-53E "Super Stallions," March 25.

Only few earn dog handler title

LANCE CPL. RYAN RHOLES
Combat Correspondent

“OUT,” shouted the handler, confidently commanding his military working dog to release the padded arm of a simulated suspect from its powerful jaws.

Military police dog handlers practice drills like this dozens of times every day, meticulously scrutinizing the performance of themselves and that of their dogs. After all, their commands are the only thing releasing suspects from the bite of the trained animals.

“Military working dogs would be as useless without their handlers as an M-16 service rifle is without someone to pull its trigger,” said Cpl. Lance Wright, chief trainer for the Provost Marshal’s Office here.

There are two ways military policemen can become handlers.

Their first chance is to finish in the top 10 percent of their military police class.

They must then pass a board selection process. Each board selects one or two candidates based on their bearing, knowledge of their field and personal merit.

The next chance is in the operational forces. MP’s can use their own time to work with their station’s K-9 unit until a school slot becomes available. However, they must prove themselves capable and competent before the unit will award a school seat.

“It’s a competitive job field that produces the best of the best,” said Wright. “We get paid to work with animals and protect Marines. It doesn’t get better than that.”

Dog handlers attend a 13-week course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, which is broken into two training blocks.

During the first block, handlers learn commands for obedience, aggression and attack, search and escort, field scouts and building searches.

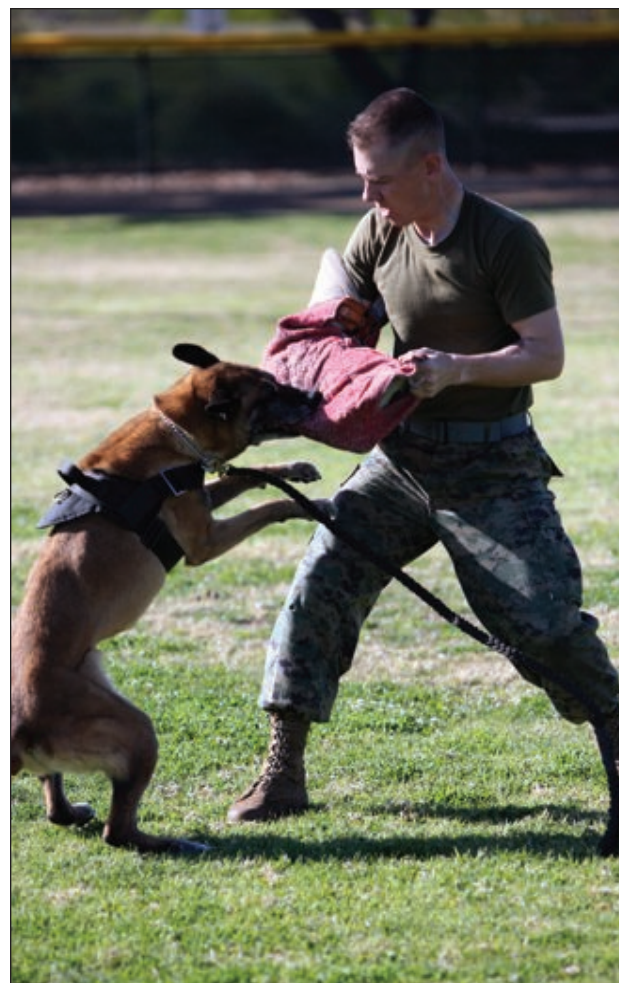
The second training block cov-

ers detection. Each military working dog is trained in patrol, with a specialty in either narcotics or explosives detection. Handlers are trained to work with both specialties. They learn to conduct sweeps, vehicle and building inspections and prepare for VIP visits.

Handlers also complete their final evaluations by performing in front of a certifying official. The official can disqualify a handler for loss of control, safety violations, lack of confidence, failure to detect a training aid and failing to apply proper fundamentals.

Once handlers reach their unit they are assigned at least one dog to care for and train. They also develop special ties with the dogs.

“The bond you develop with your dogs creates a level of trust, fidelity and loyalty that’s unreachable by human standards,” said Cpl. Josh Stevens, the field training officer for the Provost Marshal’s Office here.



Lance Cpl. Ryan Rhoades

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Dudeck, military working dog handler, tries to break free from the grasp of a military working dog while conducting aggression training at a baseball field here February 19. During the training, handlers are expected to provide confident, loud and accurate commands for their dogs. If they make a mistake with commands or issue them without authority, it may confuse the dogs.

Marksmanship means more than hitting black for Marine

LANCE CPL. RYAN RHOLES
Combat Correspondent

believed his career as a Marine, although rewarding, was in his past.

Yet the events of 9/11 led to his mobilization from the Inactive Ready Reserves in 2003

After leaving active duty in 2001, Staff Sgt. John Frost

to train Marines at the School of Infantry.

It was after this mobilization and his return to the Marines that Frost found his love for competitive shooting.

Since firing his first division match in 2005, Frost's competency as a competitor and coach, as well as his knowledge of shooting, have progressed rapidly. This led him to becoming a double medalist at this year's Western Division Matches and he was selected to serve as team captain for Miramar's Shooting Team.

"What makes him a good coach is that he really understands how the weather, sun and clouds can affect the strike of a round, and can explain things in such a way that it is easy for others to understand," said Gunnery

Sgt. Christopher Gehrki, the station ordnance noncommissioned officer in charge.

Frost, an Olympia, Wash., native, serves as deputy director of the Formal Marksmanship

will need to use that skill, and the battle field is not where you want to find out if you need to improve your ability as a marksman," said Frost.

Yet Frost doesn't feel that

competition shooting should be exclusive to the experienced firing community. Instead, Frost encourages inexperienced shooters to fire at competitions to expand their understanding of marksmanship and improve the combat effectiveness of the

"With the correct training and dedication, most people can become great shooters."

Staff Sgt. John Frost

*Deputy Director
Formal Marksmanship Training Center*

Training Center here, which he believes serves as a perfect platform for promoting competitive shooting. He believes the competition in arms program improves the Marine Corps.

"Shooting is a skill that every Marine should practice because a Marine never knows when he

Marine Corps.

"My goal is to spread as much knowledge to other shooters about marksmanship as possible and to expand the competition in arms program," said Frost. "With the correct training and dedication, most people can become great shooters."



Lance Cpl. Ryan Rhoades

Staff Sgt. John Frost, deputy director of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Formal Marksmanship Training Center, takes aim during the 2009 Western Division Matches on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Frost earned two medals at this year's competition.

NCAA final four weekend heats up competition



CPL. MICHAEL STEVENS
Combat Correspondent

Editor's Note: Cpl. Stevens is a regular contributor to the sports section of the Flight Jacket and an avid sports fanatic.

As I mentioned last week, here is a preview of what this weekend's final four games will bring to those who watch.

Three major conferences have the rights to boast their teams' presence as four of the remaining teams. The Big Ten Conference is represented by the Michigan State Spartans, the North Carolina Tar

Heels represent the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Big East Conference is represented by the Connecticut Huskies and also the Villanova Wildcats.

If you're looking at the teams wondering if tournament-rank makes a difference in the overall outcome, here's some quick numbers for you; two one-seeds, one two-seed and one three-seed.

Tomorrow night's games will be Michigan State and UCONN, followed by Villanova and UNC.

For the Spartans, both their games Saturday and Monday (should they make it to the National Championship game) will be much like home games, as the final four tournament is being played in Detroit.

Home court advantage will be important because they're playing a UCONN team that has outscored their opponents by a combined 101 points so far this tournament.

Of the four teams, Villanova is

the only that has not won a national championship this decade; Michigan State won in 2000, UCONN in 2004 and UNC in 2005.

Villanova's only title came in 1985, in their storied victory against number one Georgetown as an eight seed. Playing phenomenal ball right now under coach Jay Wright, they will surely be tested by the powerhouse UNC Tar Heels, in a game featuring teams from the top two basketball conferences in the nation.

Nova may be playing their best ball of the year and have certainly hit a hot streak after Scottie Reynolds game-winning shot beat Pitt as time expired last weekend. If there's a team in the nation that can cool them off however, it's North Carolina.

Both will be games to watch.

In other college basketball news, one of the major programs in the country made a move to regain

their swagger by signing a big-time coach to take the reigns. John Calipari, the man who is responsible for the University of Memphis' dominance in Conference USA for the last few years, has signed with the University of Kentucky.

The \$35 million deal was done in hopes of sending Kentucky back into the limelight as one of the elite programs in the country. Calipari's job will be to get them back into championship contention, something they haven't been close to since the late 90's when coaches Rick Pitino (1996) and Tubby Smith (1998) guided them to national championships.

Calipari's resume with Memphis speaks for itself; the team hasn't lost a conference game since the 2006-2007 campaign; NIT Championship in 2002; three times they've made it to the elite eight; National Championship runner-up to Kansas in 2008; the winningest coach in Memphis basketball history.

For those Marines or families who take pride in San Diego because it's our current duty-station city, I'd like to point out that San Diego State University performed superbly in the National Invitation Tournament, making it all the way to the final four teams before losing to Baylor University Tuesday night.

The team from SDSU had a regular season record of 23-9, and made it all the way to the Mountain West Conference tournament championship before falling to Utah. They were also a "bubble team" to get into the NCAA tournament, but ended up being one of the last teams not be invited to the big dance.

The Aztec season may not be as hopeful next year as they're top two point-producers are getting set to graduate.

Padre baseball kicks off Sunday with the opening pitch against the Dodgers. Don't expect a good season San Diego, they've traded you're best players.

FRIDAY

3

• April 3 & 4 - Weekend 8-Ball Pool tourney
7 p.m. The Great Escape 858-577-6171

• Tastes of Mexico
6 - 8 p.m.
Officers' Club
858-577-4808

• Gow-in-the-dark 2x2
Sand Volleyball Tourney
10 p.m.
The Great Escape
858-577-6171

SATURDAY

4

• April 3 - 5
The Great Escape / SMP
60-hour Challenge
858-577-6171

• April 4 & 5
Video Game Tournaments
6 p.m. - 6 a.m. The Hub
858-577-6171

• April 4 & 5
Outdoor paintball Megarena, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
lot east of the Miramar Inn
619-228-4446

SUNDAY

5

• Midnight Madness 3x3
Outdoor Basketball
Tourney
1 a.m.
The Great Escape
858-577-6171

• Doubles Ping Pong
Tourney
5 p.m. The Great Escape
858-577-6171



MONDAY

6

• Stroller Circuit Training
Mon. & Wed. 9 - 10 a.m.
Miramar Sports Complex
858-577-9143

• Alcoholics Anonymous
12-step study group
6:30 p.m.
Counseling Center
858-577-6585

TUESDAY

7

• Adecco Staffing Agency Visit
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Career Resource Center
858-577-6710

• New Parent Support Play
Morning
10 - 11:30 a.m.
Children's Library
858-577-9812

• QOL Golf
Two hours after twilight
Free golf Miramar active duty
858-577-4155

WEDNESDAY

8

• Stroller Circuit Training
Mon. & Wed. 9 - 10 a.m.
Miramar Sports Complex
858-577-9143

• Free Golf Clinic for
Active Duty
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Golf Course
858-577-4155

• Career Resource Center
"Federal Jobs and Applications"
1 - 3 p.m. The Hub
858-577-6710

• Domestic Violence Awareness
1 - 4 p.m. Counseling Center
858-577-6585

• American Crown Circus
**see below*

• R&DS Brief Series
"Safe & Sound at Home"
**see below*

THURSDAY

9

• Anger Management II
1 - 3 p.m.
Counseling Center
858-577-6585

• Month of the Military Child
Ronald McDonald Show
**see below*

• American Crown Circus
**see below*

MCCS Free Prize Giveaways

Entertainment Ticket

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Knott's Berry Farm
Gift Pack

Golf Pro Shop:

Round of golf for four
with two carts

Stop in and fill out an
entry form today!

Winner will be drawn
April 30

Weekly Events...

April 6 - May 1 Spring Camp 2009 begins
Youth and Teen Center 858-577-6959

Shop at the MCX!

Easter Parade Sale Small Spaces,
Big Ideas
Furniture Sale

April 1- 12

April 8- 19

"Providing over 100 programs for you and your family"



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Readiness and Deployment Support Brief Series

Every Wednesday night in April, R&DS will host the Beyond the Brief Series, so please come and join us for a relaxed, interactive and informative night. The second brief "Safe and Sound at Home" will be held on April 8 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the L.I.N.K.S. House. Call 577-6306 for more information.

Month of the Military Child Ronald McDonald Show

Stop by the Bob Hope Theater April 9 at 1:30 p.m. to enjoy a performance from Ronald McDonald. There's no telling what Ronald will do! This live show will be followed by a matinee movie (The Pink Panther 2) at 2 p.m. The live show and movie are both free. Call 858-577-6365 for more information.

American Crown Circus coming to MCAS Miramar

Join in the fun of the American Crown Circus. You will see jugglers, acrobats, clowns and more! The circus will take place across from the Bob Hope Theater April 8 at 6 and 8 p.m. and April 9 at 6 and 8 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are available at the Ticket Office for ages 13 & up at \$8, Children ages 3 - 12 are free with paid adult admission (two children's tickets per adult ticket, additional children's tickets are \$5 each) and children two and under are free. Seating is first come first served. Day of show price is \$10. Call 858-577-4126/4141 for ticket information or 858-577-6365 for circus information.

The Great Escape/SMP 60-Hour Weekend Challenge

The Great Escape will be open for sixty hours straight from 11 a.m. April 3 to 11 p.m. April 5. There will be a Weekend 8-Ball Pool Tournament, Glow-in-the-Dark 2x2 Sand Volleyball, Dusk 'til Dawn 3, Halo 3 and Guitar Hero 3 video game tournament, Midnight Madness 3x3 Outdoor Basketball and a Doubles Ping Pong Tournament. Call 858-577-6171 for more information and to register for the tournaments.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flying Leatherneck Gala

The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum will hold the 4th Annual Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation Gala at the Officers' Club May 9. For information or to make a reservation, visit The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum's Web site at www.flyingleathernecks.org and click on the Gala icon or events link.

USO, USS Midway Scholarship

USO San Diego, with the USS

Midway Museum will sponsor a college scholarship for an essay with the topic "What America Means to My Family and I." Entrants must be the children of active duty military, reserve or National Guard, stationed in San Diego County. Award will be made aboard the Midway Museum in May. For details and application, please visit USO San Diego's Web site at www.usosandiego.org.

Special Needs Conference

US Marine Corps Installations

West and Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton are sponsoring the third annual Special Needs Conference April 22 from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the South Mesa Club, Camp Pendleton. A \$25 cash-only conference fee will be collected at the door. The fee is waived for special needs family members and public school representatives. For more information, visit the NHCP Web site at <https://cpen.med.navy.mil/> or contact Lt. Cmdr. Ken Arlinghaus at (760) 725-3082.



WHAT'S PLAYING... AT THE BOB HOPE THEATER

Fri. April 3:

The Pink Panther 2 (PG) 6:30 p.m.
Friday the 13th (R) 9 p.m.

Sat. April 4:

Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
*Taken (PG-13) 9 p.m.

Sun. April 5:

*New in Town (PG) 1 p.m.
Free Advance Screening: Observe & Report (R) 6:30 p.m.

Wed. April 8:

The International (R) 6:30 p.m.

Thurs. April 9:

Free admission: Ronald McDonald Show Live 1:30 p.m.
Free admission: The Pink Panther 2 (PG) 2 p.m.
Friday the 13th (R) 6:30 p.m.
** indicates last showing*



Lance Cpl. Manuel Guerrero

More than 70 Marines and sailors from Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, part of the Aviation Ground Support Detachment, returned home after a six-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Alongside his wife, Heather, Sgt. Tyler J. Earhart, a military policeman for MWSS-373, holds his daughter, Haylee, for the first time since deploying overseas.



Pfc. Zachary Majors

A group of military children demonstrate the color spectrum Thursday during a presentation by Flumpa the Frog and Wendy the Singing Scientist at the Bob Hope Theater here. The high-energy show has been touring the country for the past 15 years teaching science, music, fitness and fun through interactive song and dance routines.



Lance Cpl. Manuel Guerrero

Sgt. Steven R. Barker, the communications network noncommissioned officer in charge for Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, tries out a hand-held personal computer during the 12th Annual Technology Exposition in the Officers' Club here March 26. More than 300 Marines, sailors and civilian employees from across Southern California gathered for the Expo that featured more than 20 exhibits.

NAVAIR hosts Environmental Info Exchange

The eleventh annual Fleet Environmental Information Exchange will be held April 7 through 9 at the Four Points Sheraton in San Diego. Fleet representatives from all Navy and Marine Corps hazardous material, supply, support equipment, ordnance and corrosion control programs are encouraged to attend. The primary goal of the EIE is to identify unresolved Fleet environmental needs and provide solutions. For more information visit the meeting's Web site, www.enviro-navair.navy.mil. Registration will also be available on-site.