FLIGHT JACKET

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Under Pressure

Lance Cpl. Deek B. Beachman checks the oil pressure on an EA-6B Prowler belonging to Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 2, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), during the jet's recovery process at Al Asad, Iraq, June 18. Beachman is a ground support equipment technician with the squadron's powerline division. The division's Marines are responsible for preflight and postflight inspections, engine maintenance and external and internal fuel system maintenance. SEE FULL STORY, page 5. *Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich*

HMH-462 Det returns from MEU

Story by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

More than 100 Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton returned from a deployment in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in Okinawa, Japan July 15.

More than 50 of those Marines are from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

They were deployed for 7 and a half months, said Maj. Brett Giordano, detachment officer-in-charge, HMH-462.

"Throughout the deployment we trained in various locations throughout the Pacific area," Giordano said. "We went to Okinawa, the Philippines, Thailand, as well as other locations throughout the world."

"It was some great training," Giordano said. "I am, however, happy to be home. It is good to see my children."

The Heavy Haulers use the CH-53E, the largest heavy lifting helicopter in the military.

"We sent four helicopters in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in December. They are going to stay in place, and we are rotating out troops," said Maj. Timothy Gabriel, executive officer, HMH-462. "Around 54 people were sent and some of them are going to stay seven more months, however most of them have returned today."

50 Marines from HMH-462 also left this week to support the MEU added Gabriel.

A MEU is a team of Marine and Navy personnel who serves as the nation's forward deployed, quick-response team, capable of accomplishing numerous missions around the globe.

They go through rigorous training to provide the world with special operations readiness anytime anywhere.

MEUs quite often are used as humanitarian relief, and Marines from almost every military occupational specialty take part in their deployment.

"The Marines aboard participated in many training missions while deployed," Gabriel said. "In the Philippines they provide humanitarian relief after an earthquake and mudslides ran through the country.

"It's good to have them back," Gabriel said. "The detachment did well."

Maj. Brett Giordano, detachment officer in charge, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, holds his son with enjoyment July 15. *Photo by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat*

FLIGHT JACKET

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GUIDANCE

Fight STDs with safety, knowledge

Story by Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn M. Scarboro
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

HIV and AIDS are extreme examples of the dangers of unprotected sex, but other, more common viruses are a constant threat.

"A lot of times we'll do the 'scare factor' with photos during presentations," said Julie A. Carlson, a health promotion coordinator with Marine Corps Community Services, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. "But those are pictures of more extreme cases. We try to say 'practice abstinence' but we have to be realistic."

"I think a lot of people have this belief that they won't ever get an STD," said Petty Officer 1st Class Teresa J. Enfinger, the lead petty officer, MCAS Miramar Preventive Medicine Clinic. "A lot of guys come in and say the female 'looked clean.'"

Navy Capt. S. M. Wiebert, a women's health nurse practitioner at the Branch Medical Clinic Miramar, agreed that service members don't try to prevent infection because they do not believe they are susceptible.

"Nobody wants to really be honest about how many people they have been with sexually," Weibert said.

This combination of misconception and no protection can be painful, or even deadly for Marines who contract one of the seven most common STDs.

Chlamydia is the most common STD contracted, and has no visible signs of infection. Painful or excessive urination and a white or yellow discharge are the only hints, but may not be present at all in an infected person, according to Enfinger.

"This is a silent disease for women because it affects their uterus," Weibert said. "Men have "the drip" with gonorrhea but they have no signs with Chlamydia."

Chlamydia can cause potentially fatal pregnancy complications, pelvic inflammatory disease, (PID), and future infertility in women, according to the Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The infection is dangerous, but because it's signs are discreet, cases are not always reported or treated.

"Thank goodness (Chlamydia) is treatable because there are a lot of diseases like HIV that aren't," Enfinger said.

Enfinger explained that gonorrhea and Chlamydia are treated in the same way because the symptoms are similar.

An effective way to protect against an STD is to use a condom, according to Weinbert. STDs are contracted through bodily fluids during oral, vaginal or anal intercourse, but using a condom is considered one of the most effective means of protection by most health professionals.

Female condoms are a new technology in the war on STDs, providing a more natural feeling without a possible allergic reaction from latex. A female condom can be inserted in the vagina hours before intercourse so it will not interrupt sexual spontaneity and can be used with lubricants and spermicides according to Weibert.

Though condoms are considered effective against most STDs, Enfinger warned that condoms will not protect against genital herpes or warts – viruses that are passed through skin contact.

Herpes symptoms – itching, burning and blisters – often go away and come back. Though the symptoms can be treated, the virus will never leave the body, according to the CDC.

There's some indication from the Center of Disease Control that the increase in syphilis may be related to positive HIV tests," said Weibert. "That's why I say to women, it's very important to know your sexual partner."

While service members continue to fight abroad for the safety and security of the country, health care professionals fight the local terrors harassing the military.

They are relying on the most lethal weapons against sexually transmitted disease: wide spread education and personal protection.

For more information contact *www.cdc.gov/std/default.htm*

Sunny days require more than sunscreen

Story by Lance Cpl. Sha'ahn Williams
MCB Quantico Combat Correspondent

Sunscreen protects your skin from the sun's potentially harmful rays, but what about protection for your eyes?

July is Ultraviolet Safety Month, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology reminds Americans of the importance of protecting their eyes from the sun by wearing sunglasses and wide-brimmed hats.

According to the AAO, damage from UV rays may occur at any time during the year, but during the summer months the level of ultraviolet radiation is three times greater than in the winter.

"The long-term effects UV rays could have on unprotected eyes could cause more than cataracts and wrinkles from squinting," said Lt. Michelle Komal, doctor of optometry at the Naval Medical Clinic Quantico. "Melanoma is a potentially life-threatening type of cancer that can result from excessive contact with the deadly UV rays."

To avoid damaging the eyes and to reduce the risk of cancer, Komal suggests wearing sunglasses treated with an anti-UV coating. It is sometimes assumed that if lenses are tinted, then they have the added protection, but Komal warns consumers to look for proof before they buy.

"You are not going to know if there is an anti-UV coating unless there is a sticker on the sunglasses," Komal said. "Just because the glasses are tinted, doesn't mean they are protecting you from harmful rays — it just means they're dark."

Wearing untreated sunglasses can be more dangerous than going without sunglasses because behind dark lenses, the pupils open wider and expose more of their surface to the UV rays, she said.

Depending on the style and brand of eyewear, anti-UV coated lenses may be as inexpensive as $10. Price depends on a person's personality and budget, Komal said.

"When purchasing your lenses, make sure you ask your provider if they come with a UV coating first," she said. "Buying a good pair of sunglasses can be a little costly, but a great investment."

Parents should safeguard their children's eyes against UV rays with sunglasses and hats. And, if possible, it is best to stay inside between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. when the sun is strongest.

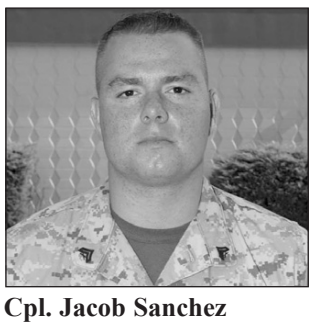
To learn more about protection against harmful UV rays, visit *http://www.aao.org*.

Miramarks

"How can you prevent becoming a heat casualty?"

Lance Cpl. Aldo Rodriguez
Air Operations
MWSS-373

"Hydration and having enough salt intake is important to preventing heat casualties."



Cpl. Jacob Sanchez
Military Police Officer
MWSS-373

"Planning PT around the heat and planning ahead of time are important."

Briefs

Golf Tournament

There will be a Navy Ball Golf Tournament August 28, at the Marine Memorial Golf Course Camp Pendleton. Please register before August 21. Cost for sergeants and below is $30. Staff sergeant to Captain, $40. Major to General, $45. DoD or guest $45.

Send your rosters to HMC(FMF) Cenon Delacruz, at CSDelaCruz@cpen.med.navy.mil

Sierra Views

The Outdoor Adventure Center will depart for a camping trip at the Inyo National Forest outside of Bishop, Calif., early on September 2. Bring daypacks and fishing poles and they will select a scenic trail with an awesome lake. Active duty is $40 per person and $45 for DoD, reservists and retirees.

For more information, call 577-4150.

Anti-Terrorism Awareness

Marines, sailors, and civilians working or residing aboard MCAS Miramar are required to complete Level I Anti-terrorism Awareness Training. There are two ways to accomplish this training.

1. Attend a classroom presentation. Mr. Foster, mobilization planning specialist, is now conducting monthly Level I AT awareness training. Location is the Station Auditorium, across from Hangar 5.

2. Complete a web-based training session at the following site: https:atlevel1.dtic.mil/at. Personnel who complete this training online must print out a certificate, which needs to be presented to Mr. Foster or Ms. Bagley, station security manager, at 577-8624.

Financial Education Forum

There will be a seminar on smart saving and investing, mutual funds and smart saving for retirement at the Naval Base Coronado Theater July 27, 7:45 to 11:30 a.m. and July 28 7:30 to 11:15 a.m. at the Naval Station San Diego Theater.

For more information, call Debbi Lane at (619) 545-3676.

Watch Found

A watch was found at the Miramar Car Wash on July 13. If you think the watch belongs to you, please call Pat Oyabe at (619)-990-1834.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jose Ortiz communicates to a pilot using hand signals immediately after an F/A-18C Hornet from the "Death Rattlers" of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, makes an arrested landing on the flight deck. *Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Johnnie Robbins*

Marine pilots qualify out at sea

Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Gethings
USS John C. Stennis Public Affairs

ON BOARD USS JOHN C STENNIS (CVN 74) — A squadron consisting of ten Marine F/A 18-C Hornets, capable of ground and air attacks, backed up by more than 150 personnel to fly and support their carrier-based missions.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 the "Death Rattlers", Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing embarked on board USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) as part of Carrier Aircraft Wing Nine (CVW-9) for workups off the coast of Southern California in June. They're here to begin integrating with the ship and the rest of the aircraft wing.

"More than 50 percent of our guys have never been on board a ship before," said Maj. Dan Goodwin, executive officer, VMFA-323. "We're coming into a new command structure, so we're learning to work with it all. It's a little different back home."

VMFA-323 has been doing 12 to 18 sorties per day since CVW-9 started cyclic flight operations last week.

"They've been doing well," added Goodwin, a Houston native.

The Hornets with VMFA-323 are capable of more than two hours of flight time with no in-air refueling, and with in-air refueling, they've flown up to 11-hour missions.

"Being on board helps us out a lot. The Navy has all this great technology, and they want us to have it too," said Marine Capt. Ben Buerke, pilot, VMFA-323, referring to many of the new weapons capabilities available for the Hornet.

"Though a Marine squadron on board does the same thing as a Navy squadron, we do bring a different perspective to some things," added Buerke, referring to the Marines ability to provide close-air support to Marines and soldiers on the ground.

Buerke said his squadron held under CVW-9's strict training schedule was a huge benefit to the "Death Rattlers" as well.

With ten modern Hornets on board, 150 skilled personnel to support and fly them, and a slew of experience most Navy pilots have never been exposed to, the Death Rattlers have more than enough to offer CVW-9 and the JCS' strike group.

Miramar Marine tackles jewelry thief

Story by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

EL CAJON, Calif. – A Miramar Marine officer was honored by Helzberg Diamonds July 11 for an act of heroism when he subdued a jewelry store robber in their Annapolis, Md., store May 13.

Major Erik McInnis, an air traffic control officer with Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, was recognized at the Helzberg Diamonds Store in the San Diego Westfield Parkway Mall in El Cajon, Calif.

McInnis was presented two checks for $1,000 from Helzberg Diamonds that were donated to charities of his discretion; The Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

"We are humbled as we recognized the commitment, courage and intelligence that (he) and his fellow service members exhibit daily," Beasley said. "We've seen it firsthand."

On the morning of May 13, McInnis saw a man running out of the store in Annapolis followed by an employee crying for help. McInnis then pursued and tackled the man, holding him down until law enforcement arrived.

The reason why the man was running or the fact that he stole a $28,000 diamond ring was unknown at the time, added McInnis.

"I was just hoping that he had done something wrong," McInnis said.

"It was kind of surreal," said the Springfield, Mo., native. "There I was laying on top of a man in the middle of the mall with a rear choke hold on him, and people just walked around us like nothing was happening."

Maj. Erik McInnis, an air traffic control officer at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, shakes the hand of Eric A. Torykian, Vice President of Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation, July 11 at the Helzberg Diamonds Mall store, El Cajon Calif. McInnis apprehended a robber in a Helzberg Diamond Store in Annapolis, Md., May 13 while shopping with his family. *Photo by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat*

At the time of the robbery, McInnis was stationed in Annapolis where he taught martial arts at the Naval Academy and was the officer representative for the school's Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club.

"I've been teaching the stuff to midshipmen for years," he added. "I had a better chance than the average to catch him. It felt like it was the right thing to do at the right time."

"We wanted to make sure Maj. McInnis was recognized for his heroism," said Holly Dowda, the Helzberg Diamonds Regional Director, "We thought it was important to let everyone know about the great things that were done."

"We are very grateful to Maj. McInnis." said Marvin Beasley, chairman and chief executive officer for Helzberg Diamonds. "His actions were nothing short of exemplary and in the finest tradition of the United States Marine Corps."

"This is the kind of stuff I've trained for every day," McInnis said. "After the incident happened, I tried to make it clear that I didn't want any gratitude. However, I thought this would be a great platform to donate to Marine Corps charities."

Mechanics keep aircrafts 'on the prowl'

Story by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq — Under the direction of a lone Marine standing in its path, a deafening EA-6B Prowler taxis to a stop. With their electronic warfare mission accomplished, the flight crew turns responsibility for the aircraft over to the powerline division Marines with Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 2, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward).

Recovering and launching the Death Jesters' aircraft is not the only task the 14 powerline Marines are responsible for.

"We do preflight and postflight inspections, engine maintenance, external and internal fuel system maintenance, as well as acting as the plane captains for the aircraft," said Staff Sgt. Iyassai M. Young, division chief. "Our squadron combines the ground support equipment and power plant branches that are normally separate in other aviation units."

With the variety of jobs they must accomplish, the powerline Marines rely on their training to get through the 12-hour work shifts mistake-free.

"We came out here with six experienced, qualified Marines," said Young, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native. "If you don't hold a qualification for a job, then you can't do it without supervision. Fortunately, the junior Marines that didn't really know anything when we first got out here worked hard, learned quickly, and became qualified plane captains, which allows them to work independently."

One of the junior Marines who received training here was Lance Cpl. Sedric L. Simon, a power plants mechanic and recently qualified plane captain.

"I came out here with a shop that had as many new guys as experienced ones. Our senior Marines had to step up to make sure we got the training we needed to make this a smooth deployment," said Simon, a West Palm Beach, Fla., native. "I feel that the training out here went very well, especially since no matter how hard you train or work back home it doesn't prepare you for the real thing. You must be at your best at all times."

The ability to work without supervision is a unique characteristic of the qualified plane captains in the powerline division.

Powerline division Marines surround an EA-6B Prowler belonging to Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 2, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), during the jet's recovery process at Al Asad, Iraq, June 18. The division's Marines are responsible for preflight and postflight inspections, engine maintenance, external and internal fuel system maintenance, as well as acting as the plane captains for the aircraft. *Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich*

"This is the only place you will find junior Marines responsible for an entire aircraft," Young said.

One of the Marines in charge of the transformation of the junior Marines was Cpl. Christopher D. Bland, a plane captain who is on his third deployment to OIF.

"I think this is the hardest job, squadron maintenance wise, because we have so many jobs to do," said Bland, a Jacksonville, Fla., native. "This is the best powerline shop yet, the new guys are really smart, better than we (experienced Marines) are."

Part of the division's success is due to the Marine's enthusiasm for their duties, despite the long hours and scorching temperatures on their flight line workspace, and the guidance of their noncommissioned officers.

"The NCOs are puppet masters," Young said. "They keep the Marines rotating through the maintenance work, keep them hydrated and make sure they get time off, if only for half a day, because these Marines will work till they drop," Young said.

FEATURE

Taking aim: Coaches improve shooting

Story by Lance Cpl. Scott T. McAdam Jr.
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

At any Marine Corps rifle range in the world there is one thing Marines can count on seeing every time; the pith helmets of Marine Corps rifle range coaches.

The duty of a range coach is straightforward: Assist the Marines under their respective tutelage to attain the best score possible by learning and maintaining the basics of Marine Corps marksmanship.

With long hours, no set lunch break schedule and working weekends, the coaches are dedicated to what they do for the Marines and the Marine Corps.

"I love teaching the Marines here," said Lance Cpl. Charles Valadez, a marksmanship coach, with Marksmanship Training Unit, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Lance Cpl. Charles Valadez, range coach, marksmanship training unit, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, helps Cpl. Henry H. Evans, patrolman, provost marshals office, MCAS Miramar, adjust his firing position during his prep time before firing July 11. The range coach's job is to help the Marines under his tutelage achieve a high score on their yearly rifle qualification. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Scott T. McAdam Jr.*

The prerequisites for being chosen to be a range coach are similar to being a recruiter or drill instructor in the Marine Corps. The Marine cannot have any personal problems with weight, finances, pending non-judicial punishments and needs to be reliable. No certain rifle range score is needed.

"Rifle scores can always be improved, but any problems with our coaches mean we will not be able to facilitate as many shooters," said Gunnery Sgt. James Stucker, the range staff noncommissioned officer in charge, MCAS Miramar. "We need reliable Marines who will be dedicated to this job for the entire year they are attached to us."

In order to wear the coveted pith helmet and train Marines, the prospective coaches must complete a four-week course at Edson Range on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

The course is comprised of rifle and pistol qualification, learning to instruct the material taught at the course and a final exam. If either of the qualifications or the final exam is failed, the Marine is dropped. With a 30 percent attrition rate, many wannabe coaches never make it.

"This school is one of the hardest I've ever been to," said Sgt. Steven Bullock, a marksmanship coach with MTU. "A lot of the failures are due to failing to answer a question verbatim the way it was taught."

Toward the course's end, the coaches practice their new found skills with recruits.

"When the coaches work with the recruits they are watched by the Edson Range coaches," Stucker said. "This way, none of the recruits feel 'short-changed' by getting a newer coach to help them."

When looking at a range coach's backpack or fold out stool, Marines may notice different rank insignias ranging from enlisted to officers.

"It's a tradition that if your range coach helps you shoot expert or improve your score you give them one of your rank insignias," said Valadez.

It is no secret that when it comes to any training or activity sponsored by the Marine Corps, safety is one of the biggest concerns and priorities. Another of the range coach's main duties is to ensure the safe conditions of the range and shooters at all times. There is also a range safety officer and corpsman present any time there is a shooter on the range.

"The biggest safety violations are from Marines and their lack of muzzle awareness," Stucker said. "When the Marines have rounds, it's not usually a problem because they pay more attention, but when they don't have rounds they get lackadaisical, and that is unacceptable."

Because every Marine is a rifleman, it is a requirement for Marines to qualify yearly on the rifle range. Staying familiar with the M-16A2 service rifle is an important way to keep the "tip of the spear" sharp, Stucker explained.

"Some of the best marksmanship training these Marines will receive is from the Marine Corps," Stucker said. "I'm proud to be a part of a range that gives the best training. I'm proud of all of my coaches; they are the best at what they do."

The range coaches at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar double check the shooters' rifle settings before firing July 11. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Scott T. McAdam Jr.*

Sgt. Matt Gregory, a musician with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing band plays with two-year-old son Colin Nathaniel Gregory on a sunny day July 8 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Gregory, a single Marine father, spends as much time as possible with his son while juggling his commitments in the Marine Corps and attending college full time. *Photo by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat*

Marine manages time between Corps, family

Story by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

As the sun rises in the early morning sky, an alarm clock begins its morning music. A man awakes, and begins the day as a single Marine father.

Raising a child is never an easy task, but adding the challenges of being an active-duty single parent, who is also a full-time student, can make the task down right daunting.

For Sgt. Matthew Gregory, a musician, with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing band, his day starts with his son. "It's hard being a single father," Gregory said. "The hours (Marines) work, and the time we have to put into our jobs, is sometimes very stressful.

"I try to spend as much time with my son as I can, but it is rough making sure there is time for a quality family lifestyle."

Gregory wakes up every morning at 5:45 a.m. to care for his son, Colin, and get him ready for day care.

"Every morning that I wake up and get my son ready, I think, 'They could tell me I'm getting deployed.'" Gregory said. "Half of the band is in Iraq now, and more are leaving in August.

"Right now, I feel lucky that I am not deploying this time, I get to stay in the rear and be with my son," Gregory said.

Life wasn't always so stressful. Gregory originally joined the Marine Corps in July 2000 and was honorably discharged in July 2004.

"I had my son and wanted to go to college," he said. "I stayed home for a year, taking care of my son and ensuring a quality lifestyle, but it was difficult making ends meet."

With the stress at school and the need to properly raise his son in December 2005, Gregory decided to give the Marine Corps in one more try.

"I wanted to make sure that my son was well taken care of," Gregory said. "In the military, we receive many benefits such as medical coverage as well as a guaranteed job.

"The trade off is difficult at times, I have to sacrifice a lot of my free time," Gregory added. "We play multiple gigs a week in the band and I am a full-time college student.

"Monday nights are when I have class, and I usually end up not getting home until around 10 p.m.," Gregory said. There are also group sessions as well as homework from class.

"But it is always great to come home after a long day, and see my wonderful boy," Gregory said.

Though it's difficult to find childcare after work for his son, whose Mira Mesa daycare program closes at 6 p.m., the close-knit group at the band is always willing to lend a hand, Gregory explained.

"We are all willing to help out the families here in our shop when it is needed," said Sgt. Justin Melton, musician, 3rd MAW band. "We try to help out Sgt. Gregory as much as possible, recently we invited his son over for a birthday party we had for our son.

As a Marine, one must be able to adapt and overcome any challenge. Gregory has managed to balance his lifestyle to ensure quality family time as well as doing his job.

"I often bring my son to our concerts," said Gregory. "It's a family environment, and is a great opportunity to spend time with my son and let him see what I do for a living as a Marine and how the band is a big family."

FEATURE

Playing the battles of life through chess

Story by Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn M. Scarboro
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

He moves his pawns strategically through the battlefield, deciphering the coordinates and guessing his opponent's next move. He tries to out-wit his enemy and utilize tactics and strategy to win a tiring battle.

To Cpl. Justin Colon, an administrative clerk at the headquarters administration office for Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, chess is more than a board game. The game that founded his parent's love has become an inspiration that he applies to every aspect of life.

Colon first learned to play chess at 10 years old, when his father taught him on an old black and white marble board.

"I thought my boys needed to know how to play chess," said Peter J. Colon, Justin's father. "It's all about thinking and planning and learning to look into the future."

Justin had a natural talent for the game of strategy and discipline. His parents had been brought together by the game and made certain that their children also had an opportunity to learn and respect the game.

"By the time he was 12, I wouldn't play him anymore," Colon said. "I couldn't play him anymore, it was fruitless, it would kill my ego. He's good."

Justin continued to play chess in high school as captain of the Kendall Central Junior/ Senior High School chess team in New York. Justin claims he still lacked personal discipline in his life when it came to being a teenager but chess was a sport he wouldn't give up for the sake of "coolness." During high school, Justin found time between chasing girls and playing football and basketball to take home the local chess championship three years running.

Every time he walked past a couple playing chess, he would challenge the winner, defining himself as an expert-player even further. He had to beat anyone he could.

When he joined the Marine Corps three and a half years ago, Justin said he did it for nothing more than the title of Marine. He wanted to continue to be known as the best.

At Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina, Justin and fellow Marines occupied their time making a chess set out of rocks.

Using paper and cardboard to label each piece, Justin continued to play his beloved game in the most unexpected places.

"It's the significance of life in a game," Justin explained. "Everything that applies to everyday living is put in that one game. The possibilities are endless."

Recently, Justin began to play chess more frequently as he prepared his application for the All-Marine chess team. His family was excited about his new opportunity, but back at home a tragedy would pull him away from his goal and shine a brighter light on the important things in his life.

As his application and selection date for the team neared, Justin's mother became increasingly ill and was quickly hospitalized.

Many can play and enjoy a game of strategy and planning called chess. Cpl. Justin Colon has practiced many years and his practice is showing through his play. He will remain practicing for the All-Marine team and one day show the world his skills. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn Scarboro*

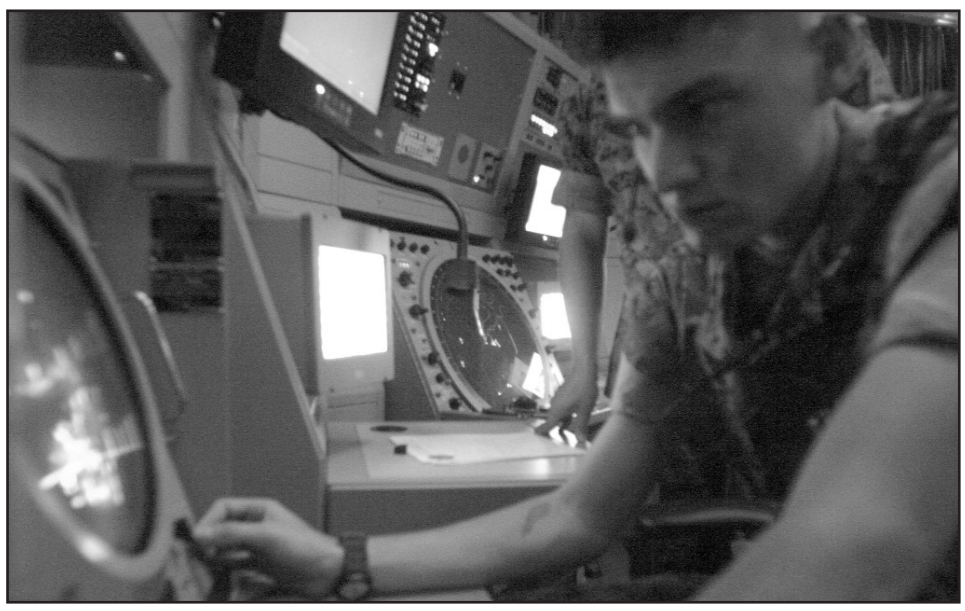
Though she was very sick, Justin's mother did not want her son to be told of her hospitalization until he had already been selected to the All-Marine team. She worried most about his focus on the game and didn't want her poor health to hurt his ability to play well, according to his father.

The few tournaments he played to prepare for the try-outs, Justin said he had spent distracted by worry for his mother. The Friday his application was due, Justin was home in Rochester, N.Y., with his mother during her final days.

Justin called to inform his coaches that his resume would be late and though they assured him an opportunity at try-outs, the team was already decided when he returned from home.

Justin now readies himself for the Armed Forces Open, a chess tournament dedicated to any prior, reserve or active-duty service member. When he is done with that, Justin isn't sure what he is going to do but one thing is certain: his future opportunities are endless.

Look out below | **Gunnery Sgt. Edward McDermott, the platoon sergeant for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Special Purpose Force, free falls from the ramp of a CH-46E Sea Knight during jump training July 14. McDermott, a native of Richmond, Mich., and the Marines of MSPF conducted the training in the Red Sea while on deployment to the Central Command theater of operation.** *Photo by Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola*



Night vision | **Lance Cpl. Reese Sherman checks the approach radar for incoming aircraft at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma July 6. The MCAS Futenma air traffic control tower and radar room were recently refurbished with new radar and communication equipment. Sherman is an air traffic controller with the airstation's air traffic control.** *Photo by Lance Cpl. W. Zach Griffith*

Not forgotten | **Marines escort the body of Lance Cpl. Nicholas J. Whyte of 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, after a memorial service held in New York June 30. Whyte was fatally wounded from a shot through the neck by an enemy sniper during combat operations in Ramadi, Iraq, just days before his 22nd birthday.** *Photo by Cpl. Lameen Witter*

Is this your Chevrolet?

The above vehicle has been marked for impound by the Provost Marshal's Office. To avoid having the vehicle towed, please store it in the Marine Corps Community Services or Traffic Management Office lots. Abandoned vehicles at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar present security risks as well as environmental and safety concerns. PMO attempts to identify and contact vehicle owners of illegally parked, abandoned vehicles prior to tagging the vehicle with a Department of Defense notice. Vehicles are then scheduled for towing three days following the notice. For more information, call 577-1276/4139.

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average $113, storage fees $28 daily. For more information call 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:
Mitsubishi Eclipse	CA#5DAX061
Honda CX	CA#5ERW727
Suzuki GSXR	CA#17E7224
Ford E350	CA#4LNX778
Motorcycle Trailor	VA#CT497383

Miramar Movies

The Bob Hope Theater, located on Elrod Ave., and will be featuring the following movies. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, call 577-4143 or log on to *www.mccsmiramar.com.*

Friday:
6:30 p.m. The Break-Up (PG-13)
9:00 p.m. X-Men 3: The Last Stand (PG)

Saturday:
1:00 p.m. The Break-Up (PG-13)
6:30 p.m. X-Men 3: The Last Stand (PG)
9:00 p.m. The Da Vinci Code (PG-13)

Sunday:
1:00 p.m. *Over The Hedge (PG)
6:30 p.m. *The Da Vinci Code (PG-13)

Wednesday:
6:30 p.m. V For Vendetta (R)

Thursday:
2:00 p.m. The Shaggy Dog (PG)
6:30 p.m. The Hills Have Eyes (R)

* Indicates the last showing for that film.

Retirement Ceremony

There will be a retirement ceremony for Master Gunnery Sgt. David Goudlock Friday at 2:30 p.m. at the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Headquarters, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. For service members dress will be the uniform of the day and civilians will be casual attire.

RSVP with Master Gunnery Sgt. Goudlock at 577- 7460.

Religious Services

The Chaplain's Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain's Office at 577-1333.

Sunday:
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist
Wednesday:
7 p.m. Baptist service
Monday-Friday:
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass
Jewish:
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

Investment Scams

The Fleet and Family Support Center will be hosting a guest speaker, George Chamberlin, money advisor on NBC 7/39, KOGO Radio and North County Register talk about investment scams that target military members and their families.

The seminar will be August 1, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Naval Station San Diego Theater.

For more information, call (619) 545-3676

Summer Golf Tournament

Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron will be having a summer golf tournament consisting of four man teams at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Golf Course. Sign up before tee-off on July 28, 8 a.m. Entry fee will be $60 a person (includes greens fees, cart and lunch at the O'club). This will be another Marine Corps ball fundraiser.

For more information, call 1st Lt. DeeMercurio at 577-7385.

Free Burritos

Just show your military identification at the Mira Mesa Chipotle on Saturday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and they will give you a free gourmet burrito.