

British aviator pilots Harrier for the last time

PFC. CORY D. POLOM

For more than 50 years the United Kingdom has been a helping asset in the development of one of the most versatile aircraft in the world, the AV-8B Harrier. However, on Dec. 16, 2010 the last British Harrier landed and shut down for the last time.

For one pilot, the journey was extended. British Royal Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nathan J. Gray, serving with the Marines of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing's Marine Attack Squadron 542 and Marine Attack Training Squadron 203, flew a Harrier for the last time Aug. 5.

"It is bittersweet," said Gray, who is a Harrier pilot instructor with VMAT-203. "I have been flying the Harrier for about 10 years, and after this flight I will never set foot in the cockpit of a Harrier again."

Gray said he is happy that he is going to be known as the last British Harrier pilot, but the title comes with a cost.

"I have dedicated my time as a Harrier pilot to my instructor," said Gray. "I went on my final training flight in a TAV-8B two-seated Harrier with my instructor, British Royal Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jak London. I was flying and there was a mechanical malfunction so we had to eject. We ejected parallel to the ground and my shoot deployed while his didn't. We lost a great pilot and I'm dedicating this last flight to the man who taught me everything."

Gray said he is happy that he gets to go down in British history and will forever pass on the knowledge his instructor gave him.

"I just found out a few days ago that my flight suit will be put up in the British Museum in London," said Gray. "It is exciting and an honor."

Gray said he feels excited to be flying his last flight and going home to the UK, but he is saddened he will be leaving the family he

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PFC. CORY D. POLOM

British Royal Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nathan J. Gray preps the AV-8B Harrier he is using for his final flight at Marine Attack Training Squadron 203 Aug. 5. Gray has served with Marine Attack Training Squadron 203 and Marine Attack Squadron 542 while stationed here at Cherry Point.



CPL. SAMUEL A. NASSO

Gen. James F. Amos, 35th commandant of the Marine Corps speaks to Marines and Sailors in the MCAS Cherry Point theater, Aug. 9. The visit marked the first time Amos has visited Cherry Point since his appointment to commandant in Oct. 2010. "Yes, each service is slimming down but keep in mind, we have always been the smallest."

CMC, sergeant major visit Cherry Point, discuss state of 2nd MAW, Marine Corps

CPL. SAMUEL A. NASSO

MCAS CHERRY POINT

Gen. James F. Amos and Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Barrett, the 35th commandant and the 17th sergeant major of the Marine Corps, visited 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing leaders and spoke to Marines aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point to discuss the current and future state of the wing and the Corps, Tuesday Aug. 9.

The visit marked the first time Amos has visited Cherry Point since his appointment to commandant in Oct. 2010, and also for Barrett since his appointment to sergeant major of the Marine Corps in June, 2011.

When Amos and Barrett arrived to the air station theater, hundreds of Marines poured in to hear what their leaders had to say.

"I thank each and every one of you who is proudly wearing this uniform and serving in our Marine Corps," said Amos.

Amos then moved to popular talking points, such as the Marine Corps plan in regard to the recent budget crisis, developments in Afghanistan, the troop drawdown and what lies ahead for each Marine.

The troop drawdown from 202,000 to 186,000 stood out to the Marines, as several had questions. One Marine emotionally explained how the proposed retirement plan is

tough on sergeants and asked what other avenues the Marine Corps could take. Another Marine questioned the commandant on whether the other armed services were drawing down too and then said, if they are, has the nation addressed the fact that making us smaller is like taking the star quarterback out of the fourth quarter.

The commandant answered each question with poise and tact, and answered the last question with, "Yes, each service is slimming down but keep in mind, we have always been the smallest." Amos ensured each Marine that the leadership of the Marine Corps is keeping everything in mind when it comes to decision making.

As the meeting wended down, Barrett, with passion in his voice, established a sense of motivation and pride in the Marines after telling stories of young Marines in combat.

"Every day is qual (qualification) day," Barrett repeated again and again. "It is a tough time for our entire country so I'm not going to hug you and tell you everything's ok. You need to bring your 'A' game if you want to stay in this elite force."

After his remarks, a thunderous roar of Marines clapping their

See **VISIT** page A9



CPL. SAMUEL A. NASSO

Sgt. Major Michael P. Barrett, the 17th sergeant major of the Marine Corps, speaks to Marines and Sailors in the Station theater, Aug. 9. About a possible cutdown in numbers and reenlistments Barrett said, "You need to bring your 'A' game if you want to stay in this elite force."



CPL. SAMUEL A. NASSO

Lance Cpl. Edward M. Romanovich, a UH-1N Huey crew chief with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 467, fires a GAT gun at a target called in by Second Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, II Marine Expeditionary Force, during an exercise Aug. 4.

Helicopter squadron, naval gunfire liaison hone in on communication during training

CPL. SAMUEL A. NASSO

MCAS CHERRY POINT

Traveling at a smooth 100 knots and altitude of 1,000 feet over a vast patch of marshland on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, a UH-1N Huey and AH-1W Super Cobra with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 467, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, cruised in the clear sky, anticipating a call from Second Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Aug. 4.

Once the call came, the aircrafts quickly maneuvered to identify the grid coordinates they received from 2nd

ANGLICO. As the helicopters honed in on the coordinates via laser-designation, the two crew chiefs on the Huey left a piercing static sound that reverberated throughout the kill zone.

"Mine and Lance Cpl. Romanovich's mission was to deliver effective rounds on target with our GAU-17a (mini-gun) and GAU-16 (.50 caliber machine gun) while helping the pilots clear the aircraft from obstacles, other aircraft, and any other potential threats that occur with keeping situational awareness as our top

See **HMLA-467** page A9



PFC. CORY D. POLOM

Welcome Home 252

(Left) Cpl. Jesse A. Ricker hugs his daughter after returning from a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan during the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 homecoming Aug. 8. More than 70 Marines with VMGR-252 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14 returned to a sea of families waiting to welcome them home. "I couldn't have asked for a better surprise," said Ricker, who thought his daughter was home sick in Conn., but was surprised when he saw her.

Staff Sgt. John P. Grabel hugs his daughters for the first time in seven months after returning from a deployment to Afghanistan during the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 homecoming Aug. 8. Grabel held his youngest daughter for the first time and said it is pretty awesome to be holding his little girl in his arms. "I am so excited," said Grabel.



PFC. CORY D. POLOM

Leaving a legacy

Maj. Gen. Jon M. Davis (left) presents a U.S. flag to Col. Mary Jo MacGregor during MacGregor's retirement ceremony on the air station's parade field Aug. 4.

MacGregor is retired after 25 years of service. Between multiple deployments to Iraq, she played a key role in the construction of the air station and 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Headquarters Building after a fire destroyed the original building.

"The thing that got me through the long hard years is my obligation I had to the Marines to the left and right of me," said MacGregor. "One of the best parts of the Marine Corps is that you don't have to try to do everything on your own. You can ask someone, 'hey, does this sound right,' and someone will help."

As MacGregor was giving her thanks and saying goodbye, her daughter, Emily, 20, was tackling the challenges of the Crucible at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.



Pfc. CORY D. POLOM

Celebrating 100 years of Marine Corps aviation



OFFICIAL USMC PHOTO

A Douglas SBD-5 dive bomber flies over Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, on its way to attack Japanese targets during World War II. Before the days of laser designators and GPS guided bombs, the best way to ensure hits against enemy targets was to dive at the target and release the ordnance. These techniques were first used by Marines during the "Banana Wars" following World War I and fell out of use after World War II as technology developed for better guided bombs.

Chaplain's Corner : Mountain climber

LT. CMDR. PERRY HAAGEN
MACG-28

There is a story told of a mountain climber who was determined to reach the summit of a high mountain. After many years of intense preparation, he began his adventure. Only he journeyed alone, because he wanted all the glory. He began his ascent, and as daylight faded he decided to continue climbing.

Night fell heavy and soon he was overcome by total darkness. The moonlight and starlight were hidden by the clouds; there was zero visibility. Despite all of this, he was only a few meters away from the summit. In his haste to reach the top, he slipped climbing a ridge and fell, falling at frightening speed. While falling, he could only see shadow-like figures in the darkness and felt the tug of gravity sucking him down. In those anguishing moments he saw his life pass before his eyes.

He thought death was near when suddenly he felt the tightening of the rope around his waist. It was tied to a nail embedded in the rock wall of the mountain. In desperation, suspended in mid-air he screamed out to God, "Please help me!"

Unexpectedly a deep voice from heaven responded: "What would you have me do?"

"Save me!" the man cried.

"Do you really think I can save you?"

"Of course, my Lord!"

Then he heard words he never expected to hear: "Well then, cut the rope." There was a moment of

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Highlighting Cherry Point's Warriors



Pfc. CORY D. POLOM

SEAMAN VANESSA WOODWARD

Job Title: Personnel Specialist
Unit: MWHS-2
Hometown: Sweetwater, Texas
Date Joined: Oct. 24, 2010

What's your job?

I assist with maintaining and auditing the pay and personnel records of Navy Sailors.

What's your favorite aspect of your job?

Customer service. Although challenging at times, assisting Sailors is very rewarding. It makes me happy to know that I help make a difference.

What's the most challenging part?

The most challenging part is keeping up-to-date with the constant changes in regards to pay.

How does your job support the mission of 2nd MAW and MCAS Cherry Point?

I support 2nd MAW and Cherry Point by providing answers to their questions and finding solutions to their pay related issues.

Highlight Your Superstar

Have a Marine, Sailor or civilian you would like to highlight? Let the Windsock know. Email us at cherry.point.windsock@gmail.com or call 466-2972.

The Windsock

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MEU infantrymen complete bilateral training exercise

CAPT. CALEB D. EAMES

31st MEU

ROBERTSON BARRACKS, DARWIN, Australia — Marines and Sailors of Company F, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit successfully completed bilateral exercise Raider Dawn with a squad competition as the culminating event of the week-long training with the Australian Defence Forces.

The challenging squad competition was an opportunity for the Marines to apply what they had been practicing, as well as develop teamwork and leadership.

“It was start to finish as a team,” said Cpl. Terren Burgess, from Sacramento, Calif. and a mortarman with Co. F, BLT 2/7, 31st MEU. “We started with the disassembly and assembly of our weapons, then we fired on the battlesight zero course to see who could get the tightest grouping.

Next we grabbed full water jugs and sprinted to a machinegun shooting course. Finally we picked up a casualty and ran to the finish line. This competition brought us together, working as a team, it was good experience and a good culminating event.”

The exercise involved U.S. Marines of the 31st MEU partnering with Australian soldiers of the 1st Brigade to share knowledge of their weapons systems, tactics and other military skills.

“The Marines have come out to train and to use the first brigade’s facilities,” said Australian Army Lt. Col. Scott Watkins, chief of staff, 1st Brigade.

“We train regularly with the Marines. The benefits are that we train as allies together, and because we train together, we can operate together more smoothly. We want to see this happen again.”

For the past week Company F has been doing infantry skills training and patrolling exercises, said Capt. John Dalby, company commander, F. Co, BLT 2/7, 31st MEU.

“The ranges and facilities here have been top notch, allowing us to improve our skills,” Dalby said. “And one of the biggest benefits has been the interaction with the Australian soldiers, learning each other’s weapons, vehicles and culture – that is something that goes a long way.”

As the Marines trained with Australian soldiers, relationships were built.

“The interaction with the Australian soldiers has been remarkable,” said 1st Sgt. Christopher Griffin, Co. F first sergeant, BLT 2/7, 31st MEU. “There has been some friendly competition as the Australian soldiers did our physical training and martial arts program with us. It has been a great week and a great friendship.”

“We work great together, and we are always exercising with our full gear on and carrying our weapons, so we did good,” said Cpl. Jarrod Larosa, from Phoenix, Ariz. and a squad leader with Co. F, BLT 2/7, 31st MEU. “This brought our section together, and helps to develop our young leaders.”

Larosa, whose squad won the final competition, said that the event helps the company get ready for possible upcoming combat deployments.

“This week-long exercise went great, we got to shoot a lot of rounds, do night training, and lot of good field training,” said Larosa. “This helps our marksmanship, allows us to get comfortable with our weapons systems, it is a big part of being ready to go to combat.”

“This week overall, we got the opportunity to exercise each skill we have as a company,” said Staff Sgt. Juan Urdiales,

from Scotts’ Bluff, Neb. and a platoon sergeant with Co. F, BLT 2/7, 31st MEU.

“This builds the individual confidence of the Marines, that each of them will do their part successfully. This helps bring us together and get in the proper mindset, see what deficiencies we can work on and helps us get better at accomplishing our mission.”

The 31st MEU provides a forward-deployed, flexible sea-based force capable of conducting amphibious operations, crisis response and limited contingency operations in the Asia-Pacific area.

The 31st MEU is the only continually forward-deployed MEU, and remains the United States force-in-readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.



CAPT. CALEB D. EAMES

Marines with Company F, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, run during a timed squad competition drill held at the culmination of bilateral exercise Raider Dawn Aug. 5.

Saving lives on the battlefield: Air support begins with aviation ordnance Marines

Pfc. SEAN DENNISON

2ND MAW (FWD)

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Thousands of Marines, Afghan and coalition troops rely on 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) for close-air support. Here at Kandahar Airfield, that responsibility is carried on the wings of Marine Attack Squadron 513's AV-8B Harriers.

Hundreds of Marines work 24 hours a day on the airfield to ensure an attack jet is ready whenever it's needed.

But the ordnance, the bombs and the bullets that make a Marine Corps Harrier a force to be feared, comes from a handful of Marines just down the road from the attack squadron's hangar.

Cpl. Philip Truitt, a munitions supervisor with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 40, surveys the bombs just assembled by his team of Marines. A group of guided bomb unit-54s, 500 pounds apiece, stand lined in a row, ready to be used in the fight.

MALS-40, a unit which only fully exists on deployment, is a unique amalgamation of Marine Corps aviation logistics assets. Marines from squadrons across the Marine Corps serve under the MALS-40 banner in Afghanistan.

With this geographic mix of Marines comes a mix in backgrounds, and MALS-40 troops come to Afghanistan with both fixed and rotary-wing experience.

"In our MOS (military occupational specialty), it's not so much of an issue because we all get the same basic training," explained Gunnery Sgt. Lesonly Stanley, the MALS-40 ordnance chief and Myrtle Beach, S.C., native. "The goal is having the correctly qualified people to complete the mission."

So some Marines even find themselves developing a new skill set while deployed.

"I'm learning stuff I've never learned before," said Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Wiley, a MALS-40 ordnance systems technician and Havelock, N.C., native, deployed from MALS-13 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. "It's being an all-around ordnance-man instead of focusing on one job, which to me is better."

The squadron's aviation ordnance Marines assemble munitions, maintain equipment necessary to utilize the munitions, and track distribution and use.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Scott Blair, the MALS-40 ordnance officer for Kandahar and a Marietta, Ohio, native, lists objectives such as coordinating safety areas and ensuring the safe and timely transportation of munitions as challenges the ordnance Marines must overcome on a daily basis.

"If we don't do everything right, that missile doesn't work as advertised," explained Stanley.

So the Marines double, triple and even quadruple-check their work before sending munitions to the squadrons who will employ them. This includes VMA-513, as well as Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, which uses flares for battlefield illumination missions.

"The end state is that these Marines know that they're saving lives on the battlefield," said Blair.

Blair began his Marine Corps career as a field radio operator, providing communications for infantry units. As someone who has personally benefitted from close-air support, Blair said he knows firsthand what the presence of a bomb-carrying Harrier can do for the morale of a Marine under fire.

"There are some people out here trying to hurt us, and now we're supporting the means to protect everybody," he added.

Though the Marines do not often see the results of their efforts, they are aware of the effect it has on the ground troops.

"We all come from different MALS', different environments, and we all came out here and started working together since day one," said Stanley. "I can't put into words how



Pfc. SEAN DENNISON

Cpl. Benjamin Corke, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 40 aviation ordnance systems technician and Scottsville, N.Y., native, inspects a group of GBU-54 bombs at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, July 30.

many Marines' lives were saved."

As the squadron approaches the midway point of its yearlong deployment, a new detachment of MALS-40 Marines prepares to change out with the current ordnance system technicians.

Gunnery Sgt. Shawn DiMauro, who will soon replace Stanley as the MALS-40 ordnance chief, said she expects the level of support the squadron provides to stay consistent, even with the change in personnel.

"Basically do what they've been doing," said DiMauro of her goal as the ordnance chief. "That means doing our job proficiently, and working together – as the ordnance family, the Marine family, the deployed family."



COAST GUARD LT. MARK A. STUART

Coast Guardsmen train to clear rooms of "hostiles" under the watchful eyes of 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion Marines aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Aug. 3. While not a frontline combat unit, Port Security Unit 301's mission is to combat terrorist threats against maritime military assets. To perfect 301's skills, 2nd LAAD Marines shared their experience with PSU 301 during training operations from July 31 – Aug. 9.

2nd LAAD teams up with Coast Guard for small unit tactics training

LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI
MCAS CHERRY POINT

Kicking in doors and storming buildings is not the mission of most Coast Guardsmen. Yet, the Coast Guard's Port Security Unit 301 learned these skills and other small unit combat tactics from 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point July 31 – Aug. 9.

"The Coast Guard is more thought of as a domestic agency," said the Petty Officer 1st Class David C. Gustafson, a boatswain's mate for PSU 301. "There are a lot of mission skill sets that we can provide overseas. There aren't a lot of port security units and they come in handy. Our skill set where we can pack up and move our entire unit is unique within the Coast Guard."

PSU 301 is a Coast Guard unit that can deploy anywhere in the world within 96 hours to guard American maritime assets. Typically, they guard the ports where supplies are offloaded prior to being sent through the supply chain to frontline units.

"Our mission, as originally designed, is to marry up with prepositioned equipment so we can protect the ships bringing in supplies through the port," said Cmdr. Paul J. Smith, commanding officer of PSU 301. "If you think back to the pictures of the USS Cole with the big hole in the side of it, this unit is designed to prevent that

from ever happening."

There is the possibility of combat with the job. Therefore, Coast Guard personnel have to train appropriately. Because the training was already taking place aboard Cherry Point, 2nd LAAD Marines were asked to help.

"Our land-based personnel must be able to perform security missions, either by defending our camp if we're forward deployed or setting up security for the port itself," said Smith. "The Marines are some of the best at that and we're giving our people a good dose of Marine training. They're doing everything from martial arts to small unit tactics."

In addition to learning from 2nd LAAD, PSU 301 also made use of the air stations BT-9 and BT-11 bombing ranges for machine gun and grenade launcher qualifications aboard security boats. As a unit that can be deployed at any time, they must keep their skills sharp.

Preparing for overseas combat operations requires a strong supporting infrastructure. Marine Wing Support Squadron 274 and the Navy Boat Docks both assisted with the operation. The Navy lent a boat and the camping area while MWSS-274 offered a high standard of field living.

"We knew we were going to be roughing it for a couple of weeks," said Gustafson. "MWSS-274 has been nothing but ultra-professional and very good hosts.



LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

Cpl. Tyler J. Borth, a team leader for Bravo Battery, 2nd LAAD, fires a .50 caliber machine gun from the rocking platform of a Coast Guard port security unit boat at the BT-11 bombing range Aug. 3.

They have set up systems that we don't have like the water purification, showers and laundry. We're more effective because of the services they provide."

In thanks for all the support, PSU 301 showed the support units what they do best. They took 2nd LAAD, MWSS-274 Marines and boat docks Sailors on machine gun shoots at BT-11, giving them each a taste of the PSU job. The cross training has given the participants a new appreciation for each other's capabilities.

The Coast Guard students realized the value of 2nd LAAD's training as many of

the lessons came from frontline combat experience. According to Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael R. Messier, a reservist with PSU 301, having such good quality teachers will make their job easier when they do deploy.

"It's a good experience to learn a little bit of their job and they got to see what we do in case we're tasked together," said Cpl. Tyler J. Borth, a team leader for 2nd LAAD. "If we are, then we can go forth and get the mission done. With the infantry knowledge we trained them on, I would feel safe if I was deployed with them."



COAST GUARD LT. MARK A. STUART

A 2nd LAAD Marine demonstrates proper building entrance technique for members of U. S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit 301 aboard MCAS Cherry Point Aug. 3.



COAST GUARD LT. MARK A. STUART

A 2nd LAAD Marine oversees Port Security Unit 301's training as they build a terrain model for planning defenses aboard MCAS Cherry Point, Aug. 1. One of Port Security Unit 301's mission is to combat terrorist threats against maritime military assets. To perfect their skills, 2nd LAAD Marines shared their experience with PSU 301 during training operations from July 31 – Aug. 9.

Navy Boat Docks Sailors provide invaluable support to Cherry Point bombing ranges

LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI
MCAS CHERRY POINT

Though the Navy Boat Docks only played a small role in the Coast Guard training exercise, they make the regular training evolutions of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing possible.

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point's bombing ranges are in remote locations in Pamlico Sound that are only accessible by boat since there is no overland access to resupply the ranges. A small detachment of Sailors is permanently stationed where the Cahooque Creek empties into the Neuse River.

"With our boats, we provide the waterborne logistics

to move vehicles, personnel, cargo, equipment, etc.," said Michael J. Bosse, the range development support officer for the range management department. "We move civilian employees and Marines that might deploy out to BT-11 for forward air controller missions. We support mortar teams and move equipment for Marine units that are deployed on the island in support of a Marine aviation unit."

Also, the range on Piney Island has roads and facilities that need constant maintenance. The fuel, equipment and parts for maintenance can only be brought in by boat.

In addition to resupplying the island and providing the

transport of equipment and personnel, the boat docks facilities also save money for the Marine Corps.

"About two years ago, the military really didn't use this area a lot; they used a lot of commercial ranges," said Senior Chief Daniel L. England, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the Navy Boat Docks. "With the drawbacks, the military is trying to save money and has started utilizing the bombing ranges and the boat docks a lot more. Here, they don't have to pay for mini-hotels, they're living in tents. They don't have to pay for commercial dock space. We're keeping it in-house instead of having to use civilian assets all the time."

Marine heavy helicopter squadron transfers authority in Afghanistan

CPL. SAMANTHA H. ARRINGTON

2ND MAW (FWD)

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan — Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 transferred authority of supporting Marines and their coalition partners in southwestern Afghanistan to HMM-464, at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Aug. 1.

Both Marine Corps squadrons use the CH-53E Super Stallion, the largest helicopter in the U.S. military. The squadrons are relied upon to move troops and cargo, and to perform heavy-lift operations, such as moving large pieces of equipment or rescuing downed aircraft.

“The Marines did everything they could do and more out here, they went above and beyond what was asked of them, that’s a Marine trait,” said Sgt. Maj. Rodolfo Graham, the sergeant major of HMM-461, and a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. “They are excellent, and I am very proud of them.”

Though deployed under the banner of HMM-461 in Afghanistan, the CH-53E Super Stallion squadron was augmented with Marines from HMM-465.

“I am excited and anxious to go home,” said Lance Cpl. Sean J. Gherre, an airframe mechanic with HMM-465, and a native of Boston. “Now I just want to go back, see my family and sleep.”

The Marines of HMM-461 are now slated to return home to friends and families at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., and the Marines of HMM-465 will return home to MCAS Miramar, Calif.

“We are going to go home and take some well deserved time off,” said Graham. “Then we will get back to work.”

During the outgoing squadron’s deployment, the Marines of HMM-461 flew their CH-53E Super Stallions for more than 4,000 hours while completing nearly 1,000 combat missions. They also transported about 35,000 passengers and moved 7.1 million pounds of cargo around Afghanistan’s Nimruz and Helmand provinces. The squadron also supported tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel missions, lifting two damaged NATO H-47 Chinook helicopters to safety.

“The hours were long and tiring,” said Gherre. “But knowing that I did something important out here and knowing that I had a part in the bigger picture was the best part of my deployment.”

Lt. Col. Alison J. Thompson, the incoming squadron’s commanding officer, and Sgt. Maj. Steven L. Lunsford,



CPL. SAMANTHA H. ARRINGTON

Marines with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 clean the inside of a CH-53E Super Stallion at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, July 30. The Marines readied the helicopter for its final inspection prior to the squadron’s return to Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., after a seven-month deployment to southwestern Afghanistan.

the HMM-464 sergeant major, will lead nearly 300 Marines through the rigors of deployment.

“My goal for the squadron is to provide the very best assault support possible to the warfighter on the ground, that is why we are here,” said Thompson. “Stemming from this endeavor, I want to bring home all the Marines and Sailors having grown personally and professionally and knowing that they made a positive contribution to the fabric of the unit and to the theater effort.”

Lunsford, a native of Stanford, Ky., said he knows his Marines are devoted to the vast array of operations HMM-464 will be called upon to undertake.

“I’ve heard a lot of stories about Afghanistan and deployment and I’m excited that I get to make my own story,” said Lance Cpl. Shannon M. Flinn, an administrative

clerk with HMM-464, and a native of Parkesburg, W.Va. “I want to learn to do my job really well and to just improve myself.”

Like the departing squadron, HMM-464 will be a combined unit of both East and West coast Marines. Thompson said she predicts HMM-464, from New River, will be able to work together with augments from Miramar’s HMM-462 as seamlessly as their predecessors did.

“I feel the squadron will do extremely well but I can’t imagine a squadron thinking they won’t do well,” said Thompson. “I believe we will excel because we have trained hard. East and West coast components have assimilated seamlessly, and most importantly, we have a ‘can do’ attitude.”

Textbook lessons come to life

*2nd LAAD gives NJROTC cadets
a glimpse of the Marine Corps*

LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

MCAS CHERRY POINT

The West Carteret High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program took advantage of an opportunity to visit Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point to see how Marines work Aug. 2.

The cadets visited the 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion and learned about radios, Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and machine guns that the battalion uses on the battlefield.

“We usually visit a military base once or twice a year for orientation,” said Chief Carl Brisco, the NJROTC program supervisor. “We talk about military type duties and jobs and then go to a base and get hands-on experience of what a service member’s day is like. This time, they got to see the professional manner of today’s Marine and the technology we use today. They got out of the classroom to see a lot of the material they usually

only see in textbooks.”

Part of the subject matter during the tour was the missions of 2nd LAAD. The battalion is tasked with protecting airfields in austere environments. In conventional warfare between the United States and another nation, this usually means preventing enemy airstrikes against American installations using surface-to-air missiles. When involved in insurgent warfare where the enemy has no air forces the battalion acts as provisional infantry to prevent attacks on the installations.

Knowing that future Marine officers may come out of programs like NJROTC, 2nd LAAD worked to make a good impression on them.

“We wanted to help them appreciate the hard work and duties the Marines perform on a daily basis here,” said Gunnery Sgt. David C. Boudreau, the maintenance chief for 2nd LAAD’s motor transport shop. “They gained knowledge of what it is to be a Marine besides what they

see on TV and. They saw Marines working in the motor transport bay, working on the radios and getting behind the guns mounted on the trucks. They gained experience of what it is to be a Marine by watching it all in the sun for an hour.”

The idea of the trip was not just to learn what 2nd LAAD does, but show the cadets what options they have and make a more informative decision if they choose to serve.

“A lot of these kids are thinking of going into the military, but a lot of kids don’t get to see what they’ll be doing when they join,” said retired Col. Vincent C. Giani, head of the NJROTC program at West Carteret. “These kids have the opportunity to work the weapon systems and information systems they may want to work with. Very few kids have the opportunity to do so. They can figure out what they want to do for a living or what they don’t want to do.”



LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

Seaman Chance Pughs, a cadet from West Carteret High School’s Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, learns how to load and fire an M2 Browning .50 caliber machine gun aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Aug. 2.



LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

Cpl. Timothy A. Loper, a gunner for the 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, demonstrates the operation of the M2 Browning .50 caliber machine gun to Navy Junior Officer Training Corps cadets.



LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

Petty Officer 3rd Class Walker Evans sets the Stinger’s sights on the sky during the West Carteret High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps’ field trip to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Aug. 2. NJROTC cadets may go on to become military officers.

CHAPLAIN from page A2

silence, and then the man tightened the rope around his waist.

The mountain rescue team told the story of a man they found frozen to death, his hands wrapped firmly around a rope tied to his waist ... HANGING TWO FEET FROM THE GROUND!!

A rather striking story, but many times when we seek God's help and direction, rather than being completely open to God's leading and plan, we instead almost tell God what his plan needs to be: "God, I want your help, but this is how it needs to look." Otherwise, we think that God doesn't understand our situation, and we quickly discard his plan for our own, somehow thinking that we know better than God. It never works out as well as we think it will.

It is important to realize that the mountain climber perished, not because he failed to seek God, but because he failed to listen to what God told him to do. He was holding on so tightly that he was unable to do what God asked of him. He thought that he knew better than God and was unwilling to listen.

The mountain climber thought that God was crazy when he told him to cut the rope, but God knew that he was only a few feet off the ground. The way for him to be saved was to simply cut the rope. From the mountain climber's limited perspective, it seemed like the last possible solution; but from God's perfect perspective, it was a very simple solution.

Sometimes when we seek God's guidance, we wonder if God is trying to punish us or simply ruin our fun. Far from it! God always desires what is best for us, no matter how much or how little we have sought him beforehand. It is never a matter of how good or how bad we have been. God always seeks what is truly best for us. In Jeremiah 29:11, God gives us this promise: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." If God tells us to cut the rope, then it is because that is the very best solution and one that will ultimately be for our good.

The question then becomes a matter of trust. Do we trust that God desires our good and not our harm? At least do we believe that God isn't just going to screw with our lives simply because he can? If we do believe that way, how can we grow in our ability to trust that God can and will act on our behalf?

Most of us think that if God spoke to us directly in a loud audible voice, then we would act immediately without question or hesitation. But then again, would we? The ancient Israelites failed to obey and they saw directly God's mighty acts; would we be any different?

Trust, like any habit, is a learned trait. Just like PT, the more you do, the easier it becomes. The more we see God's faithfulness in our lives, the easier it is to trust him with more of our lives. If we want to grow in our trust of God, we need to begin by trusting him in the little things of life. Only then will we truly trust him with our whole life.

In the parable of the talents, found in Matthew, chapter 25, Jesus commended the servants by saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things." The principle applies to trust as well. When we find God to be faithful with the little things of life, we will allow him control of greater things in our lives as well.

So how tight are you hanging on to your rope? Will you let go? Remember, it is difficult for God to bless us when we have a closed fist.

HMLA 467 from page A1

priority," said Sgt. Travis P. Trahan, a UH-1N Huey crew chief with HMLA-467. "I think the flight went exceptionally well and 2nd ANGLICO met all their training requirements."

The mission of 2nd ANGLICO is to provide Marine air ground task force commanders a liaison capability with foreign area expertise to plan, coordinate, employ and conduct terminal control of fires in support of joint, allied and coalition forces.

In this mission specifically, HMLA-467 allowed 2nd ANGLICO's Joint Terminal Attack Controllers to call and coordinate close-air support.

"Flights like this are extremely important in respect to the training of the air crew, the pilots, and the affiliating units because the training missions simulate combat scenarios," said Trahan.

To become highly qualified UH-1N Huey crew chiefs, like Trahan and Lance Cpl. Edward M. Romanovich, Marines must endure in-depth schooling. Upon completion, the Marines arrive to the Fleet Marine Force and face an extensive training syllabus that takes many day and night flights to continually progress as a crew chief.

After thousands of rounds were expended on target, the Marines of Cherry Point returned after a successful test of what happens in combat every day.

VISIT from page A1

hands and 'OOH-RAHS' spread throughout the theater.

"Sergeant major was on point," said Staff Sgt. Robert J. Phiffer, the flight line staff noncommissioned officer in charge for Marine Transport Squadron 1. "He was very blunt, straight to the point and said what needed to be said."

"I appreciate that they came here," added Sgt. Joshua W. Cleeland, a barracks manager with Marine Aircraft Group 14. "The commandant and sergeant major were very informative and motivating, which is exactly what the junior Marines need."

LAST FLIGHT from page A1

has found here in the Marines.

"I'm going to miss the amazing Marines who keep the Harrier up and flying," said Gray. "I'm going to take back two big things I've learned from the Marines. The camaraderie and the work ethic the Marines put forth every day is phenomenal and inspirational."

After being briefed and suiting up, Gray made his way out to the last Harrier he would fly.

"This is a sad moment and a happy one," said Gray moments before climbing into the cockpit of VMAT-203's number 22 Harrier. "After I land that's it; the era of British Harrier pilots will be done. It's very emotional but I'm honored I get to be the last."

After going through the final checks of the aircraft, the ground crew cleared Gray for his final flight. Following his flight, which ended with the Harrier version of a bow, he landed and parked the aircraft and dismounted for the last time.

"It was a great flight," said Gray. "I will never forget the Marines of Cherry Point, or the people who taught me the things I have passed onto the Marines I've trained. I will miss this aircraft but will continue my duty to my country and the rest of the world."

Marine mechanic realizes role in Afghanistan

CPL. BRIAN ADAM JONES

2ND MAW (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — To Cpl. Leonard R. Knudsen Jr., his job can feel the same whether he is at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., or Camp Bastion, Afghanistan.

An airframe mechanic with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464, Knudsen has been in Afghanistan fewer than two weeks and said he feels his environment changed, not his job.

“I fix parts on the aircraft,” Knudsen said. “It doesn’t matter if I’m in New River or here. The only difference is now it’s hotter and dusty.”

That was until the Chicago native was asked to repair something he never had before – a bullet hole.

Recently, one of the squadron’s CH-53E Super Stallions returned from the peril of the dusty Afghan wilderness having taken enemy small-arms fire. One of the rounds entered the underside of the aircraft and went through a steel rail used to attach cargo to the hull of the helicopter.

“Seeing that gave me a sense of greater purpose,” Knudsen said, sweat beading on his forehead. “They were standing directly underneath it when they shot. If they’re that close, it shows how dangerous it is out there.”

The dust at Camp Bastion is oftentimes so thick, earth and sky become nearly indecipherable. With a graceful whirl of large blades, HMH-464’s Super Stallions frequently depart the security of the squadron’s hangar and disappear into the sandy expanse to provide a broad range of support for the Marine infantryman and their NATO coalition and Afghan partners on the ground.

Using the largest helicopter in the American arsenal, the squadron supports the fight in Afghanistan with heavy-lift capabilities, resupplies, and troop insertion and extraction.

Knudsen said when he first arrived, he would stare at the vastness in front of him and it wouldn’t seem real.

“In every photo I had ever seen of Afghanistan, there were mountains,” Knudsen said. “All I saw here was dirt.”

One morning, Knudsen walked out onto the flight line



CPL. BRIAN ADAM JONES

Cpl. Leonard R. Knudsen Jr. works as an airframe mechanic with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464 in Camp Bastion, Afghanistan. The Chicago native said his role in the war became real to him when he was asked to repair a bullet hole after one of the squadron’s CH-53E Super Stallions received small-arms fire in support of combat operations in Afghanistan.

when the dust had settled just enough and he was able to see the jagged outline of a mountain on the horizon.

“That’s when it hit me that the enemy was out there, and we had guys out there going after them,” he said.

Knudsen has smoothed out the steel surrounding the helicopter’s wound. His next task is to cut a piece of metal proportionate to the size of the hole, rivet it to the rest of the railing and sand it down – returning it to an unblemished piece of steel.

As he spoke of his duties with quiet intensity, Knudsen briefly allowed his mind to drift back to his loved ones back home.

“I’m excited to deploy, but naturally I miss my wife and kid,” the soft-spoken Marine said of his wife and his 11-month-old son. “When I’m tired from a long day, I go home and call my wife, and I can sleep pretty good.”



Aircraft Firefighters

From *SAVING LIVES* to *ENRICHING LIVES*

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Mark E. Bradley

Marines from Cherry Point Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting gave a boost to the community outreach effort and a unique glimpse of life on the airfield to local children Aug. 6 when the crews donned suits and fired up their P-19 fire-trucks for a tour of approximately 30 members

of a local youth summer program. It was the tenth time this year the ARFF Marines opened their doors and truck bays to the community.

It is the ARFF Marines' mission to remain alert on the airfield and to take action when needed to ensure the wellbeing of pilots, crews

and passengers. However, it is a standard they apply off the airfield well.

Hundreds of visitors from the local area and around the world tour the Air Station annually and the ARFF facility is a popular destination for guests young and old.



Life & Times

Section B

August 11, 2011



PFC. CORY D. POLOM

Gary Barnidge (right) tries to outrun Kendric Burney (left) after catching a pass during the fifth day of the 2011 Carolina Panthers Training Camp at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., Aug. 2. Five Marines from the Cherry Point Single Marines Program took the trip down to meet the players on the Panthers roster. "It's an honor to have those guys come out," said Tony Fiammetta, fullback for the Carolina Panthers. "My brother and my dad are both Marines. If we can give them any entertainment to take their minds away from the hard work they have to do; I'll be happy to help." Burney is a cornerback and Barnidge is a wide receiver.

Cherry Point Marines get preview of Carolina Panthers 2011 season during training camp

PFC. CORY D. POLOM

MCAS CHERRY POINT

After four and a half months Marines and fans everywhere partied like it was 1999 when the National Football League lockout ended and teams were able to start preparing for the upcoming season. Training camps began from the West Coast to the East, as fans flocked from all over to see their favorite players participate in team training for the first time in months.

The Cherry Point Single Marines Program teamed up with the United Services Organization to take Marines to see the Carolina Panthers hard at work at their 2011 Training Camp at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., Aug. 2.

"It's an honor to have those guys come out," said Tony Fiammetta, fullback for the Carolina Panthers. "My brother and my dad are both Marines. If we can give them any entertainment to take their minds away from the hard work they have to do; I'll be happy to help."

Five Marines received the VIP treatment while watching the Panthers train in the heat of the day.

The Marines received goody bags that were filled with a T-shirt, a cup, a poster of the "Top Cats," the Carolina Panthers Cheerleader team, and a signed football from some of the Panthers players.

The Marines sat on the sideline during practice and talked with various players who expressed their gratitude.

"It's a reminder of how good we have it," said Fiammetta. "Those guys make a lot more sacrifices than NFL players do. They work harder than us and get paid a lot less. It's really kind of a sobering thing to see the sacrifices they make. I'm honored they come out to see us."

After practice the Marines had a chance to get autographs and interact with the players and coaches.

"Events, such as the training camp, provide opportunities for Marines and Sailors to lead a well-rounded lifestyle while serving their country," said Susan E. Poe, the SMP coordinator for Cherry Point. "These unique experiences are what the Marines and Sailors have requested from their SMP."

Poe said she could tell the Marines enjoyed the event and feels that the SMP is a great way for Marines and Sailors to get out of the barracks.

"I think it's important to give them an outlet," said Fiammetta. "I know their jobs are way harder than anything we do on the field. The NFL is an entertainment kind of business. If it helps them to have a piece of mind and be able to relax during the day, then I have done my job."



PFC. CORY D. POLOM

Sgt. Jacob Q. Sammler watches his favorite team practice during the fifth day of the 2011 Carolina Panthers Training Camp at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C. Five Marines from the Cherry Point Single Marines Program took the trip down to meet the players on the Panthers roster. The Marines received goody bags that were filled with a T-shirt, a cup, a poster of the "Top Cats," the Carolina Panthers Cheerleader team, and a signed football from some of the Panthers players. The Marines sat on the sideline during practice and talked with various players.

Steve Smith (right) catches the ball while under the coverage of R.J. Stanford (left) during the fifth day of the 2011 Carolina Panthers Training Camp at Wofford College. Five Marines from the Cherry Point Single Marines Program took the trip down to see and talk to the players on the Panthers roster.



PFC. CORY D. POLOM



PFC. CORY D. POLOM

Greg Olsen, a Carolina Panthers tightend, works on catching quick passes during the fifth day of the 2011 Carolina Panthers Training Camp. Olsen and the rest of the Panthers practiced in front of a select few Cherry Point single Marines. Cherry Point's Single Marine Program teamed up with the United Services Organization to take Marines to see the Carolina Panthers hard at work. "Events such as training camp provide opportunities for Marines and Sailors to lead a well-rounded lifestyle while serving their country," said Susan E. Poe, the SMP coordinator for Cherry Point. "These unique experiences are what the Marines and Sailors have requested from their SMP."



PFC. CORY D. POLOM

Sgt. Jacob Q. Sammler talks to Adi Kunalic, a kicker for the Carolina Panthers, about the upcoming season. Five Marines from the Cherry Point Single Marines Program took the trip down to see and talk to the Panthers players.

From the clinic: Measles

The United States is experiencing a high number of reported measles cases in 2011, many of which were acquired during international travel. From Jan. 1 through June 17 this year, 156 confirmed cases of measles were reported to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. This is the highest reported number since 1996. More than 130 cases were associated with importations from measles-endemic countries or countries where large outbreaks are occurring. The imported cases involved unvaccinated U.S. residents who recently traveled abroad, unvaccinated visitors to the U.S. and people linked to these imported cases. To date, 12 outbreaks (three or more linked cases) have occurred, accounting for 47% of the 156 cases. Of the total case-patients, 133 (85%) were unvaccinated or had undocumented vaccination status. Of the 139 case-patients who were U.S. residents, 86 (62%) were unvaccinated, 30 (22%) had undocumented vaccination status, 11 (8%) had received one dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, 11 (8%) had received two doses, and one (1%) had received three documented doses.

Measles was declared eliminated in the United States in 2000 due to our high two-dose measles vaccine coverage, but endemic or large outbreaks are still occurring in European countries, including France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Switzerland, Africa, and Asia. The increase in measles cases and outbreaks in the U.S. this year underscores the ongoing risk of importations, the need for high measles vaccine coverage, and the importance of prompt and appropriate public health response to measles cases and outbreaks.

Measles is a highly contagious, acute, viral illness that is transmitted by contact with an infected person through coughing and sneezing. After an infected person leaves a location, the virus remains contagious for up to two hours on surfaces and

in the air. Measles can cause severe health complications, including pneumonia, encephalitis, and death.

Recommendations for health care providers is to ensure all patients are up to date on MMR vaccine and other vaccines.

For those who travel abroad, CDC recommends that all U.S. residents older than 6 months be protected from measles and receive MMR vaccine, if needed, prior to departure.

- Infants 6 through 11 months old should receive one dose of MMR vaccine before departure.

- Children 12 months of age or older should have documentation of two doses of MMR vaccine (separated by at least 28 days).

- Teenagers and adults without evidence of measles immunity should have documentation of two appropriately spaced doses of MMR vaccine.

- Children 1 through 12 years of age may receive MMRV vaccine for protection against measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella; however, MMRV vaccine is currently unavailable.

- Infants who receive a dose of MMR vaccine before their first birthday should receive two more doses of MMR vaccine, the first of which should be administered when the child is 12 through 15 months of age and the second at least 28 days later.

One of the following is considered evidence of measles immunity for international travelers: A.) birth before 1957, B.) documented administration of two doses of live measles virus vaccine (MMR, MMRV, or measles vaccines), C.) laboratory (serologic) proof of immunity, or D.) documentation of physician-diagnosed measles.

Feds Feed Families Food Drive

Cherry Point personnel encouraged to participate in third annual charity event

JOINT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

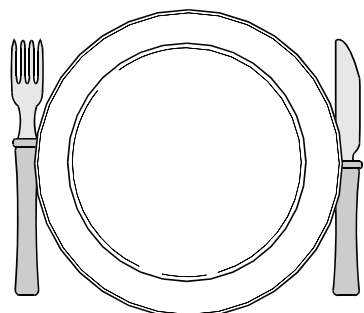
MCAS CHERRY POINT

Federal employees aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point are making a difference this summer by participating in the Office of Personnel Management's third annual Feds Feed Families Food Drive campaign during the month of August.

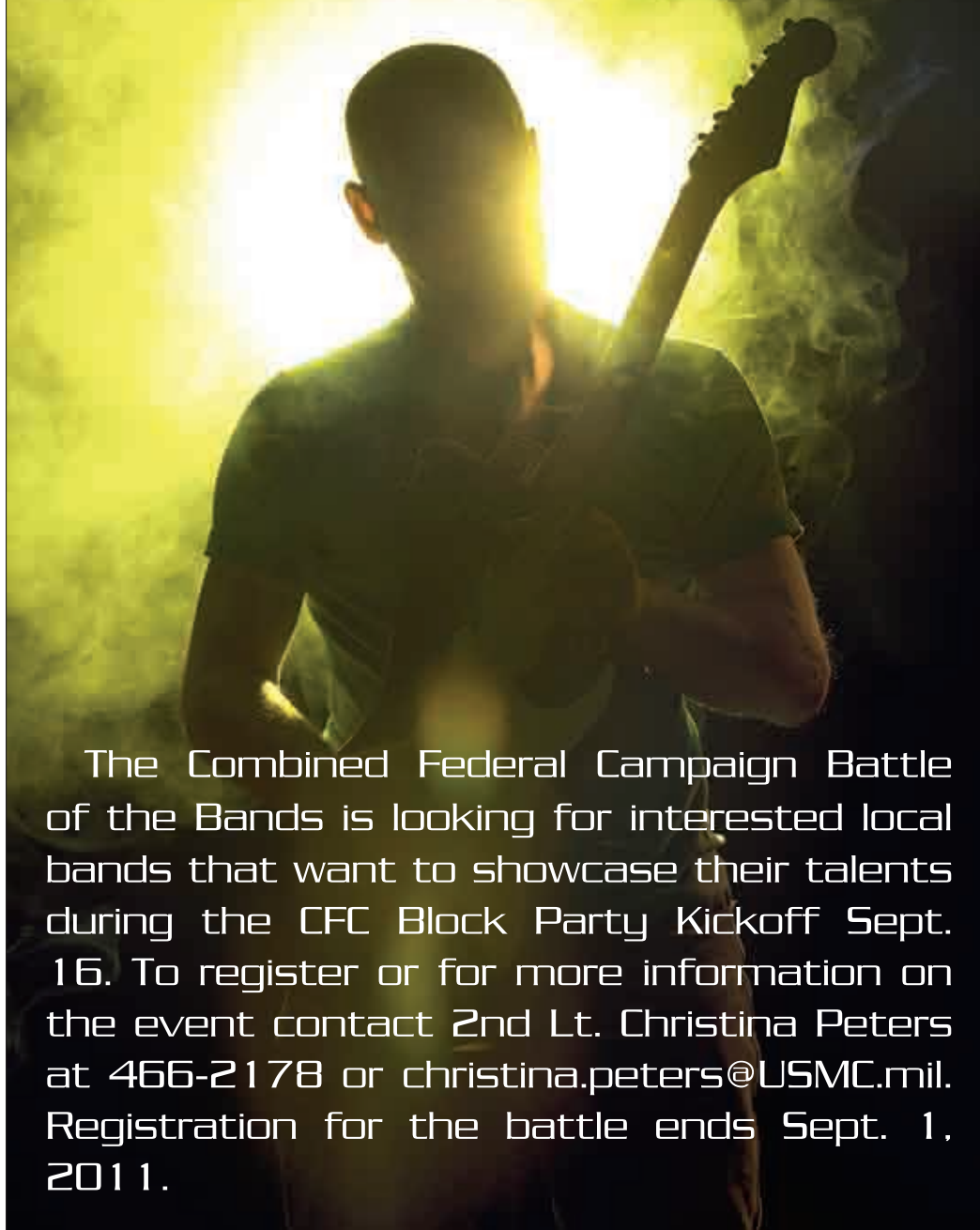
President Obama signed the Serve America Act in April 2009, encouraging Americans to contribute to the nation's economic recovery through service in their communities. Last summer, federal employees throughout the country answered that call by donating 1.7 million pounds of non-perishable goods. The federal-wide goal for the 2011 campaign is to collect 2 million pounds of food. In the continuing spirit of being good neighbors to their fellow eastern North Carolinians, Cherry Point personnel will contribute toward the realization of that goal.

Marked donation boxes have been set up at various locations around the air station for collecting canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, grains, soups, canned proteins, 100 percent juice, condiments, snacks, paper products, household items, hygiene items and other non-perishable goods. The donation boxes will be picked up and weighed weekly throughout the month before being delivered to the food bank in Havelock, N.C. Donation locations include:

- Marine Corps Exchange and convenience stores
- DECA Commissary
- Child Development Center
- Cherry Tree House
- Cunningham's
- Miller's Landing
- Marine Dome
- Base theater
- Bowling alley
- MCAS Pass and ID Center
- Naval Health Clinic



Want to Rock?



The Combined Federal Campaign Battle of the Bands is looking for interested local bands that want to showcase their talents during the CFC Block Party Kickoff Sept. 16. To register or for more information on the event contact 2nd Lt. Christina Peters at 466-2178 or christina.peters@USMC.mil. Registration for the battle ends Sept. 1, 2011.

These films are now playing at local theaters

REINHILD MOLDENHAUER HUNEYCUTT
MCB CAMP LEJEUNE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“MONTE CARLO” (PG)

“Monte Carlo” is a romantic comedy for teenage girls who are not interested in going to see “Transformers.”

The story centers on three young women who are on a disaster filled vacation in Paris.

However, when one of the girls is mistaken for a British princess, things start to look better, when they are whisked away for a fantasy vacation in Monte Carlo. Selena Gomez (“Ramona and Beezus,” “The Perfect Game”) stars as Grace, a high school graduate, who saved all through high school for her dream vacation to Paris, only to find that the City of Lights has lost its luster.

Katie Cassidy (“Taken,” “Nightmare on Elm Street”) co-stars as Emma Perkins, Grace's best friend, who comes along for the adventure.

The two friends soon find out that their long anticipated dream trip to Paris turns out not to be as they had imagined.

When they all decide to take a break from their lousy tour, they ditch their tour guides and duck into the lobby of a luxury hotel, where Grace is mistaken for a spoiled world-known princess, named Cordelia Winthrop Scott, (also portrayed by Gomez).

Before they get the chance to reveal their true identities, the trio find themselves on a whirlwind adventure to Monte Carlo, attending an auction and charity ball.

All of a sudden, their vacation becomes infused with adventure, glamour and lots of paparazzi.

A chance for an international romance is not far behind.

However, when a million dollar necklace goes missing, Grace and her friends must scramble to find it before the auction is ruined and their identities are exposed.

Thomas Bezucha (“The Family Stone,” “Big Eden”) directed this little European getaway, a recycled fare that takes most of the ingredients from other previously shown movies.

“Monte Carlo” is a light-hearted diet for all the fans of Selena Gomez.

“COWBOYS AND ALIENS” (PG)

“Cowboys & Aliens” is an action adventure and science fiction western adapted from a graphic novel about cowboys battling space invaders.

The fantasy has Cowboys and Indians teaming up to fight off a group of invading aliens set out to destroy Earth.

Daniel Craig (“Casino Royale,” “Quantum of Solace,” “Defiance”) stars as Jake Lonergan, a gun slinger in 1873's New Mexico/Arizona Territory.

At present, he is a stranger with no memory of his past who stumbles into the hard desert mining town of Absolution. The only hint to his history is a mysterious bracelet that encircles his wrist.

When he wanders into this small pioneer town, he discovers that the town does not welcome strangers and that the town lives in fear.

Harrison Ford (“Indiana Jones” series, “Firewall”) stars as Colonel Woodrow Dolanhyde, an ornery rancher who rules the desert town of Absolution with an iron fist.

But when the desolate city is about to experience an attack by marauders from the sky and these monsters challenge everything the residents have ever known, the stranger they rejected is now their only hope for salvation.

As Jake slowly starts to remember who he is and where he has been, he realizes that he holds a secret that could give the town a fighting chance against the alien force who are trying to take over Earth and enslave humanity.

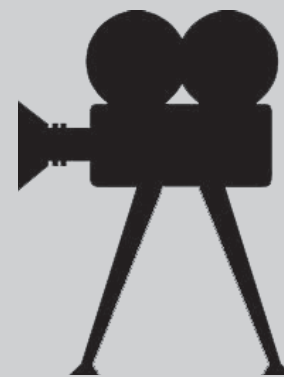
With the help of Ella, an elusive and mysterious woman, played by Olivia Wilde (“TRON: Legacy”), he pulls together a posse comprised of former opponents, including townsfolk, cowboys, Apache warriors, who are now all in danger of annihilation.

United against a common enemy, they all put their differences aside and prepare for an epic showdown for survival.

Jon Favreau (“Couples Retreat,” “Iron Man,” “Daredevil”) directed this science fiction Western, which is based on the 2006 graphic novel by Scott Mitchell Rosenberg (“Men in Black”), with the support and backing of some high powered producers like Steven Spielberg, Ron Howard and Brian Grazer.

A terrific casting call unites James Bond and Indiana Jones. The iconic tough guys team up to take on invading extra-terrestrials in this Old West meets sci-fi mixture.

“Cowboys & Aliens” is an exciting action thriller that combines the Old West with Outer Space creatures; be prepared for quite a different adventure.



THE LOCAL BUZZ

Announcements

► Indicates new announcement

► New Bern Youth Council

The New Bern Youth Council is recruiting new members for the 2011-2012 school year. All 9th-12th grade high school students living in the Craven County area are eligible to apply.

The Youth Council offers opportunities for leadership training, community service, and networking opportunities for high school students across the state.

For more information about the application process or to join the New Bern Youth Council, please call Nicole Jacobs Dewar, Youth Council Advisor, at 639-2902.

► Paddle Club

Craven County Recreation, Twin Rivers Paddle Club and the Neuse River Foundation will hold a free paddle for seniors through Brice's Creek, Sept. 8, and free paddle for families through Brice's Creek, Sept. 17. The paddles will begin at 10 a.m., and conclude at noon followed by a free hot dog lunch.

For more information, or to secure a kayak, contact Mark Seymour at 636-6606 or email mseymour@craven-countync.gov.

► B.E.A.R. After School Program

Registration is currently underway for New Bern Parks & Recreation Believing in Education Achievement and Responsibility after-school program. The program will begin Aug. 25 and offers youth from kindergarten through 8th grade a combination of education, recreation, and socialization in a safe and creative atmosphere. Scheduled pick-up from the New Bern area elementary and middle schools will be Monday through Friday 3 - 6 p.m.

There is a one-time registration fee along with weekly fees. The registration and first week's fees are due when applying for the B.E.A.R. after-school program.

Fees range from \$15 - \$33 for city residents and \$25 - \$41 for non-city residents depending on how many children will be participating.

The three locations are Stanley White Recreation Center, West New Bern Recreation Center and the Community Resource Center. Applications are available at each location. For information about locations and fees contact James Bullock, Stanley White Recreation Center at 639-2919 or Charlie Metts, West New Bern Recreation Center at 639-2906.

Monthly and Weekly Events

Courage to Change

Cherry Point and Havelock Courage to Change is a support group for friends and families of people who suffer from alcoholism.

Meetings are held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Havelock, Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

For more information, call 241-6155 or 670-6236.

AA Beginners Meeting

There are two weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings aboard the air station. The meetings are held Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m.

The meetings take place in Room 208 of Building 229, in the same building as the tax center, next to the Cherry Tree House.

For more information, call 447-8063 or 447-2109.

Al-Anon Family Group Meeting

There are Alcoholics Anonymous family group meetings Tuesdays at 8 p.m. for family members and friends of individuals who may have alcohol problems.

The meetings are held at Havelock First Baptist Church.

For more information, call 447-8063 or 447-2109.

Together For Life

The "Together for Life" one-day premarital seminar is held for active duty personnel age 26 and under, within 90 days of marriage.

Please call the chapel at 466-4000 for more information.

Domestic Violence Victims

A support group for victims of domestic violence is provided by the

Bunco Night

Family Readiness Officers of MCAS Cherry Point and tenant units invite military spouses to gather for social Bunco games Aug. 19 at 6:30 p.m. The games will be held at the Training and Education building in room 171. Prizes are available. RSVP for Bunco night no later than Aug. 12 to Angela Seus at 466-5708 or angela.seus@usmc.mil.

Craven's Got Talent

The Craven County Special Olympics along with New Bern and Tryon Civitans will host Craven's Got Talent at Grover C. Fields Middle School Sept. 24. The doors will open at 6 p.m., show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets will cost \$5 and all proceeds will go to benefit Special Olympics' athletes of Craven County. For more information, contact the Craven County Recreation and Parks Department at 636-6606.

Breast Care Awareness T-shirt

The Naval Health Clinic is soliciting designs for its 6th Annual Breast Care Awareness Run.

Information required on each design:
6th Annual Breast Care Awareness
5k Run/Walk/Stroll

October 2011

Hand drawing or electronic designs accepted. Requests for color of T-shirt for design are encouraged. Due date for designs is Sept. 7. Submit to NHCCP Surgery Clinic, 3rd deck, Cherry Point Naval Health Clinic. For more information contact Sherry Kaminski, Breast Care Coordinator, at 466-0142.

HMX-1 Pilot Selection Panel

MarAdmin 379/11 announces the convening of the Marine Helicopter Squadron 1 pilot selection panel. The panel is intended for active duty captains or majors with an assigned rotary wing occupational specialty and is scheduled to meet Aug. 29.

Slocum Bridge Closure

Slocum Bridge will continue to be under construction until Monday, causing a single-lane closure. Construction hours for Thursday and Friday will be 5 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. the following day, Saturday 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Allow for extra drive time if traveling through the back gate during those times.

Carteret County Domestic Violence Program.

The group meetings are held every Wednesday at 6 p.m.

For more information, call 728-3788.

Marine Corps League Meetings

The Cherry Point Detachment of the Marine Corps League meets the third Tuesday of each month at Miller's Landing at 7 p.m.

For more information, call 515-1175.

Disabled Veterans

Chapter 26 of the Disabled American Veterans meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Senior Center in Havelock at 7 p.m.

For information, contact Doug Mathers at 447-2761.

Marine and Family Programs

Marine, Family Programs Office Numbers

The Family Member Employment Program, Transition Assistance Management Program, Relocation Assistance Program and accredited financial counselors can be reached at 466-4201.

- Child Development Resource and Referral – 466-3595.
- Exceptional Family Member Program – 466-7547.
- Family Advocacy Program – 466-3264.
- Library – 466-3552.
- LifeLong Learning – 466-3500.
- Military Family Life Consultant – 876-8016.
- New Parent Support Program – 466-3651.
- Retired Activities – 466-5548.
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program – 466-5490.
- Substance Abuse Counseling – 466-7568.
- 24/7 Victim Advocate for Confidential Services relating to Sexual Assault or Domestic Violence – 665-4713.

Budget for Baby

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offers Budget for Baby classes.

To register call 466-2031.

Breastfeeding Class

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offers free breastfeeding classes to expectant mothers. The purpose of the class is to help prepare the mother to be ready and confident to breastfeed once the baby arrives.

To register call 466-2031.

Veterans' Assistance

A representative from the Veterans Affairs Office visits Cherry Point each Thursday in building 4335. Call 466-4201 for assistance.

Off Limits

MCAS CHERRY POINT AREA

98 CENT ONLY STORE
(BIG DADDY) WESLEY'S GROCERY
COASTAL SMOKE SHOP
EXPRESSIONS
FRIDAY'S NIGHT CLUB (AKA CLUB INSOMNIA, CLUB CLASSICS, INFINITY LOUNGE)
H&D EXPRESS AKA CITGO
NADINE'S FOOD MART
SUPER EXPRESSWAY
TOBACCO SHOP (NEWPORT AND NEW BERN)
TOBACCO SHOP & GIFTS
TOBACCO TOWN
TWIN RIVERS (NOT THE MALL)
WHITE SANDS CONVENIENCE STORE

MCB CAMP LEJEUNE AREA

BELFAST QUICK MART
BELL AUTO SALVAGE II
BOTTA BOOMS
CARLAND
CENTENNIAL ENTERPRISES, INC.
CJ'S QUICK MART
COASTAL SMOKE SHOP
DASH-IN
DISCOUNT TOBACCO
D'S DRIVE THRU
D'S QUICK MART
DOLL HOUSE
EASY MONEY CATALOG SALES
EXPRESS WAY
FANTASIES
HIP HOP AND HOOKAHS
ILLUSIONS
JACKSONVILLE SPEEDWAY AUTO PARTS
JOSHUA EXPERIENCE/ CLUB ACCESS
KINGS DRIVE THRU
KWIK STOP MART
LAIRDS AUTO & TRUCK CENTER
MILITARY CIRCUIT OF JACKSONVILLE
MOE'S MART
NASH MARKET
ONE STOP SHOP
PAR TECH
PLAYHOUSE
PLEASURE PALACE
PRIVATE PLEASURES (AKA CARRIAGE HOUSE)
RACEWAY AUTO PARTS
REFLECTION PHOTO
REID'S MART
SMOKERS POST
SOUTHERN COMFORT
SPEED MART
STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMPANY
TALK OF THE TOWN II
TENDER TOUCH (AKA BABY DOLLS)
TOBACCO ALLEY
TOBACCO AND MORE
TOBACCO CLUB
TOBACCO FOR LESS
TOBACCO HOUSE CIGARETTE CENTER
TOBACCO LEAF
Ty's R&R
VERONA QUICK STOP
VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES

Hotlines

2nd MAW Command Inspector General
466-5038

Station Inspector
466-3449

Fraud, Waste and Abuse

If you know of or suspect any fraud, waste or abuse aboard MCAS Cherry Point, call 466-2016.

This line's automated answering service is available 24/7.

Sexual Assault

This procedure is not to replace calling 911 if you are in immediate danger. Immediately call 665-4713, which is monitored 24/7. The person answering the call will help you decide the next steps to take. You may remain anonymous.

Severe Weather and Force Protection Information

Cherry Point personnel call 466-3093.
FRC East personnel call 464-8333.
DDCN personnel call 466-4083.

This week in Marine Corps History

Aug. 7, 1990

President George H. W. Bush ordered U.S. military aircraft and troops to Saudi Arabia as part of a multinational force to defend that nation against a possible Iraqi invasion. One week later the Marine Corps announced the commitment of 45,000 troops to the Persian Gulf area as part of Operation Desert Shield which would become the largest deployment of U.S. forces since the Vietnam War.

Aug. 9, 1942

With the Guadalcanal airstrip secure after heavy fighting with the Japanese, the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, commenced work on the runway using captured equipment. Three days later, on Aug. 12, the first plane landed on Henderson Field - a Navy PBY Catalina flying boat that evacuated two wounded Marines. Nearly 3,000 wounded Marines were evacuated from Henderson Field during the battle.