

Chaplain’s Corner :Let’s tear down the chapel

CMDR. KARL P. KOCH
MCAS CHERRY POINT

We really need a new gym. Everyone knows it. Even folks who don’t go to the gym.

Wouldn’t it be great to tear down the chapel so we could build a gym right across the street from some of our barracks? I sure don’t think the folks in the barracks would complain.

This raises the question: Do we really need a chapel? I don’t think so. Here’s why.

The chapel serves approximately 100 people per week. Not per day, per week. A reliable source told me Devil Dog Gym serves about 1,000 per day. Not per week, per day.

Simple math says the gym serves 70 times as many people as the chapel does ev-

ery week. This comes out to 3,640 times as many people per year. So, why do we need the chapel?

Most of the 365,000 personnel served at the gym are active duty. Most of the 5,200 people who are served by the chapel are retirees. Who would really miss the chapel? About 100 people who could all easily worship out in town.

Who would benefit from a brand new gym? About everyone with a heartbeat at Cherry Point. We’re talking hundreds of thousands per year.

The chapel is used a little over 3 hours per week. The gym is used a little over 110 hours per week.

So, let’s tear down the chapel and build a huge, state-of-the-art gym. Or, let’s not. But,

if not, why not?

For one, there are regulations that require us to have a chapel! Really. So, the building is safe. It’s protected by law. But looking at the obvious need for a new gym, does that make sense?

Just because the chapel is currently under-utilized doesn’t mean it can’t be as over-utilized as the gym. But, it must be as customer focused as the gym is in order to get so well used.

It may sound blasphemous to some, but there are two customers at the chapel.

Our military family at Cherry Point is one customer. God is the other. It is my desire that both customers can meet each other at the chapel.

But, when our military family is not com-

ing to the chapel to meet God, I still want them to come. Maybe for unit training. Maybe for community building. Maybe to learn some useful stuff about marriage, kids, finances or life in general.

But, the chapel is, after all, a chapel. We can’t forget that its primary purpose is to be a place for worshipping communities to gather.

It should be a place for saints to find ways to serve. For skeptics to find answers. For scoundrels to realize they’re not alone. And, for sinners to find forgiveness.

The chapel may never serve 365,000 personnel per year. But, I know we can serve more than we’re serving now. So, let’s find more ways to use it. And let’s not tear it down. At least not yet.

Cherry Point Duathlon



Alexander Nevgloski runs across the finish line at the end of a duathlon Sept. 17.



(Above) Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Alexander Nevgloski comes across the end point of the 10-mile bike portion of a Cherry Point duathlon, Saturday. More than 60 people showed up for the Semper Fit-hosted event.

The winner was Maj. James Keller, an aircraft maintenance officer with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 29 based out of MCAS New River.



After the duathlon, Cpl. Jordan Freking checks out the medal he received for participating in the event.

Celebrating 100 years of Marine Corps aviation



Maj. John H. Glenn Jr., smiles happily from the cockpit of his F-86 Sabrejet on his return from a flight over North Korea in which he shot down a MiG. Glenn would become a very accomplished Marine. He is a veteran of World War II, Korea, joined NASA’s astronaut program in 1959 and went on to become the first American to orbit Earth. Later he became a senator representing the state of Ohio. At age 77 Glenn became the oldest person in space when he lifted off on Space Shuttle Discovery’s STS- 95 in order to study the effects of space flight on the elderly Oct. 29, 1998.

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CPL. DUSTIN SOUTHALL

Job Title: Refrigeration and air conditioning technician

Unit: Marine Air Support Squadron 1

Hometown: Naples, Fla.

Date Joined: April 27, 2008

What’s your job?

My job is to repair air conditioning equipment for the units. This entails replacing filters, keeping the refrigerant levels balanced and keeping the equipment running in general..

What’s your favorite aspect of your job?

My favorite part is going to the different units. I like going out in the field and helping the units by keeping the equipment cool.

What’s the most challenging part?

Refrigerant can be very hazardous to the atmosphere, so it is my job to repair equipment as quickly as possible.

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

In the field my job is to keep the equipment from overheating. So in turn my equipment keeps their equipment cool or from overheating and crashing. Without my job a lot of the equipment in the field would be useless.

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 466-3542.



The Windsock

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PFC. CORY D. POLOM

A Marine with 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion fires a PL-87 Stinger Missile at an unmanned aerial target on Onslow Beach aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., during 2nd LAAD’s live Stinger Missile shoot Saturday.

2nd LAAD practices what they preach during Stinger shoot

PFC. CORY D. POLOM

MCAS CHERRY POINT

For the last decade Marines have fought against terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan with battles primarily fought on the ground. So why do squads continue to carry the PL-87 Stinger missile and other anti-aircraft weapons with them during convoys?

Marines are known for being prepared for the worst, and that includes the possibility of battling enemy aircraft.

The Marines of 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion continued to sustain skills that support their primary mission and that proactive posture by conducting a live Stinger missile shoot at Onslow Beach aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Saturday.

“This training provides the Marine Corps with qualified Stinger Missile gunners,” said Master Sgt. Joshua J. Hillbrand, operations chief for 2nd LAAD Battalion “This training allows the Marines to complete their annual training requirements and allows gunners who haven’t fired in years to fire a live missile.”

The Marines of 2nd LAAD spent the night on the beach after arriving the day before to set up the firing range and launch site for the unmanned aerial targets.

“The threat of the unmanned aerial vehicle population is growing,” said Lt. Col. Joel A. Burdette, commanding officer of 2nd LAAD Battalion. “The fact is even though we are not fighting a war that involves manned enemy aircraft there is always a reason to be prepared. The UAV is a valid threat if used against us. That is why we are using (unmanned aerial targets) in this training. Our Marines are demonstrating they can do their job when the time comes.”

Burdette and Hillbrand agreed the air defense battalion provides a short range defense bubble for a forward ob-

servation base from any aerial threats.

“The threats we face as a battalion range from possible manned enemy aircraft to the chance of air-to-land missiles that need taken out,” said Hillbrand. “There are a lot of threats in the world and the things we have seen are not traditional threats.”



PFC. CORY D. POLOM

A PL-87 Stinger missile destroys an unmanned aerial target during a 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion practice fire at Onslow Beach aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Saturday.

Burdette said 2nd LAAD acts as a security unit when not conducting their primary mission of air defense.

“This battalion is a provisional infantry battalion in the sense when we aren’t firing our missile system at enemy aircraft we are providing security forces for ground troops in theater,” said Burdette. “My Marines here have the knowledge and training to conduct both ground based air defense as well as air based ground defense. We provide the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing with an air defense umbrella as a key component to Marine Air Control Group 28.”

The Marines who fired the missile system conducted

a training fire with the M134 Tracking Head Trainer, a Stinger Missile simulator that does everything but fire a missile.

Then they stepped to the firing line to test their skills and composure while firing at a unmanned aerial targets that flew approximately 2,000 meters out over the ocean. The Marines conducted several kinds of training scenarios during the evolution. They fired at the targets from static positions; they also conducted quick reaction fires and even launched the missile while wearing gas masks. The Marines of 2nd LAAD fired at 70 targets with 50 PL-87 Stinger Missiles as well as M240B machine guns and M2 .50 Caliber Heavy Machine Guns.

“Not only are we firing the Stinger system to better train our Marines,” said Hillbrand, “but we are also using the 240s and the .50 Cals. to train for the current mission we conduct while deployed. We are a security force for FOBs whether that is conducting our primary mission with the Stinger missile or our secondary mission using our rifles or the machine guns we trained with today.”

Burdette said he feels 2nd LAAD plays a very important role in the protection of 2nd MAW and Marine Corps aviation while deployed.

“We are a critical component in providing air defense against the emerging threats to the 2nd MAW airfields around the globe,” said Burdette.

“We, at 2nd LAAD, train for many scenarios and will continue to train to make sure we are ready for any and every threat the Marine Corps and 2nd MAW faces. Whether that is while deployed or at home here at Cherry Point we will continue to be mission ready.

“We are still riflemen and will continue to support the mission of 2nd MAW.”



PFC. CORY D. POLOM

A Marine keeps his finger near the trigger as he sets his target during a PL-87 Stinger missile shoot at Onslow Beach aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Saturday.



PFC. CORY D. POLOM

Sgt. Todd A. Grindstaff, a team leader with 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion detachment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, attempts to locate an unmanned aerial target on Onslow Beach aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., during 2nd LAAD’s live Stinger Missile shoot Saturday.



PFC. CORY D. POLOM

A Marine squeezes the trigger during a PL-87 Stinger missile shoot at Onslow Beach aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Saturday.



Carolina Lauer, a program assistant with Marine Corps Community Services Child Development Center here, and students read along to the book “No More Monkeys Jumping on the Bed,” in Lauer’s last class before her retirement, Sept. 12. Lauer retired after 14 years at the station CDC.

CDC program assistant retires after 14 years

LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY
MCAS CHERRY POINT

“No more monkeys jumping on the bed,” can be heard from children’s voices in the hallways approaching Carolina Lauer’s classroom. Being only the third caregiver in 20 years to retire from the Marine Corps Community Services Child Development Center, Lauer knows the ins and outs of keeping children entertained. The children sit in a circle around her, trying their best to read along as she holds the massive multi-colored “No More Monkeys Jumping on the Bed” book facing it toward the children so they can see the pictures.

For the past 14 years these were typical

sounds that would come from Lauer’s class and the hallways of the Child Development Center.

Lauer finished her last week at the Cherry Point CDC after 14 years of dedicated service. During her time she helped care for more than 1,000 children.

“I love working with the kids and watching them grow,” said Lauer, also fondly known as “yes ma’am” by her coworkers for her constant formality.

“Some of the kids I’ve watched are in high school now and I can’t help but feel pride. I am so thankful to be a part of their lives.

“Some day these kids are going to be Marines or doctors, and I am proud to know that

they were one of mine.”

Lauer was described by her coworkers as someone who would heighten the morale of the center and host potlucks to bring the staff together.

She was someone who wasn’t afraid to get on the floor to play with the kids or get dressed up in crazy costumes to keep them entertained.

“She has always been a boost of morale and the children love her,” said Kelly Goin, director of one CDC facility building.

“She will be missed. We’ll miss her smile and enthusiasm. She has always been very dependable, picking up night shifts, and she always made the center a happier environ-

ment.”

At the center it wasn’t just the children that were learning.

“I feel that I’m a pro at this now, like I’m somebody,” said Lauer. “MCCS provided great training and I was happy growing through teaching.

“I am proud of the growth that both the children and I went through.”

Lauer explained that her plans for retirement included slowing down.

However, no matter if she applies for another center or takes time to relax, Lauer said she is pleased with her retirement

“I feel proud of myself,” Lauer said.

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7:00pm - The Help PG 13	2:17
Saturday, September 24 3:00pm - Smurfs PG	1:26
5:00pm - The Help PG 13	2:17
8:15pm - Thirty Minutes or Less R	1:23
Sunday, September 25 2:00pm - Smurfs PG	1:26
4:00pm - The Help PG 13	2:17
Tuesday, September 27 6:00pm - Cars G	1:54

MOVIE SYNOPSIS

Thirty Minutes or Less - Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Danny McBride, Aziz Ansari, Nick Swardson, Dilshad Vadsaria. Nick is a small town pizza delivery guy whose mundane life collides with the big plans of two wanna-be criminal masterminds. The volatile duo kidnaps Nick and forces him to rob a bank. With mere hours to pull off the impossible task, Nick enlists the help of his ex-best friend, Chet. As the clock ticks, the two must deal with the police, hired assassins, flamethrowers, and their own tumultuous relationship.

Smurfs - Starring: Hank Azaria, Neil Patrick Harris, Jayma Mays, Sofia Vergara. When the evil wizard Gargamel chases the tiny blue Smurfs out of their village, they tumble from their magical world and into ours -- in fact, smack dab in the middle of Central Park. Just three apples high and stuck in the Big Apple, the Smurfs must find a way to get back to their village before Gargamel tracks them down.

The Help - Starring: Bryce Dallas Howard, Octavia Spencer, Jessica Chastain, Mike Vogel, Roslyn Ruff. At the dawn of the civil rights movement, three Mississippi women are about to take one extraordinary step. Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss and her mother won't be happy till she finds a husband. Aibileen, a wise African-American maid and caretaker suffers after the loss of her own child. And Minny, Aibileen's sassy best friend, struggles to find and hold a job. Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk.

Cars - Animated - Starring the voices of: Owen Wilson, Paul Newman, Bonnie Hunt, Richard Petty, Cheech Marin. Lightning McQueen, a hotshot rookie race car driven to succeed, discovers that life is about the journey, not the finish line, when he finds himself unexpectedly detoured in the sleepy Route 66 town of Radiator Springs.

Movies are subject to change without notice

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Cherry Point story tellers awarded for writing excellence

JOINT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
MCAS CHERRY POINT

The Marine Corps’ story tellers and communicators of the public affairs realm from across the Corps gathered for a professional guidance and leadership conference in New Orleans Sept. 12-16.

The purpose of the conference was to afford growth opportunities to the attendees based on shared knowledge and networking.

“We hope the Marines took advantage of the chances provided to extend their knowledge about our Corps,

past and present, and that they will leave New Orleans and return to their commands and/or homes armed with the tools to help build an even more impressive future for the United States Marine Corps,” explained Don O’Neal, president of the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association.

The conference concluded with a banquet that recognized the winners of the 2011 Merit Awards competition, which are awarded for the best in respective writing, photography, layout and videography categories.

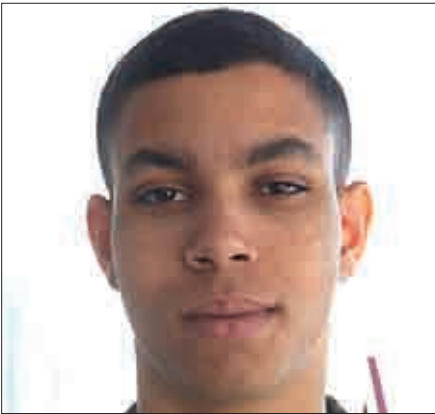
Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point received

honorable mention for the metro format newspaper category for The Windsock, and for the website category. Two Cherry Point Marines received awards in writing categories.

Cpl. Brian Adam Jones, who is currently deployed with 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) in Afghanistan, was awarded the Cy O’Brien Print Journalist of the Year Award, and Cpl. Tyler J. Bolken, a writer and editor for The Windsock, was awarded for best story in the commentary category.

Below are biographies of the two Marines.

Cpl. Brian Adam Jones, a New York native, got his start in journalism at The Windsock at MCAS Cherry Point. Jones was an editor for the paper before deploying to Afghanistan in August with 2nd MAW (Fwd). He believes journalism is the process of “using words as a lens to show a picture for the reader, a podium to deliver a message and a launching pad for thoughts, ideas and debate.” Jones believes his diligence and creativy in telling the story of the Corps won him the award.



Cpl. Tyler J. Bolken, a native of Boise, Id., says his writing allows him to share the stories about others that “too often go untold.” He began his career as a combat correspondent in 2009 as a writer for the newspaper, The Windsock, of MCAS Cherry Point. Bolken, who is now an editor for the paper, has covered a variety of stories, from time aboard a British naval vessel to an advanced aerial combat exercise in Nevada. Bolken’s commentary story was also awarded at the department of defense level, receiving a Thomas Jefferson Award.



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Briefly, the FAA A&P Education/Career Roadmap is as follows: the Training Prep Program is built within the Aviation Systems Technology Two Year Degree Program through CCC, this degree feeds into the Aviation Management Bachelor's Degree Program through SIUC.



To learn more about FAA training opportunities, information sessions will be held in the Jerry Marvel Training & Education Bldg 4335. Please call or email Cynthia Bouie at 252-466-5197/3500, or cynthia.bouie@usmc.mil to reserve your seat.

We hope to see you at the information sessions!

2011 Fall Information Sessions

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Deployed troops reflect on 9/11 during memorial ceremony 🇺🇸

CPL. KATHERINE KELEHER
II MEF (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Hundreds of service members aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, attended a memorial ceremony to reflect upon the tragic events and lives lost on September 11, 2001.

Maj. Gen. John A. Toolan, commanding general of Regional Command Southwest and II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), served as the guest of honor and delivered a speech about how he wants to remember the occasion.

“This is who we are. This is what America is made of,” said Toolan, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., during his remarks. “It’s not people who are going to cower because they are afraid. America is made up of millions of raw boned, fire-breathing freedom fighters.”

“As President Bush, on the evening of the attack, said: ‘Today our fellow citizens, our way of life, our freedom came under attack. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they can’t touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they can’t dent the steel of American resolve. The search is underway for those who are behind these evil acts.’ And guess what? We were true to that word. In fact, some of you may know, this command delivered Osama Bin Laden to his final resting place. We follow through with our word.”

Those in attendance of the ceremony were moved by not only the speech, but by being given the opportunity to reflect on the tragic events of 9/11.

"I felt the ceremony truly honored the memory of all the persons lost since 9/11 or as a result of Iraq or Afghanistan," said Sgt. Ruby Clendenning, the RC(SW) staff secretary office administration non-commissioned officer in charge. "My husband was in New York City for the actual ceremony and it was nice that the time of our ceremony was aligned to be simultaneous."

During the ceremony, a narrator recounted the timeline of the attacks as a band played solemnly in the background. Each time the narrator recalled an event which claimed lives, including each of the plane crashes, each tower collapse and the pentagon attack, a bell was rung and a moment of silence observed for the 2,977 lives lost.

Troops from other nations also attended the ceremony.

"9/11 is one of the main reasons we're here," said Sqd. Ldr. Nick Card, British Royal Air Force, and a native of Catworth, England. "The speech was really nice, it was really good that the CG [commanding general] brought the level down for it and talked about how he felt about 9/11."



(From left to right) Col. David Maxwell and Mark Hollahan, both of 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), alongside Brig. Gen. Michael Dana, the commanding general of 2nd MLG (Fwd.), salute during the national anthem at the 9/11 memorial service aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province. Hundreds of coalition service members from all branches of the armed services attended the ceremony.



Hundreds of coalition forces servicemen and women met aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, for a 9/11 memorial service. During the service, Maj. Gen. John A. Toolan, commanding general of Regional Command Southwest and II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) gave a speech reflecting on not only the lives lost 10-years before, but also on the heroes who have fought for the freedoms America stands for since.



Sgt. Brehan Harvill, the utilities floor chief with Marine Wing Support Squadron 272, 2nd Marine Air Wing (Forward), rings a bell signifying a moment of silence during a memorial ceremony hosted aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, to reflect upon the 10-year mark of 9/11.

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implement the repeal and conform with its mandate. I am confident all Marines will faithfully abide by and uphold the law.”

The commandant’s guiding principles for implementation included: leadership matters most, treat each other with dignity and respect, sexual orientation is a personal and private matter, Marines will not be required to change their personal views and religious beliefs, and all Marines will be held to the same standards of conduct.

For the most part, Marines will see little difference in their work environment as a result of the new policy. As before, there will be no collection of sexual orientation information, and there will not be separate billeting, special medical policies or special duty assignments for gay and lesbian service members. The existing standards of conduct will continue to apply to all Marines, regardless of sexual orientation – and all Marines are expected to uphold the Corps’ high standards.

“We already took a full step in the right direction,” said Sgt. Maj. Jerry Bailey, sergeant major of MCAS Cherry Point. “We have been following orders since the guidance from our leaders came out and we are going to continue to move on and fight wars the Marine Corps way.”

Amos’ message to his Marines was clear. “I expect all Marines will continue to treat each other with dignity and respect. These fundamental Marine Corps principles have not changed nor will they change. The Marine Corps will continue to demonstrate the discipline and loyalty that has been the hallmark of our Corps for over 235 years.”

NEW BERN from page A1

and the police department, support their communities.

“We’re not commemorating them for just 9/11. We are commemorating them for the day-to-day work they do for us and we should always appreciate that we can walk down the street and not worry about getting mugged or that we can always speak our minds. Quite frankly the constitution is a piece of paper and it’s our armed forces and civil services that protect us and allow us our freedoms.”

The theater’s president of the board of directors, Jim Chittick, presented plaques to Cherry Point and the New Bern Police and Fire Departments after a reflective speech about 9/11.

Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Bailey, MCAS Cherry Point’s sergeant major, accepted the award for Cherry Point. The award stated: “2011 in honor of September 11 MCAS Cherry Point in appreciation of your valuable contributions and service to our community and nation.”

“I am grateful to receive this award on behalf of all the Marines of Cherry Point that on duty and off duty contribute to their communities,” Bailey said.

Following the evening, the musical “Guys and Dolls” kicked off for its opening night at the Athens Theatre, which will be held throughout September. Hardy encourages Marines to come out and enjoy the show.

“The show is only \$10 for active duty service members with identification,” Hardy said. “Marines and Sailors need to come out to New Bern, bring their families or if they’re single bring some friends and enjoy the show.”

As the night progressed, citizens went their separate ways many attended the musical, many moseyed around New Bern, and many went home, but Hardy knows that the strong emotions of the commemoration affected each American that attended with a somber reflection to all the men and women who support the United States of America.

Hardy continued “I was overwhelmed by the amount of people that showed up – I was so touched, honored and proud for the groups we commemorated.”

BELIZE from page A1

in North Carolina. It’s been a lot of fun out here seeing what the Osprey can do in a place I’ve never been and an environment the Osprey has never been in.”

The main challenge of operating in a foreign country is that they usually don’t have the same level of infrastructure that America has. Belize is not a rich country and can’t build bases with the same amenities that Marine Corps bases have, so MWSS-271 Marines on their first deployments had to overcome challenges they had never faced before. The internet was a prime example.

“We build and maintain computer networks,” said Lance Cpl. David W. Kent, a data systems specialist for MWSS-271 and also a Marine on his first deployment OCONUS. “We started from the ground up so we ran all the lines and tested out the computers. The really hard part was that it’s our first time down here so we didn’t really know what to expect, what our parameters were or to what extent we would be supporting VMM-365. We didn’t know what abilities the facilities had being a British base on a Belize camp. It’s kind of like, ‘pack for the worst, hope for the best.’”

Both squadrons managed to plan some fun into their schedules. VMM-365 allowed both MWSS-271 and VMM-365 ground personnel the unique opportunity to ride in the back of their Ospreys. Also, Sept. 14 was set aside as a morale, welfare and recreation day. Enlisted and officers enjoyed visiting the Mayan ruins at Altun Ha, zip lining at Cave’s Branch Outpost Adventure, scuba diving and playing games at a local casino.

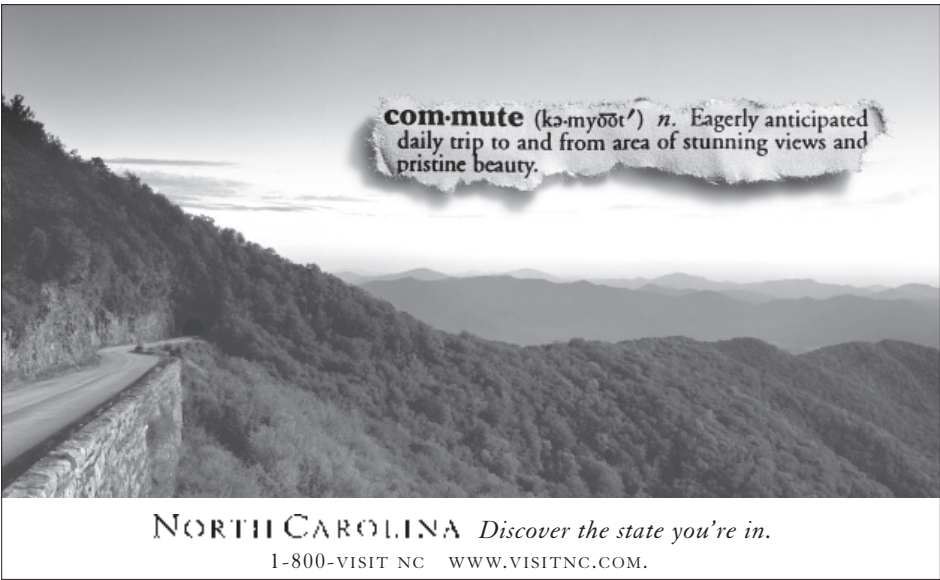
“Yesterday was pretty awesome,” said Lance Cpl. Brandi N. Rosser, an airframe mechanic for VMM-365 also on her first deployment. “We were supposed to go cave tubing but that was cancelled and I wasn’t really excited about zip lining, but it turned out to be pretty awesome. It was nice to get away from the flight line and do that.”

For VMM-365, mixing good times with hard work is part of what makes the squadron a more effective unit.

“Morale is key,” Stanley said. “You got to have high morale in order to keep your squadron moving. If you never reward anybody for their hard work, then they’re going to stop working for you. I think the MWR was key and our commanding officer does an awesome job in making sure there’s some fun built into our workday, which is why we succeed as a squadron.”

The first deployment is always an exciting time for Marines eager to experience the adventure part of military life.

“It was unbelizable,” Kent said, laughing.



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10 years after initial invasion, Marine pilot returns to command in Afghanistan

PFC. SEAN DENNISON
2ND MAW (FWD)

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — It’s Sept. 12, 2001. The wreckage from the attacks the day before still smolders. An aircraft carrier with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit lies off the eastern shore of the United States.

Several CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters with engines running rest on the deck. The flight lead is a young Marine captain, Alison Thompson. Her freckles and biting blue eyes are veiled by her visor and flight helmet.

She wants to take off.
“We had six 53s turning on the line. I kept calling to get clearance,” Thompson said. “The plan was we’d load supplies, embark the MEU, go up to New York City, provide any support they needed with our helicopters and go straight over [to the Middle East] from there. I kept calling for clearance to take off and at that point all aviation was grounded, civilian and military.”

The mission was ultimately called off. According to Thompson, Rudy Giuliani, then mayor of New York, thought a visible military presence might instill panic among the people.

The day before, Thompson was at home in Jacksonville, N.C., asleep when the phone rang. It was her dad. She sprinted downstairs and turned on the TV just in time to see the second tower get hit.

A few short months later, 9,000 miles away, the Super Stallions are once again on the deck of the ship, turning on the line and Thompson is once again in the pilot’s seat.

This time they were cleared for take-off. This time they would push into Afghanistan.

The Marines entered Afghanistan, some riding in Thompson’s helicopter. They took Camp Rhino and Kandahar Airfield, then pushed north into the Tora Bora mountains, continuing to seek out the enemy.

Ten years later it’s September 2011 and Alison Thompson is back in Afghanistan. Now she’s a lieutenant colonel at the helm of a new mission – commanding Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464. As the first woman to command a squadron in combat, she leads the only CH-53E squadron in the region.

Thompson’s experiences over the course



CPL. BRIAN ADAM JONES

Lt. Col. Alison Thompson stands beside a CH-53E Super Stallion just before a mission in the early morning hours of Sept. 10. Thompson, the commanding officer of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464, served as a CH-53E pilot with Task Force 58 during the initial invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. Now Thompson is back in the region as the first woman to command a Marine squadron in Afghanistan. “She’s going to do great things in Afghanistan,” said Lt. Col. Pete Gadd, who commands HMH-463. “HMH-464 is in great hands.”

of her career have prepared her for command. She spent time as a military legislative assistant for former North Carolina Sen. Elizabeth Dole, served as an aide for the Deputy Marine Corps Commandant for Aviation and returned to HMH-464 as the operations officer.

But she said her most cherished experiences came in 2001.

“I felt very fortunate to be where I was when I was,” Thompson said. “It was very expeditionary, a lot of tough terrain, a lot of unconventional things we were doing.”

“It was a strange period, kind of eerie. It was exciting too,” said Lt. Col. Pete Gadd, commanding officer of HMH-463, a CH-53D Sea Stallion squadron adjacent to HMH-464 on the Camp Bastion flight line. As a major, Gadd was part of the CH-53E detachment with Thompson in 2001 and accompanied her on many of the missions. “It was the Wild, Wild West back then. We operated out of a lot of mud huts

and thatched rooms.”
“She was a great pilot back then, she’s a great pilot now,” Maj. Dennis W. Sampson said of Thompson.

Sampson, a CH-53D pilot with HMH-463, and the squadron’s operations officer, also participated in the initial invasion, flying some of the first missions in Afghanistan a decade ago.

“We did a lot of raids and take-downs. She [Thompson] was our tactics officer and it was vital for us to be able to follow her lead back then,” Sampson said.

Now Thompson leads several hundred Marines and Sailors – pilots, crew chiefs and aircraft maintainers, among others.

“She’s going to do great things in Afghanistan,” Gadd said. “HMH-464 is in great hands.”

“I just want the opportunity to make a difference,” Thompson said, “whether it be tactically or with the individual Marines. From a unit standpoint I take care of them

so they’re not fighting internal friction and can focus on their job.”

Thompson grew up in Michigan, Nebraska and Kansas wanting to be a pilot but never imagining being a Marine. When she attended the Naval Academy women were not allowed to serve in combat in aviation.

“It just so happened that three weeks before I had to service select at the Naval Academy and I had to decide what I was going to do, congress lifted the combat exclusion,” Thompson said.

As one of the first women to pilot a Marine aircraft, and now as the first woman to command a squadron in combat, she said the feeling is the same – don’t mess it up.

“She’s a great leader,” Sampson said. “She’s got great strategic and tactical experience but more importantly, she cares passionately about her Marines and providing support for the Marines on the battlefield.”

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PFC. SEAN DENNISON

An AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter with 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) takes off from Combat Outpost Ouellette, Afghanistan, Sept. 3. The Super Cobra is one of the many aircraft Capt. Daniel Fiust, the air officer and a forward air controller for 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment and San Carlos, Calif., native, interacts with in helping provide close-air support to Marines on the ground.

Former Harrier pilot provides guidance on ground

PFC. SEAN DENNISON
2ND MAW (FWD)

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — While the current brood of Marine Attack Squadron 513 AV-8B Harrier pilots is providing close-air support from the sky to Marines on the ground, one former VMA-513 pilot is fulfilling his role on the ground.

Capt. Daniel Fiust, the air officer and a forward air controller for 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, currently serves as the coordinator between the battalion and the fixed and rotary wing assets of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward).

A battalion air officer acts as a liaison for aviation squadrons supporting ground Marines, directing and dispersing air assets across the battalion’s area of operations.

“We integrate all functions of aviation with ground combat missions,” said Fiust, a San Carlos, Calif. native whose battalion is deployed to Afghanistan with 2nd Marine Division (Forward). “Basically, anything aerial, we have a role in.”

From the stratospheric crescendos of Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers to the cyclical percussion of AH-1W Super

Cobras, Fiust is responsible coordinating flight times and routes for dozens of aircraft in support of the ground Marines they protect.

Fiust’s aerial roots trace back to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., where VMA-513 is stationed. There, he flew with both VMA-211 and VMA-513. He’s deployed with the former in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the latter as part of a unit deployment to Japan.

After spending more than three years with the flying squadrons, he reported to the air officer’s course, part of Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1’s weapons and tactics instructor course.

“I really wanted to work with infantry units,” said Fiust. “As a [close-air support] pilot, I wanted to see what things were like on the ground and do my part to contribute.”

The air officer is the senior forward air controller in a battalion. He supervises the battalion’s forward air controllers and enlisted joint terminal attack controllers, who patrol with their squads and protect them by calling in air strikes.

Sgt. Ronald Stokes III, the joint terminal attack controller of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment,

and an Estes Park, Colo., native, still remembers the first time he called in an air strike.

“May 27. A date that will live in my mind,” Stokes said. “I couldn’t believe I was actually dropping a bomb on the bad guys.”

Fiust said he believes the ongoing relationship between air officers on the ground and the squadrons creates a ripple effect that saves lives, not only in the short term, but the long term as well.

“We look at what type of support the Marines need, and update our tactics based on what we’re seeing of the enemy from the air,” said Fiust.

While Fiust has traded his seat in the cockpit for a seat in the command structure, he says the experience has given him a new perspective on the war.

“As a pilot, I sometimes felt detached from the situation,” he said. “As an air officer, you’re more emotionally invested.”

There are times Fiust waxes nostalgic, when the Harriers are high above protecting his Marines. But the explosions on his screen let him know that the grunts he serves are in more than capable hands.

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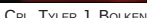
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CPL. TYLER J. BOLKEN

CPI TYLER J BOLKEN

From the clinic: Home delivery changes

Copayments for some medications provided through Tricare pharmacy home delivery are being reduced to zero. As of Oct. 1, home delivery beneficiaries may fill generic prescriptions at no cost to themselves.

Generic formulary drugs purchased through home delivery currently cost \$3 for a 90-day supply, but as of Oct. 1 the copayment drops to zero.

“These new copays make using Tricare pharmacy home delivery more affordable than ever,” said Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, Tricare management activity deputy director. “Home delivery offers a great value for patients taking maintenance medications for chronic conditions.”

The following changes to the Tricare pharmacy co-

payments are scheduled to go into effect Oct. 1:

- Generic formulary drugs purchased at retail pharmacies will go from \$3 to \$5.
- Brand name formulary drugs from retail pharmacies will go from \$9 to \$12.
- Non-formulary medications will go from \$22 to \$25 in both retail and home delivery.

Brand name formulary drugs purchased through home delivery will have the same \$9 copayment.

Copayments for prescriptions filled through home delivery cover a 90-day supply, but only a 30-day supply when purchased at a retail pharmacy.

“This is the first change to Tricare pharmacy copays

since 2002,” Hunter said. “Our goal is to keep costs as low as possible for our beneficiaries and the Department of Defense.”

Service members, their families and retirees are increasingly using home delivery to get their maintenance medications conveniently delivered through the mail – saving Tricare about \$30 million in 2010. Use of home delivery has grown by nearly 10 percent since 2010.

More than 1 million prescriptions per month are filled through the service.

For more information about Tricare pharmacy, the new copayment rates and home delivery, visit <http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy>.



LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

The new Marine swim qualification system was adjusted to provide updated, safer and expeditionary force relevant water survival training.

Swim qualification changes every Marine should know

LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

MCAS CHERRY POINT

In the past, Marine Corps swim qualifications have been sorted into class four, three, two or one; four being the minimum requirement for enlisted Marines. Now a Marine is considered a beginning, intermediate, or advanced-level swimmer.

The changes were implemented April 15 for the Marine Corps Water Survival Training Program standards and requirements. The changes adjusted the qualification process to provide the Marine Corps an updated, safer and expeditionary force-relevant water survival program. The new system concurrently reduces annual training requirements on the operating forces, according to Marine Corps Order 1500.52D.

“Before I left for my deployment, I had the highest swim qualification I could get,” said Lance Cpl. Philip DiPaolo V, a water survival advanced swimmer who assisted the Marine Corps Instructors of Water Survival.

“When I came back, everything had

changed, and I had to do it again.

“I definitely like the new course more though, it’s more rounded.”

The new water survival program reduces the qualification levels from six to three.

“The new qualification pretty much sums it all up,” said Cpl. Sean Litchfield the chief Marine Corps Instructor of Water Survival at the Cherry Point combat pool.

“I think this course now has more common sense. Jumping off of the tower they just wear their cammies, digital camouflaged utility uniform, and boots. It’s more oriented to what Marines are going to be doing in the water.”

Swim qualification four and three are now considered water survival basic. At the basic qualification level the Marines are required to shed their gear, while in the water, in less than 10 seconds. Next, the Marines abandon ship by jumping off of a raised platform called “the tower” into the water. After the abandon ship, the Marines must tread water for four minutes, where they stay afloat using only their gear and without using the edge of the

pool. Lastly, the Marines must conduct a 25-meter pack swim, where they transport their packs from one side of the pool to the other. This qualification keeps Marines certified for two years.

“The big thing that has changed in the course has been the addition of boots and other gear to everything,” said Litchfield. “In the old swim qualification, levels one and four were without boots. No Marine is going to take his boots off before swimming across a river or jumping off of a ship.”

Swim qualification two is now water survival intermediate. Like at bootcamp the Marines first conduct a gear shed but now in deeper water, in less than 20 seconds. Next, they do another abandon ship and swim 250 meters after hitting the water. Instead of four minutes, the Marines tread water for 10 minutes. Lastly, the Marines do another 25-meter pack swim with a flak-jacket and Kevlar. This qualification keeps Marines certified for three years.

The advanced water survival course is a

week of rigorous swims, runs, exercises, rescues and techniques. The Marines are taught rescues and escapes from both combat related and every day situations. For example, if someone was drowning at the beach or public pool.

Qualified advanced water survival students can assist the instructors during the swim qualification evolutions. This qualification also certifies Marines for three years.

“The course now builds the confidence of the Marines in the water,” said Litchfield. “To the instructors, watching the Marines improve feels good.”

In order for Marines to be properly qualified all Marine Corps Water Survival Instructors and Instructor Trainers must also go through the training to learn the difference between the old and new qualifications.

“When you jump into the water with all that gear on you never really know how heavy it really is,” said DiPaolo. “It’s rewarding teaching and helping Marines get through what they thought they couldn’t.”

Marines must follow regulations for military identification photos

RAPIDS OFFICE

MCAS CHERRY POINT

Active duty military cannot wear black or dark shirts for Common Access Card pictures.

This is because the date of birth on the back of the card is printed in black and cannot be seen.

At this time, the software does not allow adjustment of the lighting, therefore, white or light colored shirts are required.

Corrections are being made for future software releases to correct this problem.

In accordance with Marine Corps

Order 5512.11D, active duty service members can be photographed in civilian attire; however, you must still comply with service grooming standards described in Marine Corps Order P1024.34G.

This means no dangling earrings or piercings; hair must be up for women,

military regulation hair cuts for men, and clean shaven.

Individuals will pose for a frontal, full-face, passport-type photo.

Identification cards will only be issued in compliance with rules and regulations, and not to accommodate personal preferences.

These films are now playing at local theaters

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“FRIGHT NIGHT” (R)

“Fright Night” is a remake of the 1985 original horror film about a teenager who suspects that his new neighbor is a vampire.

Anton Yelchin (“Terminator Salvation,” “Star Trek”) stars as Charley Brewster, a senior who finally has it all, including dating the hottest girl in high school.

He thinks he is so cool that he even ignores his best friend Ed, played by Christopher Mintz-Plasse (“Kick-Ass”).

But trouble isn’t far away when an intriguing stranger moves in next door.

After witnessing some strange activity, Charley comes to the conclusion that his new neighbor is a vampire who is preying on his neighborhood.

Colin Farrell (“Horrible Bosses,” “Crazy Heart”) stars as Jerry Dandrige, the centuries-old bloodsucker who moves in next door to the meddlesome teen and has his tastes set for Charley’s mother.

He works at night and sleeps during the day, a perfect cover for his vampire habits.

However, Charley cannot convince anyone that he is telling the truth; no one he knows believes him.

So Charley enlists Peter Vincent, played by David Tennant (“Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire”), a self proclaimed vampire killer and Las Vegas magician, to help him take down Jerry.

When Charley, his mom Jane, played by Toni Collette (“Little Miss Sunshine”), and Amy, his girlfriend, played by Imogen Poots (“Jane Eyre”), finally get smart about Jerry’s doings, they are immediately marked for a gruesome death.

Director Craig Gillespie (“Lars and the Real Girl,” “Mr. Woodcock”) filmed this remake of the cult-favorite suburban vampire thriller in 3D. The story is based on the original 1985 film made by Tom Holland.

Farrell is great as the neighbor from hell.

“Fright Night” is a clever and humorous horror film with a very real but bored vampire. This one is totally a typical summer fare to enjoy.

“CONTAGION” (PG-13)

“Contagion” is an action thriller centered on the threat posed by a deadly disease. This film is a global thriller with an A-list cast whose lives collide amid the ensuing

international chaos.

“Contagion” follows the rapid progress of a lethal airborne virus that kills within days.

As the fast moving epidemic grows, the worldwide medical community races to find a cure and control the panic that spread faster than the virus itself.

At the same time, ordinary people struggle to survive in a society coming apart.

Matt Damon (“Good Will Hunting,” “True Grit”) stars as Mitch Thomas Emhoff, a Midwestern family man.

Gwyneth Paltrow (“Shakespeare in Love,” ”Iron Man”) plays his wife, Beth Emhoff, who comes down with the nasty airborne virus on a return business trip from Hong Kong. She is one of its first victims.

Soon, many others start to exhibit the same symptoms, and a global pandemic explodes.

Doctors try to contain the lethal microbe, but society begins to collapse as a journalist blogger, played by Jude Law (“Sherlock Holmes”), fans the flames of paranoia.

Kate Winslet (“Titanic,” “The Reader”) stars as Dr. Mears, a doctor with the Centers for Disease Control.

Marion Cotillard (“La Vie en Rose,” “Inception”) portrays Dr. Leonora Orantes, an official with the World Health Organization.

Laurence Fishburne (“The Matrix”) as Dr. Ellis Cheever, the top CDC official.

Also appearing are Bryan Cranston (TVs “Breaking Bad”) as Haggerty; Jennifer Ehle (“The King’s Speech”) as Ally Hextail; and Sanaa Lathan as Mrs. Cheever.

Academy Award winning Steven Soderbergh (“Traffic,” “The Informant,” “Solaris,” “Erin Brokovich,” “Oceans 11, 12, 13”) directed this bio-thriller from an original screenplay by Scott Z. Burns (“The Informant”) and brings together a stellar international ensemble cast.

Soderbergh received cooperation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on this production of the world’s greatest fear – a global pandemic.

The movie was filmed on locations around the world, including sites in Hong Kong, Macao, Chicago, Atlanta, San Francisco, Abu Dhabi, London and Geneva.

“Contagion” is a gripping and chilling, but a very cold and clinical account of an epidemic outbreak that spreads like wildfire around the world.



The Local Buzz

Announcements

► Indicates new announcement

► Golf for Tomorrow Tournament

The 3rd annual Golf for Tomorrow tournament will be held at Sound of Freedom Golf Course at MCAS Cherry Point Friday. Funds received from the tournament will benefit Cherry Point Child Development Center, Havelock Boys & Girls Club, Craven Community College Scholarship Foundation and Allies for Cherry Point’s Tomorrow.

For more information contact Vanessa W. Lawrence, station community plans and liason specialist at 466-2531.

Operation Ball Gown

Marine Corps Family Team Building will host two free events at Miller’s Landing Friday and Saturday, where gowns will be given away for the upcoming Marine Corps Ball.

Friday, from 6-8 p.m., a fashion show and comedy etiquette skit will be held.

Gowns will be selected on Saturday on a first-come-first-serve basis, depending on the time participants requested a ticket for the event. This event is for active duty spouses of service members stationed aboard Cherry Point.

To register, stop by Marine Corps Family Team Building or call 466-4637 for more information.

New Bern Wine Fest

New Bern will host its 3rd Annual Wine Festival at the New Bern Hilton Ball Room, from 2-6 p.m. Saturday.

Distributors will provide local, national and international wines.

These will be paired with a mix of imported and domestic cheeses and fresh fruit.

Tickets can be purchased online or locally at Mitchell Hardware, Aamco, River Bend Country Club, or Audiology of New Bern.

For more information call Eileen Bress at 665-4091.

► Yard Sale

Cherry Point Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron is hosting a combined spouses yard sale at the station theater parking lot on Oct 1. from 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For more information contact Theresa W. Fleming, H&HS Family Readiness Officer, at 252-466-2653 or email theresa.fleming@usmc.mil.

► Havelock Chili Festival

The 30th Annual Havelock Chili Festival and Big Boy Toy Show will be held at Walter B. Jones Park Oct. 14 - 15. The festival kicks off at 5 p.m. Oct. 14 with opening ceremonies and will include live entertainment, a chicken wing competition and chili verde cook-off competition. The second day will include possible entertainment by Carolina Strut, Havelock Community Band, Newport Dance Dept., Cold Biscuit band. There will also be a red chili cook-off, booth competition and salsa competition. If you would like to participate in the planning of the Havelock Chili Festival, the committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Havelock Tourist and Event Center.

For more information, call the Havelock Chamber of Commerce at 447-1101 or go online to <http://www.havelockchamber.org>.

► New Bern Mumfest

The 31st annual Mumfest will be held in New Bern, N.C., October 8 - 9. Mumfest fills the streets of historic downtown New Bern from the waterfront at Union Point Park to the gardens at Tryon Palace with music and entertainment including a Corvette Racing Tour and a King BMX Stunt Show. Stage entertainment this year features Susannah and Uncle John. Back by popular demand are local favorites, Conch Stew and New Diamond Jubilee. Catch the excitement at the amusement park with rides for kids of all ages. Along the streets of downtown New Bern there will be strolling magicians, face painters, fire-eaters and clowns. Union Point Park is the site of the annual trailerable Mumfest Boat Show, maritime and marine exhibits, military vessels, nautical displays and demonstrations.

For more information on Mumfest visit <http://www.Mumfest.com>.

Volunteer Opportunity

The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores is seeking volunteers to help deliver its conservation message.

Anyone interested in joining the volunteer crew is invited to a drop-in volunteer open house, from 9-11 a.m. Saturday. Aquarium staff members and current volunteers will be on hand to talk about the positions available and the benefits of volunteering, and to provide tours of the Aquarium from a volunteer’s perspective.

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.

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 447-2109.

Al-Anon Family Group Meeting

There are Al-Anon family group meetings Tuesdays at 8 p.m. for family 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

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 Matthers at 447-2761.

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.

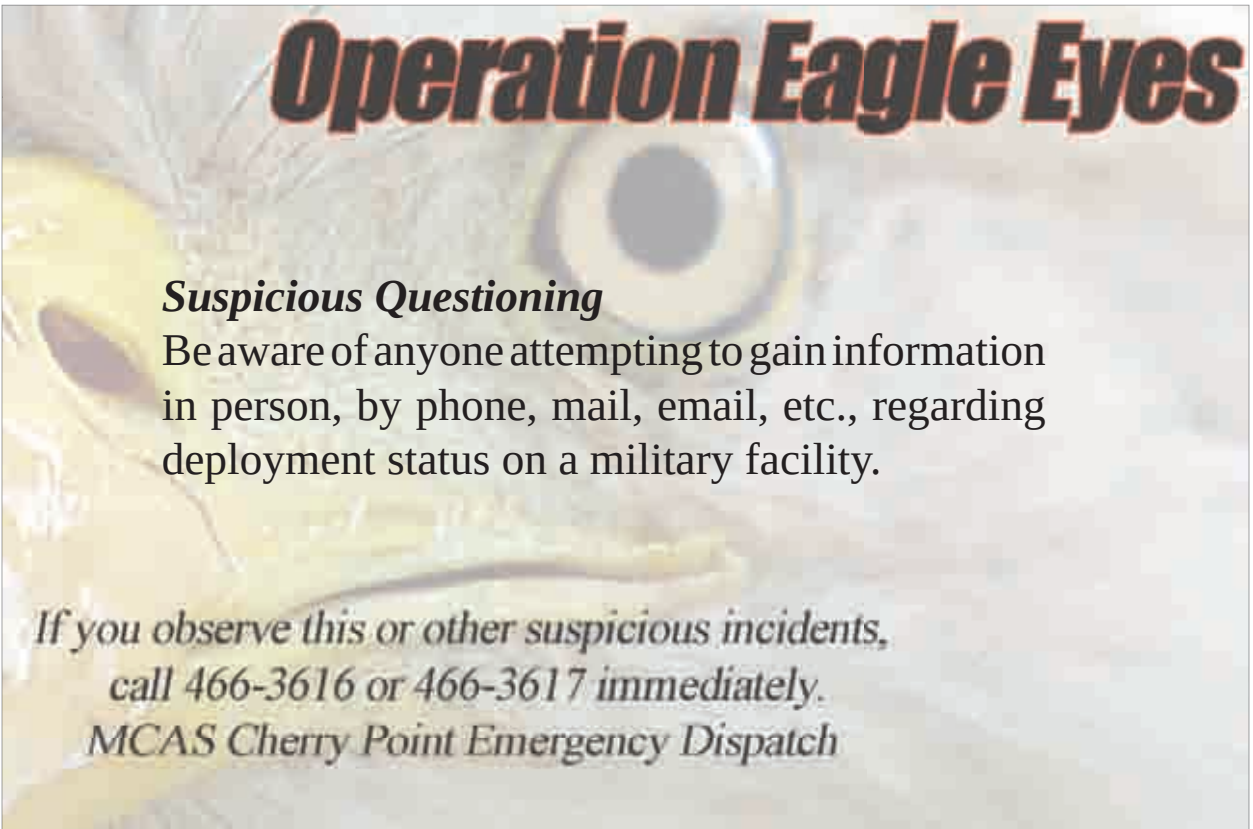
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H&D EXPRESS AKA CITGO
NADINE’S FOOD MART
SUPER EXPRESSWAY
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TOBACCO SHOP & GIFTS
TOBACCO TOWN
TWIN RIVERS (NOT THE MALL)
WHITE SANDS CONVENIENCE STORE

MCB CAMP LEJEUNE AREA

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VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES



Operation Eagle Eyes

Suspicious Questioning

Be aware of anyone attempting to gain information in person, by phone, mail, email, etc., regarding deployment status on a military facility.

If you observe this or other suspicious incidents, call 466-3616 or 466-3617 immediately.

MCAS Cherry Point Emergency Dispatch

Lifeline: Marine KC-130Js resupply the fight in Afghanistan

CPL. JUSTIN BOLING
2ND MAW (FWD)

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — When supplies run thin at forward operating bases peppering the Helmand River valley, reassurance often comes with the strong hum of a Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules.

“Providing aerial resupplies is one of our primary missions,” said Capt. Sergio Luna, a KC-130J Hercules pilot with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152. “We have been flying out a lot of supplies and putting a lot of energy into getting ground forces in Afghanistan what they need.”

The counterinsurgency in southwestern Afghanistan relies on U.S. Marines and their coalition partners who live at small outposts among Afghan towns and villages. The Marines patrol village streets assisting Afghan citizens and police forces to operate on their own.

However, these small outposts are often largely cut-off from the outside world and can be difficult to reach by convoy. Marine aviators use the Hercules aircraft to drop supplies by parachute, allowing ground troops to stay in the fight with water, food and ammunition.

“I feel that the most important factor of conducting aerial resupplies is the fact you are saving lives,” said Lance Cpl. Shane Johnson, a Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 loadmaster, and native of Green Bay, Wis. “We are giving supplies to those who need them and keeping motor transportation Marines on the ground from being put into harm’s way.”

In addition to being immune to the threat of improvised explosive devices that could hinder a ground supply convoy’s progress, aerial drops deliver supplies faster without limitation from geographical obstacles.

“Our KC-130J is excellent for delivering large amounts of supplies quickly to where they are needed most,” said Luna, a native of Redmond, Wash. “We can get to areas and perform drops at speeds and places convoys can only dream about.”

The KC-130J Hercules is the largest aircraft in the Marine Corps arsenal. The propeller-driven, fixed-wing behemoth is the latest iteration of an airframe the U.S. military has relied on for more than 50 years.

The Marine Corps uses the Hercules for troop and supply transport throughout southwestern Afghanistan, as well as battlefield illumination during coalition night operations. The KC-130J also serves as an aerial

refueling platform for Marine Attack Squadron 513’s AV-8B Harrier attack jets.

KC-130J support in Afghanistan comes from a combined unit made up of three Marine aerial refueler transport squadron’s detachments from Miramar, Calif.; Okinawa, Japan; and Cherry Point, N.C.

Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, out of Cherry Point, currently serves as the command element for the deployed detachment. The Cherry Point troops work daily with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 Marines, deployed from Okinawa.

Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, deployed from Miramar, operates the specially equipped Harvest HAWK KC-130J, which in addition to typical Hercules duties, is also capable of providing close-air support with its advanced targeting system and air-to-ground missiles.

“This is a great opportunity for us to demonstrate that we are a team. We deliver supplies to all those fighting the insurgency,” said Luna.

The ability to move life-sustaining supplies safely and efficiently keeps Marines on the ground fighting. The Marines of the aerial refueler transport squadron said they understand the importance of their missions, and use the strength of the Hercules to get the supplies and equipment to where they are needed most.

“We can load up to 30,000 pounds of water and other supplies, which can be lifted and delivered to our forces on the ground in a single drop,” said Johnson. “I have been on more drops than I can count. I cannot even begin to imagine the amount of stuff that we have given to troops and will continue to get them in the future.”

A latch holds cargo in a Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules in the skies of Afghanistan, Sept. 5. The Hercules is capable of carrying more than 30,000 pounds of supplies to help ground forces maintain the fight against the enemy.

Marines with 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) and Marine aerial refueler transport squadrons deployed in support of NATO International Security Assistance Force operations load cargo onto a KC-130J Hercules at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Sept. 5. The Marines conducted an aerial drop to re-supply ground troops with necessary supplies of ammunition, food, and water.



STAFF SGT. JAMES RICHARDSON



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Staff Sgt. Douglas Acero, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 avionics technician and Sugarland, Texas, native, was three days away from graduating boot camp when the Twin Towers fell on 9/11. Ten years later, he's in Afghanistan supporting Marines on the ground by helping maintain his squadron's AV-8B Harriers.

Towers and tours: *Avionics Marine reflects on post-9/11 career*

PFC. SEAN DENNISON
2ND MAW (FWD)

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — When Douglas Acero was turning his M-16A2 rifle to the armory at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., the world changed.

“Something was wrong,” said Acero, now a Marine staff sergeant who serves with Marine Attack Squadron 513 as an AV-8B Harrier avionics technician. “We could all tell something was wrong.”

The day was Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001. Acero would graduate from Marine Corps recruit training the following Friday.

“Our senior drill instructor rolled out the TV in front of us,” said Acero, a native of Sugarland, Texas. “We witnessed for the first time what was going on in the world. I’ll never forget the faces of my platoon members.”

Many staff noncommissioned officers such as Acero were thrust into the post 9/11

Marine Corps. Most, like Acero, remember how they felt that tragic day.

“It was a lot to take in at a young age,” said Acero. I thought to myself, ‘This is what you signed up for, now it’s happening, and what are you going to do about it?’”

While Acero cites 9/11 as a major factor in his decision to continue his service for more than 10 years, his desire to be a Marine dates back to his adolescence.

“Ever since I was a kid I wanted to join the military,” he said. “In 7th grade I saw a Marine in Dress Blues come to pick up his son. It stuck out to me.”

Acero got his first taste of war in 2003, when he sailed the Persian Gulf aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard with Marine Attack Squadron 311 as part of the initial force that deployed to Iraq.

Ten years after 9/11, Acero finds himself once again in hostile territory helping to support 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) in Helmand and Nimruz provinces.

“America still has a society that is willing to fight for its rights and protect their home,” Acero said. “There are plenty of fighting men and women out there.”

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205 Mellen Road ~ \$289,000
Relax on large screen porch. Private back yard and woods beyond. Lovely open split plan with beautiful newly refinished hardwood floors in LR, DR & Kitchen. Full of light, palladium windows in bedrooms. Large bonus room with full bath upstairs. All bedrooms are of a good size and have new carpeting.
MLS#76743 Connie Sithens 252-474-4054



1238 Pine Valley Drive ~ \$239,900
In GREENBRIER. From the time you enter, you know this is a very special home - 18X25 Great Room w/Custom F/P & looks out to the private back yard & deck. Many extras, Oversized Double Garage, Close to everything! .50 Acre!
MLS#77364 Johnnie Bunting 252-671-0414



4304 Rivershore Drive ~ \$212,500
3BR/2BA Picture Perfect setting. Screened back porch and deck, large back yard, covered front porch for relaxing, corner double lot, minutes to Cherry Pt. Brick FP in family room, spacious rooms, loads of curb appeal.
MLS#82684 Kelly Latimer 252-649-4620



309 East Rock Creek Road ~ \$184,900
Custom 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath home. Enjoy your own private retreat on 1.3 acres! Boat access to Trent River. Call to see this unique home!
MLS#80771 Angela Jovanovich 252-474-5627



5206 Moye Road ~ \$175,000
In the heart of Trent Woods and surrounded by tall pines! This home offers 2 Principal BR/BA's with walk-in closets and 2 additional BR's. Large living spaces, separate formal dining and laundry with cabinets. Eat-in kitchen with center island. Newer hot water heater. \$5000 buyer closing costs.
MLS#79202 Darlene Boyd 252-617-7315



304 Louisia Mae Way ~ \$159,900
New quality 3BR/2BA home with covered front & rear porches. Ceiling fans & lights in all bedrooms plus FR and rear porch. MBR has glass door to porch, lge. WIC & bath with garden tub & wide 2 bowl vanity. FR has cath. ceil with gas FP & area above for TV. Chair rail all open areas. FP & HW is nat. gas.
MLS#79770 Pam Baumgardner 252-626-3721



3604 Delesa Court ~ \$154,900
Great floor plan, Large living room w/Cathedral ceiling, 4BR/2BA, Eat-in kitchen w/granite counter tops, Upstairs Loft can be used as 4th bedroom, separate laundry room, Covered front porch and 10x10 patio.
MLS#82010 Pam Baumgardner 252-626-3721



1713 A&B Spencer Avenue ~ \$125,000
NEW ROOF SHINGLES being INSTALLED On House- Cute Little 2 BR, 1 BA Bungalow with new appliances, freshly painted inside, new heat pump. Live in main house and rent out the 1 bedroom garage apartment behind house. Garage apartment also has new appliances, window A/C, and storage downstairs.
MLS#82634 Aaron (Pete) Mallard 252-670-1621



824 Airport Road ~ \$114,000
Take a look at this one! Great 3 bedroom home for you or as an investment. New Roof! Low Taxes! Brinson School! Call to See!
MLS#81429 Angela Jovanovich 252-474-5627

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127 St. Gallen Court ~ \$335,000
Enjoy maintenance-free living on your screen porch overlooking Taberna's 1st tee. Spacious home with granite countertops in kitchen, gas fireplace in living room, bright Carolina Room, ceiling fans throughout, convenient to historic New Bern & MCAS. Building exterior and landscape maint. included.
MLS#80035 Connie Sithens 252-474-4054



1899 Jack Rabbit Lane ~ \$325,000
Perfect family home with room to grow! Two principal suites; 1 up and 1 down easily accommodates in-laws. Formal Living and Dining Room; eat in kitchen with counter seating; wet bar; FROG; separate laundry. Large corner lot with fenced back yard for privacy. Nursery/office off principal BR upstairs.
MLS#80788 Darlene Boyd 252-617-7315



422 Johnson Street ~ \$279,900
Approx. 374 sq guest/rental cottage in back. Both houses have been renovated, surrounded by a great landscaped courtyard w/a drip irrigation system for the plants. Has a sitting room off the Master BR with a walk in closet. This is a unique historic property that has been featured on the Ghost Walk.
MLS#82330 Jack Morton, Jr. 252-259-4736



214 Lake Tyler Drive ~ \$259,900
Great New Construction! 5BR/3BA, 5th bedroom is a FROG. Upgrades Galore! Eat-in Kitchen with granite countertops, custom Cabinets, and Appliances. Screened in Porch. PLUS MUCH MORE!
MLS#79643 Johnnie Bunting 252-671-0414



107 Biel Lane ~ \$209,900
Built by Monnier Custom Homes. Large eat-in kitchen plus formal dining room. Split bedroom plan. All appliances convey. Home Warranty. Brand new hardwood flooring & new designer colors throughout! Truly ready to move into!
MLS#70736 Bob Bartram 252-636-7313



122 Finch Lane ~ \$204,900
Immaculate 3BR/2BA home with FROG. Berber carpet in family room and fire place w/gas logs. Lots of shade trees on this lot. NO CITY TAXES! Tideland EMC for electric.
MLS#81646 Aaron (Pete) Mallard 252-670-1621



220 Monterey Circle ~ \$169,900
This 3 bedroom 2 bath renovated house looks brand new with all new carpet, paint & Carolina Room w/heat & air. Kitchen w/new counter tops. Large 2 car garage. New water heater, very large back yard completely fenced w/new 6 foot privacy fence.
MLS#82605 Bob Bartram 252-636-7313



588 Godette School Road ~ \$162,000
3BR/2BA in great condition. Open floor plan with large kitchen, plenty of space, breakfast area, huge living room with fireplace. Master bath with double sinks as well as guest bath. Large back yard with privacy fence. Washer/Dryer convey. Great price! Seller very motivated!
MLS#82496 Deborah Shirk 252-665-0605



204 Stadler Drive ~ \$150,000
3BR/2BA home with quiet living. Stainless Steel appliances, dining area, tile, nice sized living room with gas fireplace, skylight and fenced backyard. Motivated seller!
MLS#82666 Deborah Shirk 252-665-0605



301 Fairmount Way ~ \$149,900
A Beautiful Maintenance Free home/covered front porch/rear concrete patio and privacy fence around backyard. Cathedral ceilings in Living Room and Dining Room. Master bedroom has a large walk in closet.
MLS#82914 Jack Morton, Jr. 252-259-4736



536 McLawhorn Lane ~ \$105,000
Nice 4BR/3BA Double-Wide on perm foundation. Split floor plan with large living spaces. Covered front porch and back deck. Needs a little TLC! County taxes and Progress Energy! Third party approval required.
MLS#82861 Darlene Boyd 252-617-7315



331 Longleaf Drive ~ \$64,000
New painted interior & new carpeting in this spacious 3BR/2BA double wide home. Back deck for gatherings, attractive fireplace in living room, kitchen, dining room combination and cathedral ceilings. Nice large wooded setting! Bank to put in new heat pump and appliances before closing.
MLS#82750 Kelly Latimer 252-649-4620

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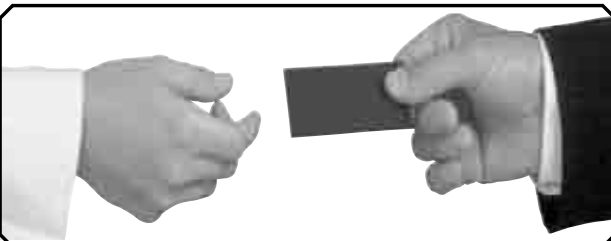
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1508 FAIRFAX LANE (CULDESAC) 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex with garage. All major appliances, washer and dryer. Application fee required. Pets okay with applicable fees. \$725/month. (252)229-0076

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH 1704 High Street. No inside pets. \$850 per month. Call (252) 633-6630

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH BRICK RANCH 1400sq.ft. 2402 N. Hills Dr. (behind old Employment Security Commission), New Bern. No smoking. No pets. \$825/month. (252)259-6571 or 635-5296

3/2 HISTORIC SPACIOUS Nice kitchen, fenced yard, lease & deposit, \$1075. 252-635-7052

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