

2nd MAW squadrons head to desert

LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY
MCAS CHERRY POINT

Two 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing helicopter squadrons departed Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Nov. 12 and 18 for Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. to endure Enhanced Mojave Viper 2-12.

The two squadrons are part of approximately 12 units under command element Marine Aircraft Group 26 out of MCAS New River, N.C., and the units range from battalion-sized elements to a Marine Wing Support Squadron, said Maj. Chris Kotlinski, EMV coordinator for MAG-26.

Located in the deserts of Southern California, the three-week training evolution is considered to be the closest environment to what Marines and Sailors will face in Afghanistan making MCAGCC Twentynine Palms an ideal venue.

“An advantage of having EMV in MCAGCC Twentynine Palms is that it is a multipurpose live-fire range, providing squadrons the opportunity to conduct air-ground fire integration training with other units deploying to Afghanistan,” said Kotlinski.

The training gives the Marines from MCAS Cherry Point and MCAS New River an opportunity to train in an environment not found on the east coast, explained Maj. Brian Taylor, executive officer of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 366, one of the two squadrons that left recently for EMV.

The primary mission of the training is to put Marines in combat oriented situations that include live-fires, coalition level

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LANCE CPL. SCOTT S. TOMASZYCKI
Capt. Jon C. Banks, an EA-6B pilot, shares his first kiss in months with his wife, Deborah, in front of their children, Magnolia and Amalia, on the MCAS Cherry Point flightline when Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 4 returned from Afghanistan Nov. 16.

VMAQ-4 returns home: ICAP III proves critical to fight in Afghanistan

LANCE CPL. SCOTT S. TOMASZYCKI
MCAS CHERRY POINT

Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 4 Marines returned to MCAS Cherry Point from Afghanistan Nov. 16 bringing a close to the historic first Marine deployment of the EA-6B Increased Capability III aircraft.

“We were the very first ICAP III Prowler squadron to go into Afghanistan,” said Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Bates II, VMAQ-4 sergeant major. “We had a few kinks that we worked out but, for the most part, everything went well for the new jets we received about a year ago. They allowed us to go over there and provide support that was needed that had not been provided before.”

Since its introduction to the fleet in the 1970s, the EA-6B Prowler aircraft has been upgraded several times to maintain viability in the ever-changing environment of electronic warfare.

“The ICAP III has improved the Prowler’s capability against the latest generation of radars deployed by our adversaries throughout the world,” said Kirsti Dunn, a representative of Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, developer of the Prowler. “The ICAP III upgrade provides rapid detection, precise classification and highly accurate geo-location of electronic emissions such as radars.”

VMAQ-4 aircraft were not placed in their conventional role, but they did put their abilities to use.

“The Prowler itself was designed to protect aircraft from integrated air defense systems, which Afghanistan does not have,” said Maj. Stephen D. Driskill, the squadron’s operations officer. “Since deploying we have adjusted to support the ground

See VMAQ-4 page A7

VMAQ-1 receives coveted Phoenix Award

LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY
MCAS CHERRY POINT

For the past year Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 1 has set itself apart within the Department of Defense maintenance field. VMAQ-1 received the coveted Phoenix Maintenance Award, the highest of six annual maintenance honors presented by the Secretary of Defense.

“I can’t think of a reason why they wouldn’t deserve it,” said Master Sgt. Gary Ewell, the avionics chief at Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14, and one of three recipients who accepted the award for VMAQ-1 while the squadron is still deployed in Afghanistan. “Everyone in the unit put forth a lot of effort and a lot of time.”

“What sets them apart is their maintenance mentality,” said Master Sgt. Charles Brice an aircraft maintenance chief with MALS-14 that was previously assigned to VMAQ-1, and the second Marine to accept the award on VMAQ-1’s behalf. “The Marine Corps is always ‘get the job done at any cost’ but for VMAQ-1 it’s always by the book and they combined both of those mentalities to get the job done while making sure they crossed all the T’s and dotted all the I’s while having the flexibility to get it done fast.”

According to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Program recognizes outstanding achievements by field-level

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LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY
Sgt. Maj. Scott D. Grade, left, and Sgt. Maj. Christopher J. Campbell stand before the commanding officer of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2 during VMU-2’s relief and appointment ceremony Nov. 18.

VMU-2 welcomes new sergeant major: ‘I’m here, my family’s here – we’re ready to work’

LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY
MCAS CHERRY POINT

Since Nov. 28 of 2008 Sgt. Maj. Christopher J. Campbell has carried on Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2’s proud legacy with hard work and determination. It is his time now to pass the torch.

“I feel that this unit is well trained, I trust them with my life and I look forward to them watching over me when I’m forward with my next unit,” said Campbell, who relinquished his post as VMU-2 sergeant major Nov. 18.

Campbell will move to 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment at Camp Lejeune.

“I’ll be going from the one who provides overwatch and keeping my fellow Marines safe - to needing overwatch. I trust the Marines at VMU-2 to keep me and my future Battalion safe.”

Campbell said he wanted to be remembered by his old unit as someone who was able to teach, be it junior, senior enlisted Marines or officers.

“My goal here has been to be a conduit

See VMU-2 page A7

Corps’ first F35B Lightning II squadron posts new senior enlisted advisor

LANCE ANDREA CLEOPATRA DICKERSON
MCAS CHERRY POINT

Sgt. Maj. David R. Stocks assumed command of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing’s Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501, also known as the “Warlords” during a relief and appointment ceremony at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Nov. 7.

The squadron made history last year when it became the first Marine Corps Joint Strike Fighter squadron.

During the ceremony, Stocks received the sword of office from Sgt. Maj. Bonnie Skinner. She was with the squadron last year when they became and the first Marine Corps squadron embedded in an Air Force wing. She was the squadron’s first sergeant major.

“I learned so much being with the Warlords, from the F-35 program, to working as a Marine unit in a joint environment, and learning the different avenues of approach in seeking support on an Air Force base,” said Skinner.

Skinner will now assume the post of

sergeant major of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

“My advice to the new sergeant major is to continue working daily with the good joint relations between the Marines and 33rd Fighter Wing as well as the base and all supporting establishments on it,” said Skinner.

She went on to say, “I believe you need the right type of person to serve as the senior enlisted advisor in this type of joint environment and program. It is my belief that Sgt. Maj. Stocks is a perfect fit for the unit and will do a tremendous job!”

Stocks grew up in the Marine Corps as an aviation ground support technician and served at various duty stations including MCAS Cherry Point, El Toro, Calif, and MCAS Miramar, Calif.

“I was the plankowner sergeant major for a little over two years,” said Skinner.

Campbell added she will never forget what she learned while with the squadron,

See F35B page A7

Airline Safety Tips

Did you know?

...Fly on nonstop routings: Most airliner accidents happen during the take-off, climb, descent, and landing phase of flight, so the easiest way to reduce your chance of getting in an accident is to take fewer flights. If you have a choice, and there isn’t much difference in price, flying nonstop would not only reduce exposure to the most accident prone phases of flight, but it will probably take quite a bit of time off your trip too.

...Keep your seat belt fastened while you are seated: Keeping the belt on when you are seated provides that extra protection you might need to help you avoid injuries from flight turbulence.

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Country stars come to
Cherry Point

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for story and
photos



With your smartphone
download a QR code reader
and scan the code.

Chaplain's Corner :

A thankful person tastes joy twice

Lt. JAMES C. RAGAIN

MAG-14

I love Thanksgiving! I could celebrate several times a year as far as I'm concerned. True Thanksgiving has a multiplying effect. Pastor Martha Rowlett writes, "It has been said that a thankful person tastes joy twice ... Once when it happens, and again when gratitude is expressed to God for the joy." Did you know that President James Madison declared the celebration of Thanksgiving twice in the year 1815? I don't know why he chose to do this. Was he a devout man who wanted to honor God? Or did he just like a good party?

God instituted the observance of Thanksgiving nearly 3,000 years ago. From the book of Deuteronomy (chapter 26:1-11), God's first instruction to the Hebrew people was to give thanks. Not for what God had done for them in the past, but what God was going to do for them in the future. God instructs the Hebrew people to make an offering of the first fruits of their new land: the first harvest. This is an exercise in faith. What if there isn't a second harvest? What if drought or flood or pestilence comes along and destroys their crops? By requiring an offering of the Hebrews' first fruits, God is telling them to trust that he will provide for them in the future. True faith means telling God "Thank You!" first, and then watching for God's blessings to come later.

The second instruction to the Hebrew people was to give thanks for God's goodness in the past. That sounds easy. Thank God for what he has done for you ... unless, of course, you've had a very bad year. Let's be honest. It's difficult at this point in time for some of us to give thanks. And yet, think about the history of the Hebrew people. Their life was

no picnic. There was challenge upon challenge. Why did God want them to dredge up painful memories of slavery and oppression and homelessness? For some people, a walk down Memory Lane required picking their way through an emotional minefield. How can we give thanks for our memories when so many of them are so painful? However, the most successful people I know are people who are able to see hardships as an opportunity for God to bless them. The life of faith says that even the hardest times can be times of growth and times of redemption.

And the final instruction God gives to the Hebrew people is to thank God for the present. How? By rejoicing! After you have given back to God, after you have remembered God's guidance in the past, leave the altar and go home rejoicing. In other words, get happy! Have a party! And don't just keep the party to yourself. Invite others to share in your joy. Let them see how much fun it is to live a faith-filled, God-honoring life. Joy is contagious, so spread it around. Give others something to thank God for, too. You never know whose life will be touched, whose perspective will be changed, by this simple act of thanksgiving.

To remember is to be thankful. And to be thankful is to taste joy twice. I challenge you this Thanksgiving to tell the story of this past year of your life. As you tell it, focus on the positive. Focus on how God has guided you and provided for you. Remember what God brought you through this past year. Remember God's promise that he has a "future and a hope" for you. And I invite you this Thanksgiving to rejoice "in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and to your household." Happy Thanksgiving!

Tell us what you think

Let us know what types of alerts you would like to see posted on the official 2nd MAW/MCAS Cherry Point Facebook and Twitter pages. Complete our Weather Alert Survey at <http://on.fb.me/WeatherAlertSurvey>. Please voice your opinion and help us help you.

Celebrating 100 years of Marine Corps aviation



OFFICIAL USMC PHOTO

This picture was taken at a "press day" for civilian news media in 1957 at the Training and Test Regiment at Marine Corps Base Quantico to show the training officer candidates receive. The vertical envelopment concept was demonstrated on a larger than average scale when this HR2S helicopter delivered its load of candidates. According to www.globalsecurity.org, this model of helicopter was first developed to meet the Marine Corps' need for a large assault helicopter.

The Windsock

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COMMANDING OFFICER
MCAS CHERRY POINT
COL. PHILIP J. ZIMMERMAN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
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PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF
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PRESS OFFICER
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PRESS CHIEF
SGT. LISA R. STRICKLAND

EDITORS
CPL. TYLER J. BOLKEN
CPL. SANTIAGO G. COLON JR.
STACEY R. SWANN

STAFF WRITERS
CPL. SAMANTHA A. ARRINGTON
LANCE CPL. ANDREA DICKERSON
LANCE CPL. CORY D. POLOM
LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY
LANCE CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI



LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

PFC. MICHAEL HURST

Job Title: Flightline mechanic
Age: 21
Unit: Marine Transport Squadron 1
Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.
Date Joined: March 7, 2011

Lance Cpl. Michael Hurst is a flightline mechanic with Marine Transport Squadron 1.

Hurst described his job as one of the Marines that keeps the Helicopters on Cherry Point flying.

"My favorite part is just getting to be hands-on for everything," said Hurst. "I never saw myself sitting behind a desk all day."

Hurst explained that some of the difficult aspects of his job are remembering and learning everything that goes into replacing and repairing aircraft engines.

"This entire job is kind of hard," said Hurst. "There's a lot to learn and it takes time and experience."

Hurst works primarily on the HH-46E Sea Knight, also known as "Pedro," which is the same aircraft that responds MCAS Cherry Point and surrounding-area emergencies.

"If one of the Harriers or Prowlers goes down, we are the crew that keeps the search and rescue helicopters ready to fly," said Hurst.

"We are kind of the gears that keep everything going."

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.

Marines upgrade digital communications in Afghanistan



CPL. JUSTIN BOLING

Cpl. Kayla Erianne, a field radio operator, helps her Marines pull tape through conduit being placed underground for fiber optic cable at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Nov. 3. Erianne, from Bridgeton, N.J., helped to lead the Marines of Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28 to complete a fiber optic upgrade at Camp Dwyer. The upgrade will bring more durable and reliable communications to the units in southwestern Afghanistan.

CPL. JUSTIN BOLING

2ND MAW(FWD)

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan — Coalition troops at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, now have better communications thanks to the nonstop efforts of a small detachment of Marines.

A detachment of fewer than 100 Marines from Marine Wing Communication Squadron 28 worked for the past few months to upgrade communications at the forward operating base.

Camp Dwyer serves as a base of operations for Regimental Combat Team 5 and elements from 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) in southern Helmand province.

Regimental Combat Team 5 serves under 2nd Marine Division (Forward), the ground combat element of Marine Corps forces in southwestern Afghanistan. The Wing is the aviation combat element for the southwestern re-

gional command of the NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

Prior to upgrading to fiber optic cable, Camp Dwyer relied on tactical data wires for its communications. These wires were set above the ground where they could be easily damaged, potentially interrupting communications.

Moving the entire system underground safeguards communications between Camp Dwyer and other units operating throughout the Helmand province, as they conduct counterinsurgency operations, the communications squadron's Marines said.

"We provide the communication for the medical evacuation teams to be able to coordinate to save soldiers' and Marines' lives," explained Cpl. Kayla Erianne, a radio operator with the Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28 detachment. "We're also the ones that provide the morale lines back to the States, so that you are able to hear your loved ones' voices and know that they're OK.

"We are taking everyone off the old tactical wire network and putting them on a commercial network that is more similar to what you would see back in the States," said 1st Lt. Darnell Billups, the wire platoon commander for the detachment, and a native of Philadelphia. "This allows equipment to survive a lot longer."

Marines from many different specialties came together to install the 60 miles of fiber optic cable that will allow for improved data and voice communications for the Camp Dwyer troops.

"The fact that we were able to do this in such short order and train here to become experts is directly due to the hard work of our sergeants and corporals," said Billups.

"Since we have been here we have been working up to this," said Erianne, a native of Bridgeton, N.J. "I was only recently promoted to corporal and this was my first real chance to lead Marines. I have learned a ton every day, and it has made me a better leader."

Country music

comes to Cherry Point



CPL. SAMANTHA H. ARRINGTON

Lauren Alaina sings during the third annual Guitar Pull at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point theater, Nov. 16. The Guitar Pull was hosted by Marine Corps Community Services in partnership with local country music station, WRNS.



CPL. SAMANTHA H. ARRINGTON

The station color guard waits to present the Marine Corps flag for the singing of the national anthem by Lauren Alaina during the third annual Guitar Pull at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point theater, Nov. 16.



CPL. SAMANTHA H. ARRINGTON

Jack Ingram and Kellie Pickler speak to the third annual Guitar Pull audience at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point theater, Nov. 16.



CPL. SAMANTHA H. ARRINGTON

The audience gives a standing ovation to Lauren Alaina after singing the national anthem during the third annual Guitar Pull at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point theater, Nov. 16.

CPL. SAMANTHA A. ARRINGTON
MCAS CHERRY POINT

Marines, Sailors and members of the local community gathered at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point theater for a free country music concert, Nov. 16.

"This is so exciting. I saw Jack Ingram at the first concert we had here a few years ago," said Lori A. Crawford, the protocol officer for MCAS Cherry Point. "I'm looking forward to seeing him play again."

The third annual concert was hosted by Marine Corps Community Services in partnership with local country music radio station, 95.1 WRNS. The concert featured artists Kellie Pickler, Jack Ingram, Steve Holy, Josh Thompson, Lauren Alaina and Bill Gentry.

"This is great. I come from a military family, my grandpa was in the Marines," said Bill Gentry. "We'll come back anytime ya'll will have us."

Lauren Alaina opened the show to more than 1,800 fans by singing the national anthem.

"It's great to be here," said Lauren. "I'm a big supporter of our military."

Similar to the last two concerts held at the theater, seating was first-come, first-served. Fans began lining up for a chance at the best seats more than 3

hours before showtime.

"We want to try and bring a little bit of home to our service members," said Kellie Pickler, known for her song "Red high heels." "This, as always, is the least that we can do to give back to the people who give so much to us."

MCCS officials have stated that a fourth annual country music concert is being planned for next year.



CPL. SAMANTHA H. ARRINGTON

Kellie Pickler and a child who came up from the crowd, peer at the jubilant audience at the station theater.



CPL. SAMANTHA H. ARRINGTON

Josh Thompson sings the final song during the third annual Guitar Pull audience at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point theater, Nov. 16. "I'm glad to be here," said Thompson. "This is my first time on a military base and I love it, this is great."



CPL. SAMANTHA H. ARRINGTON

Kellie Pickler sings during the third annual Guitar Pull at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point theater, Nov. 16. "We're excited to be here," said Pickler. "It's kind of like bringing a little piece of home to our service members."

Squadrons work to improve for next deployment



LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Brian T. Lopez, a Strike Fighter Squadron 94 aviation machinist mate, takes apart straps in preparation for VFA-94, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12's departure from the Andersen Air Force Base flightline in Guam Oct. 30. The squadrons conducted a variety of training, ranging from ordnance drops to banner shoots off the coast of Guam.

LANCE CPL. KENNETH K. TROTTER JR.

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 and Strike Fighter Squadron 94 wrapped up training in Guam Oct. 28, as part of monthlong training in the region.

The overall focus of the exercise was to promote mission readiness as put forth by Maj. Gen. William D. Beydler, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding officer.

This was achieved by improving proficiency and efficiency in aerial combat, and ordnance loading.

“Our mission here is to be ready to execute at a high level and fight and win,” said Lt. Col. Matthew H. Phares, VMFA-115 commanding officer. “This has been a great training opportunity for us to be ready to (accomplish) our mission.”

While here, VMFA-115 and VFA-94 performed various training exercises, ranging from aerial banner shoot outs, rocket training and live ordnance drops on an uninhabited island off the coast.

Approximately 190,000 pounds of ordnance and 16,000 rounds of ammunition were expended by both squadrons during the course of the exercise.

The experience of working alongside another squadron also allowed for the increased opportunities in training and mission readiness, said Phares.

“It gives us the ability to get more (aircraft) airborne at the same time, which allows us to build large-force exercises and get large-scale training; the type of missions we would fly in combat,” said Phares. “We’re replicating as close to real combat here with those exercises.”

The squadrons were able to accomplish this through the support of MALS-12.

MALS-12 played a role in providing logistical support to both squadrons as they went about their training by keeping a steady flow of parts for the squadrons’ F/A-18s.

“We’re working to ensure they have their (aircraft) parts

as soon as possible,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Glenn D. Baker, MALS-12 detachment staff noncommissioned officer in charge. “Our (commanding officer’s) intent is to have zero non-mission capable aircraft and by us keeping the aircraft flying we meet his intent.”

The concept of one team, one fight resonated throughout the entire month as the squadrons worked with the Air Force, providing the means to conduct their training at a moment’s notice, but it went much deeper than that for some.

“We’re more than ‘one team, one fight’; we’re one family,” said Master Sgt. William E. Hetrick Jr., VMFA -115 aircraft maintenance chief. “That’s the one thing (we) take away from working as close as we do with VFA-94 and MALS-12. It’s great to see what others do day-in and day-out.”

That ground-level approach to working together allowed the squadrons to understand one another and how they accomplish their goals while training.

“We learned a few different things from each other as we’ve helped each other while out here,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Elizabeth Nunez, VFA-94 aviation ordnanceman.

The experience of working in a joint environment, coupled with the need to improve various skill sets for all three squadrons, was one of the main concerns for service members for whom this is their first deployment.

“The experience, whether it’s good or bad, if they can put this in their toolbox and set themselves up for success down the road, then this was a successful exercise,” said Hetrick.

November will be busy for the squadrons as they will have a short amount of time to train and prepare their personnel and aircraft to return to Guam and start training once more.

The experience of training in Guam will be essential to the squadrons’ continued success as they prepare to return to Guam, which they are slated to do in December to continue their training.

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integration and urban operations to prepare service members for operational force readiness.

“Each unit provides a critical role in the safe and successful completion of EMV 2-12,” said Kotlinski. “This holds true for every Marine Air-Ground Task Force operation, including those being conducted in Afghanistan.”

In addition to the field training, there is a fair amount of classroom work and planning before the execution of missions during the three-week EMV, said Taylor.

“This provides an opportunity for Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 to ensure that we are ready as a Marine heavy helicopter squadron to operate in theater,” Taylor said.

Mojave Viper is the culminating exercise in a squadron’s predeployment training program, ensuring all final preparations are made before deploying.

“This assessment will oversee the squadron’s ability to conduct aviation integration, coordination and tactical execution of core competencies in support of MAGTF missions,” said Kotlinski.

“The biggest piece of EMV is the opportunity to train as a single unit with our counterparts from HMMH-466,” said Taylor. “Working together as a single unit, planning missions, performing aircraft maintenance and functioning as a single squadron in an austere location provides a terrific training opportunity.”

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of the enlisted voice to the commanding officer,” said Campbell. “I wanted to ensure the Marines who were doing the right thing were given all the opportunities needed to succeed.”

Replacing Campbell was Sgt. Maj. Scott D. Grade who came from Marine Air Control Squadron 23, 4th Marine Logistics Group and 4th Marine Aircraft Wing where he acted as the site-support sergeant major.

“I’m very excited to be coming to a unit of this kind of notoriety,” said Grade. “I’m here, my family’s here and we are ready to work.”

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and has faith that the squadron is in good hands.

“Sgt. Maj. Stocks, remember that all the services are different and continue to respect each service, after all, ‘one team, one fight.’ In saying that, stay true to the Marines and to the Marine Corps customs and traditions.”

VMAQ-4 from page A1

force commander, and the ICAP III allows us to improve some of the jammer techniques and situational awareness available to the aircrew, which results in improved support given to the ground force commander, the Marines, soldiers and coalition forces.”

While deployed, the Prowlers conducted non-traditional jamming missions to directly support the ground forces, Driskill said.

“I worked hard and studied a lot, got to fly a great deal and further my experience with the Prowler mission,” said Capt. Jon C. Banks, a pilot with VMAQ-4. “I think the ICAP III makes the Prowler a much more capable asset and used a lot better in theater. It was good to be the first Marine ICAP III Prowler squadron in Operation Enduring Freedom.”

AWARD from page A1

units engaged in military equipment and weapon system maintenance within the DOD.

During 2011, VMAQ-1 supported 590 combat missions totaling 2,293 combat flight hours. The squadron had a 99.8 percent mission completion rate and increased the number of flight hours by 340 percent. Throughout its deployment the unit maintained an 84.9 percent mission capability rate, exceeding all previous deployment records.

“I’ve never been in a better unit in my career. I’m absolutely floored and honored to have been part of the squadron for the two years I was with them,” said Maj. Brandon C. Brooks, an assistant operations officer with Marine Aircraft Group 14, the last of three to accept the award for VMAQ-1. “It’s not my award, it’s not the commanding officer’s award, it’s the Marines’ award. They worked for countless hours, in miserable weather and doing thankless tasks.”

Lastly, VMAQ-1 halved the regular annual cost of ordered components from \$11 million to \$5.8 million.

“They’ve always set the standards high from the time I joined them in 2006 to the time I left,” said Brice. “They always set themselves apart from the other ‘Q’ squadrons. This kind of emphasizes or reinforces the fact that the Marines of VMAQ-1 are a breed apart from the rest of the VMAQ units.”

“I can’t be prouder to accept this award for VMAQ-1,” said Ewell. “If you ask any Marine at Cherry Point about VMAQ-1 they’ll tell you, VMAQ-1 has always been at the top, no matter how many years pass and how much the command changes.”



LANCE CPL. JEN S. MARTINEZ

Marines from 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing accept the Secretary of Defense’s Field-level Maintenance award on behalf of Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 1 Nov. 16, at the Fort Worth Convention Center in Fort Worth Texas. VMAQ-1 later received the DOD highest award for maintenance excellence, the Phoenix Award.

***Thanks to
everyone who
voted for me.
~Robert Gschwind***

Marines set up austere landing zone



Spc. Michelle Lawrence

Sgt. Blake Alvarez, Marine Air Traffic Control Mobile Team air traffic control communication technician, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, sets up a phantom light while creating an austere landing zone at Chabelley Airfield, Djibouti, Oct. 21. Phantom lights are used to mark the ALZ for night operations.

Spc. Michelle Lawrence

COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE - HORN OF AFRICA

CHABELLEY AIRFIELD, Djibouti

— As the sun slowly descended behind the mountains overlooking Chabelley Airfield, Djibouti, a small group of Marines quickly prepared their gear to turn a barren stretch of desert into a makeshift runway.

For the Marine Air Traffic Control Mobile Team, a six-man team from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, homeported at Camp Lejeune, N.C., setting up an austere landing zone in time for an aircraft to safely land is just part of the job.

“We’re marking an airfield so they can have a safe space to land,” said 1st Lt. Brian Taylor, MMT team leader. “It aids the pilots to land within the thresholds and know the distances of how far they have to stop and take off.”

An ALZ provides a visual reference to the location of the airfield and lets pilots know the length of the runway. This allows aircraft such as C-130s carrying personnel and equipment to land anywhere in the world.

According to Sgt. Christopher Bickel, MMT assistant team leader, although an ALZ can be set up almost anywhere 3,000 feet of flat ground can be found, there are other variables that must also be considered.

“There can’t be large potholes in the area,” said Bickel. “Also, if the soil is too loose, the aircraft could skid so we use a dynamic cone penetrometer to find the density of the soil beneath the top layer.”

After identifying a suitable surface for a C-130 to land, the team begins the ALZ set up.

The base Marine ensures there is 300 feet of overrun on each end of the runway as well as usable width. At the same time the base man is measuring, three other Marines are running the length of the runway.

“The ‘pace and chase men’ run down to the 500-foot mark to begin setting up their four panels, two on either side of the runway,” said Bickel. “This creates the box which is the target zone for the aircraft to touch down in.”

The third Marine is the reference point and runs to the opposite end of the runway to determine the usable surface.

Once the reference man says, “reference up,” both the reference and the pace Marine hold up panels toward the base. Then the base Marine uses binoculars to line them up.

This guarantees the left side will be a straight line,” said Bickel. “Once that is done, the chase man measures 60 feet from the pace man and nails his panels in. This continues all the way down the rest of the runway.”

According to Bickel, being able to set up an ALZ is crucial in assisting aircraft missions. It allows for troops and gear to be inserted virtually anywhere in the world by C-130 Hercules planes, CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters or many other types of aircraft.

“We provide our commanders the ability to keep the battle line moving forward at a rapid pace,” said Bickel.

Even with the assets to keep the front line moving, setting up an ALZ is no easy

job. Each member of the team is under constant physical strain.

“The hardest part of setting up the ALZ is our reduced mobility caused by running with so much gear,” said Sgt. Travis Ihle, MMT air traffic controller.

According to Ihle, while setting up ALZs, MMT members can carry an average of 40 additional pounds of gear, which includes individual body armor, a Kevlar helmet, a rifle and ammunition, along with the tools and supplies required for set-up.

“Although the reduced mobility is an obstacle,” said Ihle, “The safety benefits of wearing proper personal protection equipment outweigh the hindrance of immobility.”

Despite the heat, heavy gear and coordination involved in setting up an ALZ, having the ability to land a C-130 in the middle of the desert makes their work worthwhile.

“The MMT is irreplaceable,” said Capt. Khalil Guest, a C-130 pilot from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 supporting 22nd MEU.

Happy Thanksgiving Kay's Kitchen recipes



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Roasted turkey

Ingredients

- 1 (12 to 14 pound) whole turkey, completely thawed
- 4 to 6 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 6 cups mesquite or hickory wood chips (optional)
- Good quality charcoal briquettes
- 22-inch kettle-style or other covered charcoal grill

Directions

- Place wood chips or chunks in a large bowl, cover with cold water and soak for 30 minutes to 1 hour. Drain and set aside.
- Apply a thin coating of vegetable oil to the clean grill grate. Set bottom grill vents to the fully open position.
- Place 70 charcoal briquettes on one side of the grill and ignite. Place a drip pan on the opposite side, and place the oiled grill grate into position.
- Allow coals to develop a light coating of gray ash - about 25 to 30 minutes.
- While the grill is heating, prepare the turkey. Remove the giblet package and neck from inside the bird. Check both the neck cavity and body cavity for giblets; often these are stored in both places.
- Pat the turkey dry both inside and out with paper towels. If desired, the turkey may be rinsed inside and out with cold running water before patting dry.
- Trim the excess skin and fat around the neck and body cavities, so juices may drain freely. The tail may also be removed, if desired.
- Brush the skin generously with vegetable oil.
- When the coals are ready, place the turkey, breast-side-down, directly on the grill grate. The turkey should be on the side opposite from the coals and directly over the drip pan.
- Sprinkle 3 cups of the soaked and drained wood chips directly over the hot coals.
- Place the lid on the grill, position the lid vents over the turkey, and open them halfway. Copious amounts of smoke will soon be pouring out of the vents. Don't open the lid - this is normal.
- At the 1-hour mark, remove the lid from the grill. With a thick wad of paper towel in each hand, grasp the turkey, flip it breast-side-up, and turn on the grill grate so that the leg and wing that were facing the coals are now facing away.
- Add 15 briquettes to the hot coals, and sprinkle the remaining half of the soaked and drained wood chips over the fire.
- At the 2-hour mark, remove the grill lid. Using thick wads of paper towel, as before, turn the turkey again so that the leg and wing that were facing the fire are now facing away. The turkey remains breast-side-up.
- Insert an instant-read thermometer into each thigh. If thigh is close to target temperature (175 to 180 Fahrenheit), cover the grill, continue roasting, and check again in about 15 minutes.
- If the temperature is still well below target (145 Fahrenheit or lower), add another 15 briquettes to the coals, cover the grill, and continue roasting for another 45 minutes before checking for doneness again.
- When internal temperature of both thighs reaches 175 to 180 Fahrenheit, remove the turkey from the grill, tent loosely with foil, and let rest for 20 minutes before carving. Expect the finished turkey to be a deep mahogany brown.

Praline sweet potato casserole

Ingredients

- 1 (40-ounce) can sweet potatoes, drained
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs

Topping

- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup pecans, chopped
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 Fahrenheit. Grease a shallow 1 1/2 quart casserole; set aside.
- In a bowl, mash sweet potatoes with a potato masher until relatively smooth.
- Stir in granulated sugar, butter, vanilla, cinnamon, salt and eggs. Spoon into prepared casserole.
- Stir topping ingredients together; sprinkle on potato mixture.
- Bake for 30 minutes or until potato mixture is heated through and topping is lightly browned.

Puerto Rican spiced turkey

Ingredients

- 1 (12 to 14 pound) whole turkey, completely thawed
- 1/4 cup oil (half olive oil/half vegetable oil)
- 2 tablespoons Goya adobo all purpose seasoning
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 2 tablespoons white vinegar
- 12 cloves garlic, crushed (or less to suit your taste)
- 1 tablespoon finely ground pepper
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 2 packets Goya sazón with coriander and annato

Directions

- Combine all spice ingredients in a small bowl.
- Remove giblet pack and neck from completely thawed turkey. Check both the body cavity and neck cavity for these. Rinse the turkey inside and out with cold running water and pat dry with paper towels.
- Thoroughly rub all surfaces of the turkey, including the inside cavity, with the spice mixture.
- Place turkey in a pan, cover tightly with plastic wrap or aluminum foil and refrigerate at least 3 to 4 hours or overnight.
- Preheat oven to 325 Fahrenheit and position oven rack at the lowest setting.
- Place turkey, breast-side-down, in a shallow baking pan. If you have an enameled roaster with a lid that will accommodate the turkey, that's just about perfect. Otherwise, cover the turkey tightly with aluminum foil.
- Roast for a total of 3 to 3 3/4 hours.
- During the final hour of roasting, turn turkey breast-side-up and remove the cover so turkey can brown nicely.
- The turkey is done when a thermometer inserted into the thigh registers 175 to 180 Fahrenheit.
- Remove turkey from the oven, cover loosely with foil to keep warm, and let stand 15 to 20 minutes before carving.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pumpkin pie

Ingredients

- 1 16-ounce can pumpkin
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- Three eggs
- 1 5 1/3 ounce can (2/3 cup) evaporated milk
- 1/2 cup milk
- Pastry for Single-Crust Pie

Directions

- Preheat oven to 375 Fahrenheit.
- In a large mixing bowl combine pumpkin, sugar, spices and 1/2 teaspoon salt.
- Add eggs; with a fork, lightly beat eggs into pumpkin mixture.
- Add the evaporated milk and milk; mix well.
- Pour into a pastry lined 9-inch pie plate; cover edge of piecrust with foil.
- Bake at 375 Fahrenheit for 25 minutes.
- Remove foil, bake for 25 to 30 minutes more, or until knife inserted off-center comes out clean.
- Cool. Cover and chill to store.

Pecan pie

Ingredients

- 3 eggs
- 2/3 cup sugar
- Dash of salt
- 1 cup dark corn syrup
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 cup pecan halves
- Pastry for Single-Crust Pie

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 Fahrenheit.
- In a mixing bowl beat eggs slightly with a fork.
- Add sugar and salt; stir till dissolved.
- Stir in dark corn syrup and melted butter or margarine; mix well.
- Stir in the pecan halves.
- Pour into pastry lined 9-inch pie plate.
- Cover edge of crust with foil.
- Bake at 350 Fahrenheit for 25 minutes.
- Remove foil; bake for 25 minutes more or till knife inserted off-center comes out clean.
- Cool. Cover and chill to store.

CHERRY POINT MESS HALL

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday

Breakfast 6-8 a.m., Lunch 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m.,
Dinner 4-6 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday/Holidays

Breakfast/Lunch 8:30-11:00a.m.,
Dinner 3-5 p.m.

FAST FOOD LINE

Monday-Friday

Breakfast 6-8 a.m., Lunch 11 a.m.-1 p.m.,
Dinner 4-6 p.m.

Breakfast Menu

Assorted fresh fruit, assorted hot and cold cereals, fried eggs and omelets to order, scrambled eggs and hard cooked eggs, grill special, pancakes, French toast or waffles, breakfast potatoes, breakfast meats, creamed beef or sausage gravy, assorted muffins, breads and breakfast pastries

Specialty Bar Menu

- Monday** - Grilled Polish sausage, grilled bratwurst, grilled Italian sausage, grilled frankfurters, rolls, French fries, tater tots, baked beans, corn on the cob, chili, cheese sauce, coleslaw, potato chips, corn chips, pretzels
- Tuesday** - Popcorn shrimp, steamed shrimp, buffalo chicken fritter, grilled chicken strips, sizzlin Caesar salad
- Wednesday** - Beef taco meat, chicken enchiladas, bean burrito, Mexican rice, refried beans, Mexican corn, shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, diced tomatoes, chopped onions, sliced jalapenos, taco shells
- Thursday** - Chinese egg rolls, chilled pineapple chunks, teriyaki beef strips, steamed shrimp, grilled chicken strips, pork fried rice, steamed rice, vegetable lo mein with oyster sauce
- Friday** - Ziti/linguine/fettuccine, spaghetti rigatoni, pasta primavera, lasagna, chicken rotini casserole, baked ziti with four cheeses, penne/rigate/rotini, baked Italian sausage meatballs (ground beef), meat sauce, marinara sauce, alfredo sauce

Weekly Menu

Thursday Nov. 24

Thanksgiving meal served 3-5 p.m.

- Lunch** - Cream of broccoli soup, Jamaican jerk chicken, Creole macaroni, cilantro rice, succotash, balsamic roasted potatoes
- Dinner** - Deviled eggs, roast beef, roast turkey, baked ham, cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes, glazed sweet potatoes, corn, peas w/mushrooms, turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, assorted pies

Friday Nov. 25

- Lunch** - New England clam chowder, maple glazed salmon, turkey pot pie with baking powder biscuits, long grain and wild rice, green beans, cauliflower polonaise
- Dinner** - Turkey vegetable soup, mambo pork roast, lasagna, candied sweet potatoes, marinara sauce, fresh steamed broccoli, Mexican corn

Saturday Nov. 26

- Lunch** - Beef barley and onion soup, vegetable and black bean enchiladas, chicken and broccoli casserole, confetti rice, Spanish-style beans, steamed vegetable medley
- Dinner** - Cream of chicken soup, java molasses pork loin, Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, Lyonnaise potatoes, buttered egg noodles, stewed tomatoes, peas

Sunday Nov. 27

- Lunch** - Vegetable beef supreme soup, baked citrus herb crust fish, fried chicken, brown rice pilaf, red bliss smashed potatoes, cream gravy, green bean casserole corn
- Dinner** - Turkey noodle soup, creamy Cajun shrimp, penne meat loaf, roasted garlic, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, Louisiana-style smothered squash, Okra melange

Monday Nov. 28

- Lunch** - Beef short ribs, chicken/vegetable pasta, steamed rice, roasted zucchini, steamed baby carrots, minestrone soup
- Dinner** - Braised pork chops, turkey meatloaf, buttered egg noodle, islander's rice, Lyonnaise wax beans, broccoli polonaise, brown gravy, chicken gumbo soup

Tuesday Nov. 29

- Lunch** - Salmon with tomato cucumber, relish, chicken fried chicken, rice pilaf, mashed potatoes, sausage gravy, succotash, southern style greens, cream of potatoe soup
- Dinner** - Roast beef, baked ziti with Italian sausage, parsley buttered potatoes, peas, vegetable stir fry, toasted garlic bread, navy bean soup, horseradish sauce

Wednesday Nov. 30

- Lunch** - Santa Fe glazed chicken, baked smoked chicken, southwest orzo pasta, whipped sweet potatoes, corn on the cob, simmered mustard greens, raison sauce, chunky beef noodle soup
- Dinner** - Swedish meatballs, spicy shrimp with cheesy grits, rice pilaf, French fried cauliflower, French cut green beans, brown gravy, chicken noodle soup

From the clinic: Tobacco facts

Can smoking or chewing tobacco affect how I perform in combat? Yes it can! It causes a range of problems that can reduce your fitness for service. Some of these problems include:

- Impairing your night vision. You might not see the enemy before he sees you.
- Making you stink. You can't hide from enemy forces if they can smell you.
- Impairing your body's ability to heal itself. That's help you don't need on the battlefield.
- Sapping your energy and making you short of breath. You can't carry heavy gear and equipment into battle if you're tired and wheezing.

Does smoking really cause impotence? Yes it can! The last two decades of research have shown that tobacco use can cause impotence, and it can worsen impotence caused by other conditions. Impotence, often referred to as erectile dysfunction, is the inability for a man to maintain an erection for sexual purposes. Tobacco use negatively affects blood vessels throughout the body—not just in the heart and arteries, but even in sensitive areas like the eyes and genitals. Other facts include:

- Smoking can more than double your risk of moderate to severe ED.
- Tobacco use is the most common cause of ED for men under 40.

- Risk of impotence increases with the amount of tobacco used and the number of years tobacco has been used. Symptoms can start within the first year.

- Using tobacco reduces the effects of common ED treatments like Viagra and Cialis.

By not using tobacco or by quitting now, you can eliminate this accelerating risk! In fact, improvement in ED symptoms can occur after just 24 hours of tobacco cessation or after 1 month on the nicotine patch. And regaining erectile function after quitting has been found to occur more frequently and more quickly in younger men; so quitting sooner rather than later will improve your chances of resolving ED.

Remember, the longer you use tobacco, the greater the risk of impotence and the more difficult it is to reverse the effects. So the sooner you quit, and the longer you stay smoke-free, the less likely you will be to feel the negative effects of tobacco and impotence.

Does smoking affect my physical performance? Yes it does! You feel strong, you have no problem keeping up with the rest of the troops, so does smoking really make a difference in your physical performance? Well, read on! You might not be feeling it, you might not be seeing it, but you are not per-

forming as well as if you weren't smoking, and there are studies that prove it.

If you smoke, your endurance is not as good as if you quit. Joggers who were light smokers, and smoked for as little as 2 years, had less endurance than those who didn't smoke. Compared to men who didn't smoke, those who smoked had worse outcomes in the length of exercise, maximum heart rate, and systolic blood pressure during exercise.

You are more likely to be injured during physical activity if you smoke. Recruits who smoked at least one cigarette in the month prior to entry-level training had higher injury rates than those who did not smoke.

It will take longer to heal when you are injured and your wound is at higher risk for infection. This means when you are hurt on maneuvers you'll be suffering longer than others in your troop. And, it also means you will heal more slowly when you have dental work done! Ouch.

If you are interested in quitting, please call 466-0277 or 466-6467 to register in programs to help quit.

Source: www.ucanquit2.org

Did you know? Holiday Force Preservation



SAFETY DIVISION

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

Buzzed driving is drunk driving

In 2008 during the month of December, 3,074 people were killed in crashes on America's roadways. Out of that number, 888 people were killed in crashes that involved a driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 percent or higher.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration research has consistently shown that more people are killed in crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver on the weekends and at night – these statistics are highest during holidays.

According to U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, "Law enforcement officers will be out in full force during the upcoming holidays, especially at night and on the weekends, looking for the drunk drivers that put the rest of us at risk."

The results from drinking and driving can end up costly no matter how many drinks you've had.

Don't ever get behind a wheel of a vehicle when you are impaired. Below are some preventative measures so your holiday season won't be ruined

Plan a safe way home before the drinking and festivities begin. Before drinking, designate a sober driver and leave

your car keys at home.

If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely.

Wear your seat belt while in a car and/or the proper personal protective equipment when on a motorcycle as these are your best defenses against an impaired driver.

If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement or command law enforcement.

Winter weather driving can also be dangerous. Before taking a trip, prepare your car to help ensure you travel safely

Winterize your car by checking the antifreeze level, making sure your battery is fully charged and your tire treads are not worn (or put on snow tires). Also check brakes, exhaust system and thermostat.

Keep emergency items in your vehicle all winter long including a flashlight, jumper cables, flares, blankets, and snow and ice removal tools. On extended trips, bring extra food, water, blankets and medication (if required) in case you get stuck.

Stay involved - encourage all Marines to use the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) if they will be driving over the holidays.

I WANT YOU FOR eMARINE

www.eMarine.org

Smartphone Interactive: Scan either barcode to access eMarine on your smartphone.



Movie Hotline: 466-3884

Visit us at www.mccscherrypoint.com

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NOW SHOWING

Thursday, November 24	Runtime
3:00pm - Dream House PG 13	1:32
5:00pm - Real Steel PG 13	2:07
Friday, November 25	
5:00pm - The Big Year PG	1:40
7:30pm - Dream House PG 13	1:32
9:30pm - Real Steel PG 13	2:07
Saturday, November 26	
3:00pm - The Big Year PG	1:40
5:30pm - Dream House PG 13	1:32
7:30pm - Real Steel PG 13	2:07
Sunday, November 27	
3:00pm - The Big Year PG	1:40
Tuesday, November 29	
6:00pm - Bolt PG	1:36

MOVIE SYNOPSIS

Dream House - Starring: Daniel Craig, Naomi Watts, Rachel Weisz, Rachel Fox. Successful publisher Will Atenton quit a job in New York City to relocate his wife, Libby, and two girls to a quaint New England town. But as they settle into their new life, they discover their perfect home was the murder scene of a mother and her children. And the entire city believes it was at the hands of the husband who survived. When Will investigates the tragedy, his only lead comes from Ann Paterson, a neighbor who was close to the family that died. As Will and Ann piece together the disturbing puzzle, they discover that the story of the last man to leave Will's dream house will be just as horrifying to the one who came next.

Real Steel - Starring: Hugh Jackman, Dakota Goyo, Kevin Durand, Anthony Mackie, Evangeline Lilly. In the near-future, where the sport of boxing has gone hi-tech, Charlie Kenton is a washed-up fighter who lost his chance at a title when 2000-pound, 8-foot-tall steel robots took over the ring. Now nothing but a small-time promoter, Charlie earns just enough money piecing together low-end bots from scrap metal to get from one underground boxing venue to the next. When Charlie hits rock bottom, he reluctantly teams up with his estranged son Max to build and train a championship contender. As the stakes in the brutal, no-holds-barred arena are raised, Charlie and Max, against all odds, get one last shot at a comeback.

The Big Year - Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen, Anna Kendrick, Bryce Dallas Howard, Anjelica Huston. Everyone is searching for something - and Stu, Brad and Kenny are determined to not only find their "something," but to be the very best at it. For them, that means being the world's greatest birder. An extraordinary race becomes a transformative journey for wealthy industrialist Stu, computer code-writer Brad, and successful contractor Kenny, who race across the continent on a Big Year, a whirlwind competition to see who can spot the most species of birds in North America within one calendar year.

Bolt - (Animation) - Starring the voices of: John Travolta, Miley Cyrus, Mark Walton, Malcolm McDowell, James Lipton. For super-dog Bolt, every day is filled with adventure, danger and intrigue - at least until the cameras stop rolling. When the canine star of a hit TV show is accidentally shipped from his Hollywood soundstage to New York City, he begins his biggest adventure yet - a cross-country journey through the real world.

Movies are subject to change without notice

THE LOCAL BUZZ

Announcements

► *Indicates new announcement*

Holiday Flotilla

From the arrival of Santa Claus and a quaint town tree lighting ceremony to a magical floating boat parade, the 28th Annual North Carolina Holiday Flotilla in Wrightsville Beach, N.C., offers something for all generations.

The famed Festival in the Park features a shopping emporium of fine handcrafts, outdoor children's games, a climbing wall, The Arab Choo Choo, and an antique car show, among other novelties staged at Wrightsville Beach Park. Admission is free from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

There will also be a lighted boat parade that can be viewed from Bradley Creek to the Intracoastal Waterway, and Motts Channel to Banks Channel, before ending at U.S. Coast Guard Station Wrightsville Beach.

There will be fireworks with the best vantage point from the waterways where thousands of spectators line piers, docks, bridges and channel banks.

For more information visit <http://www.ncholidayflotilla.org>.

► Funding Your Education

The education office, in conjunction with Craven Community College, Park University and Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is holding an information session on the types of financial aid available, as well as how to use the GI Bill at the Jerry Marvel Training and Education Building, room 171B, Monday, 1-4:30 p.m.

The session will discuss how to start the process, the dos and don'ts, and other frequently asked questions. For more information call the Education Office at 252-466-3500.

► Flu Shot Dates

The following dates are available for family members and retirees at Naval Health Clinic Cherry Point. Only flu vaccinations will be given during these times.

December 7, 1-3:30 p.m. at Immunizations.

December 10, 8 a.m. to noon at Medical Home Port.

You may get a flu shot/mist during regular walk-in hours as well at Immunizations.

Festival of Trees

The Hospice "Festival of Trees" is December 2-7 at the Crystal Coast Civic Center, Morehead City, N.C., featuring more than 70 Christmas trees beautifully decorated by schools, nonprofits, businesses and individuals.

There will be entertainment nightly and Santa will visit

during the day for school children Admission is free but donations are welcome.

For more information contact <http://www.crystalcoastnc.org/upcoming-events>.

► Christmas Parade

The city of Havelock's 41st annual Christmas Parade will be held on Dec. 10 at 2 p.m.

The parade route will run down U.S. Highway 70 from St. Christopher's Episcopal Church to City Hall.

Any organizations, businesses, church groups or individuals interested in participating in the parade can call William Winstead at 444-6429. Deadline is Dec. 2.

All entries will be judged on creativity and theme. Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd will be given. This year's parade theme is "welcome home for the holidays."

Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots is looking for volunteers to assist at various locations in the community for toy drops.

All volunteers will need to be in blue dress "B" and will need transportation to and from the site.

The organization is also in need of a holding facility for the toys collected, access to one warehouse bay large enough to hold the toys, and a couple of conex containers large enough to hold toys until Dec. 15.

Any assistance local commands could lend would be very much appreciated. Any organization requesting toys for children less fortunate than others should go to the website <http://bit.ly/toysfortotslejeune> to make contact with the local Marine Reserve for assistance.

The toys which are collected are not earmarked for one area or another, but for anyone making a request. The forms and conditions can be found on the website.

Divorce Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program

PREP is a comprehensive divorce prevention and marriage enhancement program that will be held at Miller's Landing Wednesday.

PREP is a skills and principles building curriculum designed to help partners say what they need to say, get to the heart of problems, and increase their connection with each other.

For more information and to make reservations, please call your chaplain's office at 466-3314.

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 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

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 Cris Young at 259-3427.

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 – 466-3305.
- 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 OUTLET (HAVELOCK AND NEW BERN)
TOBACCO SHOP & GIFTS (BEAUFORT AND NEW BERN)
TOBACCO TOWN
TOBACCO SHOP (NEWPORT, N.C.)
TWIN RIVERS (NOT THE MALL)
WHITE SANDS CONVENIENCE STORE

MCB CAMP LEJEUNE AREA

BELFAST QUICK MART
BELL AUTO SALVAGE II
BOTTA BOOMS
CASH-N-ADVANCE
CJ'S QUICK MART
CLUB MICKEY'S
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
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
SMITTY'S R&R
SPEED MART
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
VERONA QUICK STOP
VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES

OUTSIDE AREAS

CARLAND
CENTENNIAL ENTERPRISES, INC.
STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMPANY
JOSHUA EXPERIENCE/ CLUB ACCESS

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.

Suspicious People Who Don't Belong

Observing suspicious people who just "don't belong." This does not mean we should profile individuals; rather, it means we should profile behaviors. These include suspicious border crossings, stowaways aboard a ship or people jumping ship in a port.

It may mean having someone in a workplace, building, neighborhood or business establishment that does not fit in because of their demeanor, their language usage or unusual questions they are asking.

Report any unusual observations. A complaint that may appear to be routine could result in something much larger in significance.



OPERATION EAGLE EYES