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Kojac assumes command of MACG-28



LANCE CPL. CORY D. POLOM

Col. Peter J. DeVine, right, the outgoing commanding officer of Marine Air Control Group 28, shakes hands with Col. Jeff S. Kojac, the incoming commanding officer of the unit, during a change of command ceremony at the Marine Air Control Squadron 2 parade field here Dec. 5. Kojac said his goal is to continue the legacy DeVine has set forth for the group.

LANCE CPL. CORY D. POLOM

MCAS CHERRY POINT

Col. Jeff S. Kojac assumed command of Marine Air Control Group 28 from Col. Peter J. DeVine during a ceremony at the Marine Air Control Squadron 2 parade field here Dec. 5.

Following 34 years of honorable service to his country and the Marine Corps, DeVine is retiring. He thanked his Marines for their work during his tenure.

"My achievements as commanding officer of MACG-28 would not have been a success without the Marines behind me," said DeVine. "If you take the commanding officer out of a unit, you will still have these Marines. Even though for years I thought they would have to tear this uniform off in order for me to retire, there is no need. I couldn't think of a better way to leave the Corps than

leaving as the commanding officer of Marine Air Control Group 28."

Kojac traveled across the country to take the helm of MACG-28. He last served as the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing chief of staff at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, Japan.

"Sir, the Marines, Sailors, families and the few civilians of MACG-28 will not fail you," said Kojac to Maj. Gen. Glenn M. Walters, the commanding general of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, at the ceremony.

Kojac said his goal is to continue the legacy DeVine has set forth for the group.

Kojac has also served as the speechwriter for the 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps and as director of defense policy for the National Security Council.

VMA-542 returns from Asia-Pacific deployment

CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

MCAS CHERRY POINT

A detachment of 122 Marines from Marine Attack Squadron 542 returned to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Sunday from a deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, which patrols the Asia-Pacific region.

A Marine expeditionary unit is a seaborne force of about 2,000 Marines and Sailors with its own ground, air, and logistical support elements capable of projecting power quickly and conducting a broad spectrum of military operations. The VMA-542 detachment, with six AV-8B Harriers, provided a close-air support capability for the past six months with the MEU.

VMA-542 spent a lot of time conducting integration exercises with the Navy, Marine ground forces, and foreign militaries. In Guam, the MEU was certified for conducting operations in a wartime environment with the squadron training to provide deep strikes against enemy defenses and covering an amphibious landing with close-air support. The squadron also flew alongside the Philippine military and practiced operations with them.

"It's a much more operational environment than [in garrison]," said Capt. Kevin Hughes, the quality assurance officer for the squadron. "Everybody gets to work together. We get to brief, fly, debrief, and really focus on what we do during those training times and working up for the possibilities of supporting actual operations."

See RETURN page A3

Marine couple named Family of the Quarter

LANCE CPL. PAUL E. WYATT

MCAS CHERRY POINT

The New Bern Military Alliance will recognize Staff Sgt. Zane Bowman and his wife, Staff Sgt. Amber Loveless-Bowman, for their outstanding work in the community at the New Bern Golf and Country Club today. The couple has been selected as the recipients of the organization's Military Family of the Quarter award.

The couple has two sons with a third on the way. They described their children as a driving force in why they do as much as they do.

"We feel that we have been very blessed

and fortunate, and because of that, we are fortunate enough to donate our time to assist others where we can," said Bowman, the deceptive electronic countermeasures course staff noncommissioned officer in charge at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training. "We hope that our children will see this as they grow up and will grow to appreciate volunteering and want to do so themselves."

Within their Marine Corps careers, the couple has collectively contributed more than 700 hours of service to their local communities. Currently, the couple's activities include mentoring Special Olympics athletes, helping with the

Craven County schools' Spring Carnival and Fall Festival, and volunteering at the Craven County Animal Shelter.

Loveless-Bowman, the station ordnance magazine chief with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, said that for her the best part about volunteering is, "knowing that one day, one event or one hour can make a difference to someone and maybe inspire them to do more."

The couple has made a habit of volunteering time together, and their work in the community has been formally recognized before.



LANCE CPL. PAUL E. WYATT

Sgt. Amber Loveless-Bowman and Staff Sgt. Zane Bowman will be recognized as the New Bern Military Alliance Family of the Quarter today at the New Bern Golf and Country Club for their outstanding work in the community.

See FOQ page A3

Marines hone command capabilities for Afghanistan

LANCE CPL. S. T. STEWART

MCAS CHERRY POINT

Since the unit's Nov. 30 activation ceremony, Marines with 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) have been honing their skills during a training exercise in preparation for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

During the exercise, which will end Saturday, the Marines have been enhancing their proficiency in the tactical air command center by dealing with a wide variety of scenarios the unit may face when conducting and supporting combat operations while deployed.

2nd MAW (Fwd.) will replace 3rd MAW (Fwd.) to take on the role as the lead aviation combat element for southwestern Afghanistan.

Behind the scenes of every aviation combat element success is the TACC. The command center is the brain behind aviation operations.

"It is our job to ensure there is balance throughout the battle space," said Maj. Charles W. DelPizzo, a senior watch officer with 2nd MAW (Fwd.). "We have to anticipate the ground combat element's moves and try to stay ahead of them."

When Marines are injured, Marines in the TACC plan and give the order to execute casualty evacua-

tions.

When Marines need close-air support, Marines in the TACC decide which aircraft best suits the mission and send it to their aid.

When Marines need air reconnaissance, Marines in the TACC choose the best route and dispatch appropriate resources.

Regardless of the circumstances, no matter the time of day or night, despite the severity of the situation, the command center operates 24/7 to provide support in a variety of scenarios within minutes.

"Every situation is different," said DelPizzo. "We have to respond quickly with the right capabilities to be able to provide the best support."

In order to maintain the TACC in such a high state of readiness, teamwork plays an instrumental role in the success of the aviation combat element within the command center.

Marines from every corner of the aviation field come together to help run the TACC.

"It is outstanding what happens in this command center," said Capt. Christopher Forsythe, an operations officer with Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron

See TACC page A3

Hanson leads 'Eyes of the MAGTF'

LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

MCAS CHERRY POINT

Lt. Col. Jeffrey D. Hanson is set to assume command of Marine Air Control Squadron 2 from Lt. Col. Darryl W. Grossnickle at a change of command ceremony aboard Cherry Point today.

Grossnickle will next assume command of Marine Air Control Group 28 Detachment (Forward), in support of operations in southwestern Afghanistan. MACG-28 provides aviation command and control to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing.

"Being able to lead MACS-2 during a period of a high number of deployments was truly an experience and an honor," said Grossnickle. "We have the best air traffic controllers, air defense Marines, meteorological and maintenance personnel in the military. They have done a phenomenal job over the last 18 months, and it's really been an honor to be a part of that team."

In Grossnickle's next duties as the forward commander, his responsibilities will include leading the tactical air command



Lt. Col. Hanson

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2nd MAW CHRISTMAS CONCERT

See B1 for photos and story



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

News Briefs

Scholarships Available

Applications for Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society educational scholarships and interest-free loans for the 2013-2014 academic year are now available.

Applications must be received by May 1, 2013 unless the due date on the application states otherwise.

Students eligible to apply include spouses or children, under the age of 23, of Sailors and Marines who are on active duty, retired or in a retired status or who died on active duty.

Consideration for selection is based on scholastic ability and financial need.

Applicants must be graduating high school seniors or full-time college students with a minimum 12 credit hours working toward their first undergraduate degree.

For more information on the NMCRS Education Program, please visit <https://www.nmcrs.org/education> or email education@nmcrs.org.

\$631 Billion Defense Bill

The Senate approved a \$631 billion defense bill Tuesday.

The Senate voted 98-0 for the legislation authorizing the funds for weapons, aircraft, ships and a 1.7 percent pay raise for military personnel.

If President Barack Obama signs the bill, it will provide some \$526 billion for the base defense budget, \$17 billion for defense programs in the Energy Department and about \$88 billion for the war in Afghanistan.

MALS-40 Fwd Activates

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 40 (Forward), commanded by Lt. Col. Ryan G. Goulette, was activated during a ceremony at Miller's Landing Wednesday.

During the ceremony, Goulette and Master Gunnery Sgt. Prentice P. Lucas, the unit's senior enlisted advisor, uncased the squadron's colors, signifying the official activation.

The squadron will deploy to Afghanistan in January to provide aviation logistics support to 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Fwd.), commanded by Brig. Gen. Gary L. Thomas.

New CH-53K Helicopter

Helicopter manufacturer Sikorsky says it has turned over the first prototype of a new heavy lift helicopter to the Marine Corps flight test team.

Sikorsky and the Naval Air Systems command are currently conducting ground-based flight checks. Tests include cockpit controls and dynamic systems checks by NAVAIR pilots.

The CH-53K is designed to replace older helicopters already in the U.S. arsenal, primarily the CH-53E Super Stallion.

According to the Government Accountability Office, four flight test helicopters will join the testing program in 2014-2015. Integration of the aircraft is slated for Fiscal Year 2019.

The GAO says there is still work to do in the program. The initial operating capacity is not expected before 2019.

Pool to Remain Open

Cherry Point combat pool personnel announced Monday that the pool will remain open until May despite earlier reports that it would close Dec. 10 for renovations.

Units can schedule swim qualifications during the months of January through April by calling 466-2734 or emailing 2mawcp_comb_pool_omb@usmc.mil.

Leaders discuss station housing

Atlantic Marine Corps Communities meets with Cherry Point and 2nd MAW sergeants major

LANCE CPL. S. T. STEWART

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT

In response to declining occupancy in station housing at Cherry Point, Atlantic Marine Corps Communities held a meeting with sergeants major from the air station and the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Dec. 5 to inform them about the benefits of station housing and to answer any questions they might have.

AMCC, which manages all housing aboard the air station, dedicates its efforts toward maintaining 95 percent occupancy in Cherry Point housing. The current tenancy is at 90 percent.

"Right now, AMCC is dealing with challenges with military members making a choice between living on the air station or out in town," said Kerry Hamilton, director of property management for AMCC. "The purpose of the meeting is to brief the sergeants major on the occupancy problem and our challenges. We want to give them an overview of AMCC about our incentives, our occupancy goals and the programs AMCC has to offer our military members."

Sgt. Maj. Larry Harrington, sergeant major of Marine Transport Squadron 1 and acting sergeant major of Cherry Point, said he has his own beliefs about why living on the air station might be beneficial for young Marines.

"It absolutely has its benefits, the biggest being security for our family members," said Harrington. "Being a part of a community is one of the biggest things for

young Marines. You just don't live in your house, it's a gathering of houses, and living on the air station is a lot tighter community than out in town."

He said he believes that two main reasons young Marines choose to live out in town is to try and get a break from the military by living away from the installation and trying to save a little money from unused basic allowance for housing.

For those who live on base, basic housing allowance goes to AMCC to pay for rent, free 24/7 maintenance, utilities and landscaping.

In response to increasing challenges of competing with the outside market, AMCC is now offering a \$150 per month discount for the first six months of a new lease, said Hamilton.

"We are trying to be competitive with the outside market," said Hamilton.

Part of AMCC's plan is to reach out to military members through their chain of command, who have lived in base housing and have experience working with AMCC.

"Living on base is a secure environment, and now with the new housing they have, it is absolutely remarkable," said Harrington. "With the new housing that's coming on line with the Marine Corps, compared to when I started back in the 1990s, it is a vast improvement."

Chaplain's Corner :

Adopting a holiday point of view

CMDR. JAMES GOODBOW

2ND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

A professor was invited to speak at a military base one December, and there he met an unforgettable Marine named Ray. Ray had been sent to meet him at the airport. After they introduced themselves, they headed toward the baggage claim.

As they walked down the concourse, Ray kept disappearing. Once he disappeared to help an older woman whose suitcase had fallen open. Once more he disappeared to lift two toddlers up to where they could see Santa Claus. Again, he disappeared to give directions to someone who was lost. Each time he came back with a smile on his face.

"Where did you learn that?" the professor asked. "Learn what?" Ray said. "Where did you learn to live like that?" "Oh," Ray said, "during the war, I guess." He then told the professor about his tour of duty in Vietnam, how it was his job to clear the minefields.

"I learned to live between the steps," he said. "I never knew whether the next one would be my last, so I learned to get everything I could out of the moment between when I picked up my foot and when I put it down again. Every step I took was a whole new world, and I guess I've been that way ever since."

The holiday season seems to fly by faster and faster with every year. I don't know about you, but come New Year's Day, I always wonder how it could be over so quickly. During the season, I try to slow down and savor all the good stuff: the sights and the sounds. As I think about the holidays and

the other 11 months of year, I wonder how many of us rush through life missing the "small stuff." How often do we miss "the in-between stuff" that often adds up, when you think about it, to the "big stuff" of life? I know I do.

Sitting in a busy office waiting room, I noticed a sign on the office wall: "I live my life in the moment." That's a challenge to slow down and appreciate life in every moment of the day. However, it's an important challenge because we are only guaranteed life in the moment. We need to slow down and appreciate the minutes more than the hours. We can enjoy the moments – "the in-between stuff" – even at work, even when a hectic schedule seems overwhelming.

How can we do that? Like Ray, look for those experiences, those people, those relationships, those one-of-a-kind moments that never repeat themselves and then grab hold of them. Appreciate and recognize the moment for what it is – "the big stuff of life" that goes by so quickly that we miss it if we're not looking for it!

Living life between the steps is much like our relationship with God. If you stop and think about it, a relationship with God is built between the steps by slowing down the pace, pausing, and waiting upon the Lord. It is in those pauses, in those in-between moments where I meet God in a much deeper relationship and friendship.

The in-between gives me the opportunity to savor and enjoy my time with God. When I slow down

See **CHAPLAIN** page A3

LANCE CPL. THOMAS A. FOWLER

Job Title: Flight Line Mechanic
Unit: Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 467

Hometown: Jacksonville, Fla.

Age: 21

Date Joined: June 15, 2011

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, a detachment of Marines from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 467 went to New York to assist in the relief efforts.

Lance Cpl. Thomas A. Fowler was among those Marines.

The HMLA-467 Sabers flight line mechanic helped keep the UH-1N Huey and AH-1W Cobra helicopters welded by the squadron ready to go at a moment's notice throughout the operation.

Fowler said he appreciates the opportunity to maintain and repair the storied aircraft whose versatility is a cornerstone of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

"My favorite aspect of my job is just being around the aircraft, being able to learn about them," Fowler said. "I never thought I'd learn to fix a helicopter."



Highlighting Cherry Point's Warriors



LANCE CPL. PAUL E. WYATT

The Windsock

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REMEMBER TO RECYCLE



RETURN from page A1

Hughes said takeoffs and landings are intense experiences because the ship's runway is about 800 feet long, whereas land-based runways average about 7,000 feet.

After six months of training and patrolling the Pacific, the Marines came home to share their experiences with family and friends. Lance Cpl. Vance L. Jensen Jr., an aircraft safety equipment mechanic with VMA-542, was born into a family of military service and said deployments strengthen the family bond.

"It's pretty different, coming home for the first time," said Jensen. "Not only do I get to experience the stuff they experienced, but I also get to experience new stuff and tell them about it."

"I'm very proud of him," said Vernon Bithell, Jensen's grandfather and a retired chief petty officer who served from 1962 to 1989. "It's pretty exciting. In all those years, my family would be waiting on the pier for the ship to come in. It's about the same thing, but I've never been on this end of it."



SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

Lance Cpl. Vance L. Jensen Jr., an aircraft safety equipment mechanic with Marine Attack Squadron 542, is welcomed back to Cherry Point, N.C., by his family Dec. 9 after six months with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. The MEU patrols the waters of the Asia-Pacific region and trains with partner nations in the region.

TACC from page A1

28. "We have everything from pilots to weather Marines to logistics Marines. I mean everyone is in here working together."

Communication also plays a big role within the center. Forsythe said Marines in the TACC work alongside other military forces in tactical environments as well.

"While deployed, Marines work with Afghan and coalition partners," said Forsythe. "We train so we can do our job the right way while acting fast and communicating with our teammates, so we are all on the same page. This training is vital to 2nd MAW (Fwd.) while they prepare for their upcoming deployment."



LANCE CPL. S. T. STEWART

Marines with 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) participate in a training exercise at Cherry Point's tactical air command center Nov. 28. Behind the scenes of every aviation combat element success is the tactical air command center.

CHAPLAIN from page A2

my pace, I automatically create a space for God to work in my life. In that space, God places people in my life who I can impact for the better, and they in turn make my life richer and healthier as a result. This experience rarely happens when I rush through life. It happens when I stop and allow God to reveal "the in-between stuff" that is there waiting for me to discover. I invite you to experience more of your life in between the steps! Because when you stop and think about it, the best part of living is living life in the moment!

May God abundantly bless you in this holiday season!

MACS-2 from page A1

center, direct air support center, tactical air operations center, air traffic control and meteorological and oceanographic support for 2nd MAW.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to deploy to combat, but I'm sad to be leaving the MACS-2 family behind," said Grossnickle. "These Marines work hard every day and do a lot of things that don't grab headlines or a lot of notoriety, but they enable the combat power of the air wing, and it really has been a privilege to be a part of it."

Hanson has spent the last six months working as the future plans officer at the MACG-28 headquarters.

"Working with future plans has given me an opportunity to work closely with this squadron's higher headquarters," he said. "It's given me great insight into how well this unit is performing and what we need to do next to continue our success."

Hanson's goals for the squadron are to continue the level of performance set in place by Grossnickle, successfully deploy and redeploy to and from combat in Afghanistan and maximize the preparedness of the squadron to employ expeditionary command and control capability whenever and wherever asked.

He also expressed the leadership philosophies that will guide him as the squadron's commander.

"We will know ourselves and seek self-improvement. We will improve technical and tactical proficiency, and along with that, we will maintain our core competency as Marines and within our Military Occupational Specialty. We will also strive for a high level of physical condition. Lastly, we will build stronger relations between the leaders and subordinates, and we will embrace MACS-2 as a family," said Hanson.

Hanson said he is honored, humbled and excited to be stepping in as the MACS-2 commanding officer.

Hanson's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with bronze oak leaf device, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two Gold Stars and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two Gold Stars.

FOQ from page A1

Both have earned the Marine Corps Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

The couple said they want their Marines to follow in their footsteps and help others.

"I want my Marines to know that the military can support their community as the community supports their military," Loveless-Bowman said. "We are here because they want us here. It's not a right we own, it's a privilege that we need to honor."



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Marines prepare to train African partner nations

CPL. JESSICA ITO

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES RESERVE

NEW ORLEANS – More than 130 Marines from 32 different reserve training centers came together at Camp Lejeune last month to get to know each other and prepare to face the unique challenges presented by operating independently in Africa.

“It’s very unlike anything the Marines have gone through for either Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom preparation,” said Lt. Col. Daniel P. Whisnant, commanding officer of Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa 13.2. “The skill set and broad range of expectations of the Marines is very diverse.”

The first training event the Marines encountered took place at the Tier 1 Group Training Facility in Crawfordsville, Ark., Oct. 4-25. Marines learned essential methods for training foreign militaries on marksmanship and how to set up and conduct firing ranges to prepare them for their mission of advising, coaching and mentoring partner nation forces as part of a security cooperation team.

“The training we’re doing with the Marines here is ‘train the trainer,’” said Raj Chowdhuri, an instructor with Tier 1 Group. “It’s a formal course on how to be an instructor, how to make ranges happen, and duties and responsibilities of all the personnel on the range.”

According to Whisnant, this type of training is important to the Special-Purpose MAGTF because their ability to train a partner-nation force, as an individually-operating security cooperation team will be key.

“We’re going to be the only Marines there, and we’ll be in charge of training the local nationals. We won’t have support from instructors, so we need intensive train the trainer classes so that we’re able to run ranges,” said Sgt. Michael Wong, a team leader with Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa 13.2. “There’s stuff you don’t normally think about as a Marine going to a range. They’ve been teaching us to think about the little things.”

During the tactical combat casualty care portion of the training, Marines learned how to rapidly apply medical care in stressful situations, such as receiving enemy fire.

“We teach TCCC in the Navy. It was a great refresher for myself,” said Chief Petty Officer Mark Chesney, an independent duty corpsman with Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa 13.2. Chesney added that the participants did an excellent job running through scenarios using Marines and Sailors as simulated wounded.

“The Marines came in, did their job, got their patients out of fire, dressed the wounds, simulated needle decom-



LANCE CPL. CALEB McDONALD

Marines with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa 13.2 provide security after disembarking from an MV-22 Osprey during a field training exercise aboard Camp Lejeune Nov. 16. Marines of Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa 13.2 are training for an upcoming deployment.

pression and continued on. I was very impressed [with] how the Marines conducted themselves.”

Throughout their movements in Africa, the Marines will primarily rely on non-tactical vehicles for transportation within individual nations, so as part of their pre-deployment training, they learned advanced driving techniques.

“We got our vehicles stuck [on the off-road course] on purpose, and they taught us different ways to get it unstuck by using ropes, chains and winches,” said Chesney. “This can prove to be very effective in-country if we get stuck in hostile areas.”

Concurrent with this training, the commander’s staff from 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment out of Garden City, N.Y., was activated to do training of their own.

“A battalion staff was activated from 2/25,” said Whisnant, also the commanding officer of 2nd Bn., 25th Marines. “This is critical for these types of deployments. It gives a foundational piece to the Special-Purpose MAGTF and allows us to quickly ramp up and join those

Marines from the 32 home training centers.”

Whisnant sent his staff noncommissioned officers and special-staff officers to a two-week crisis management operations planner’s course at Camp Lejeune where they took a close look at the Marine Corps planning process through a CMO lens. Aside from time spent in the classroom, the battalion element conducted practical application in a live scenario which allowed them to develop their own standard operating procedures and planning processes.

Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa 13.2 is currently training with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit which is providing them with significant logistical support.

“The amount of support we have received from the 22nd MEU has been phenomenal, and we wouldn’t be where we are without them,” said Whisnant.

Marines of Special-Purpose MAGTF are projected to deploy in January to Africa where they may be in as many as six to 12 countries at once. They are expected to return home after seven months of deployment.



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. CORY D. POLOM

Lance Cpl. Randy Webb, left, and Sgt. Patrick Kennedy, right, load a free Christmas tree into a vehicle during the 2012 Trees for Troops event at Hancock Marina Dec. 10. The Marines who volunteered unloaded two trailers filled with hundreds of trees. Both Marines are with Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28.

Oh Christmas Tree

Trees for Troops provides military families Christmas cheer



Marines and civilians team up to unload two trailers full of Christmas trees for the 2012 Trees for Troops event at Hancock Marina Dec. 10. More than 500 families received a free Christmas tree donated by a tree farm in Nova Scotia, Canada.



Matthew Houde, a civilian volunteer, loads a tree onto a vehicle during the 2012 Trees for Troops event at Hancock Marina Dec. 10. The event provided holiday cheer in the form of free Christmas trees to more than 500 air station patrons.

LANCE CPL. CORY D. POLOM
MCAS CHERRY POINT

There are several things that signify to families the holidays are coming, but none do it as well as the arrival of the Christmas tree. More than 500 families aboard Cherry Point received a free Christmas tree through the 2012 Trees for Troops event held at Hancock Marina Dec. 10

"This event is designed to make sure we get free trees to all the active duty (service members), retirees and their families," said Beth McKenzie, marketing director for Marine Corps Community Services.

Though the trees did not arrive on Santa's sleigh, the man who did deliver them said it was an honor to help spread Christmas cheer. The trees were delivered through the annual team efforts of several commercial and charity organizations.

"I enjoy driving these trees down here to give to the troops," said Kenneth Windham, a delivery driver who has delivered the trees to the event four years in

a row. "The best part is seeing the smiling faces of the kids, wives and Marines getting their trees. It is an honor to serve those who sacrifice so much for our freedoms."

Marines showed up to pick up their trees in droves. Some brought the whole family.

"This event means a lot to me and my family," said Sgt. Celso Villagomez, who brought his wife and two children. "It's great getting to come out and get a tree with my son, who will be celebrating his third birthday on Christmas day."

This event helps raise the morale of military families during the holidays, said McKenzie.

"It's nice for Marines, Sailors and their families to know people are thinking of them," she said. "This is a good way for the outside world to show their appreciation for the services Marines are doing."

The trees were donated to the organization from a tree farmer in Nova Scotia, Canada.



Lance Cpl. Dallin Brimley, of Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28, loads a Christmas tree into the back of a Marine's truck during the 2012 Trees for Troops event at Hancock Marina Dec. 10. More than 20 Marines and civilians helped load vehicles with free trees.

Marines replenish USS Iwo Jima at sea



LANCE CPL. TUCKER WOLF

Marines and Sailors unpack food and supplies that were delivered by helicopter to the USS Iwo Jima during a replenishment at sea operation Nov. 24. During the RAS, the Iwo Jima took on fuel, fresh fruits, vegetables and supplies from the USNS John Lenthall to sustain the ship and crew while underway. The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit is deployed with the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group in the 6th Fleet area of responsibility serving as an expeditionary crisis response force capable of a variety of missions, from full-scale combat to evacuations and humanitarian assistance. Since deploying in March, they have supported a variety of missions in the U.S. Central, Africa and European Commands, assisted the Navy in safeguarding sea lanes, and conducted various bilateral and unilateral training events in several countries in the Middle East and Africa.

Walking in a Winter Wonderland



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. S. T. STEWART

Hanna, the daughter of an aircraft mechanic with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14, tells Gunny Claus what she wants for Christmas Dec. 6 at the Marine Aircraft Group 14 Winter Wonderland in the Marine Attack Squadron 231 hangar. The event featured games, crafts and pizza for families to enjoy.

LANCE CPL. PAUL E. WYATT

MCAS CHERRY POINT

More than 1,000 Marines and their family members from eight squadrons took part in the Marine Aircraft Group 14 Winter Wonderland in the Marine Attack Squadron 231 hangar Dec. 6.

Michael McGuinness, the MAG-14 family readiness officer, said that this is probably the largest event of this type on the air station. It included food, drinks, jump castles, games and craft tables. He said he was glad to be a part of it.

"It's an honor to facilitate such a large event for our families and Marines," McGuinness said.

Sgt. Maj. David Bradford, the MAG-14 sergeant major, said the most important aspect of the event was the interaction among squadrons.

"While it's all about families, it's almost a Marine Corps tradition to have a get-together for the holidays," Bradford said. "With the diversity between squadrons, camaraderie must go across the board."

MAG-14 includes Marine Attack Squadrons 223, 231, and 542; Marine Attack Training Squadron 203; Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadrons 1, 2, 3,

and 4; Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252; Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14; and Marine Wing Support Squadron 271.

Wielding several different types of aircraft, the squadrons of MAG-14 tackle a broad array of aviation missions around the world. The event offered a chance to build cohesion within a remarkably diverse unit.

For Staff Sgt. Roger Dodson, a hydraulic mechanic with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 14, the best part of the event was sharing with other Marines and seeing that there is a community that really cares for his family.

"Knowing that the MAG is willing to do something like this, it lets me know that my family would be taken care of if I were gone," Dodson said.

For a unit with a high deployment tempo, that is a concept that resonates with families, including Dobson's wife.

"It means a lot knowing that his command supports his family and does something for them," she said. "It feels like they have our back. It feels like they'd be here for us if our significant other was not."



A group of children pop bubble wrap for fun at the Marine Aircraft Group 14 Winter Wonderland in the Marine Attack Squadron 231 hangar Dec. 6. Attendees said the event brought a sense of camaraderie to the Marines of the MAG and showed families that they are supported by the command.

Marines assist Philippine typhoon relief



PHOTO COURTESY U.S. EMBASSY MANILA

Workers in Davao City, Republic of the Philippines, off-load a Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules carrying relief supplies from Manila Sunday. Marine transport planes and personnel have been ferrying equipment, supplies and personnel in the Philippines after a super typhoon killed more than 600 people and left as many as 1,000 missing. The aircraft and Marines are from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, based in Okinawa, Japan.

Logistics Marines embrace expeditionary energy, improve reliability of communications

1st Lt. TYLER MORRISON

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Marines from Combat Logistics Regiment 15 recently installed several Ground Renewable Expeditionary Energy Network Systems at several locations throughout Regional Command Southwest to improve the communications reliability of critical assets and to develop new ways to employ expeditionary energy solutions.

The GREENS is an array of solar panels and rechargeable batteries that provide a continuous output of 300 watts of electricity which is used to power electrical equipment and radios.

This installation is in step with the Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Strategy and Implementation Plan that recognizes the direct link between energy efficiency and combat effectiveness. The plan calls for Marines to adopt new technologies and procedures to become less dependent on traditional energy sources. The more energy efficient the Marine Corps becomes, the more capable they are of operating in expeditionary environments.

Marines from the communications section, CLR-15, installed GREENS at three different locations throughout Regional Command Southwest including the munitions storage area on Camp Leatherneck and two separate medical facilities.

supply officer-in-charge, CLR-15, the GREENS installation provides a backup power supply for the communications equipment at these locations.

“We turned to the GREENS in order to provide uninterrupted communications to the commander’s priority locations,” said Meelarp. “We installed the GREENS to run parallel but separate to the existing power structure.”

The medical clinics located at Forward Operating Base Shukvani and FOB Payne in Helmand Province stabilize injured coalition servicemembers so they can be safely transferred to follow on medical care at higher levels. They are critical life-saving capabilities, and maintaining communication with these facilities is paramount.

“If [clinics] cannot communicate due to a loss of power, their ability to send and receive casualties becomes severely degraded. Lives depend on reliable communications nodes at these locations,” said Capt. Arun Shankar, communications officer-in-charge, CLR-15.

Shankar explained that the installation of GREENS at the clinic at FOB Shukvani took only two hours and that it is easy to use.

“In the event of a power outage, users simply unplug network switches from the wall and plug them into the GREENS. Unlike a backup generator, the GREENS requires minimal maintenance.”



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. ALEXANDER QUILES

Solar panels used to collect energy emitted by the sun are mounted to the roof of Shock Trauma Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15 on Combat Outpost Shukvani, Helmand province, Afghanistan Nov. 19. These upgrades will allow surgeons to maintain power to their critical equipment in the event of a power outage.

The GREENS installation has improved the reliability of communications at key locations throughout Regional Command Southwest and is an example of expeditionary energy at work.

“The GREENS is the perfect power solution for communications infrastructure, and I definitely see this becoming a solu-

tion for tactical networks during expeditionary operations,” said Shankar.

Expeditionary energy is a pillar of modernization for the Marine Corps and CLR-15 is giving strength to this concept by taking another step toward developing a lighter, more capable force to win the nation’s battles.



COURTESY PHOTO

An AV-8B Harrier with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261 (Reinforced), 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, flies behind an MV-22B Osprey during routine flight operations in the 6th Fleet area of responsibility Nov. 25. Since deploying in March, the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit has supported a variety of missions in the U.S. Central, Africa and European Commands, assisted the Navy in safeguarding sea lanes, and conducted various bilateral and unilateral training events in several countries in the Middle East and Africa. The Harrier detachment is from Marine Attack Squadron 542 based out of Cherry Point.



CPL. MICHAEL PETERSHEIM

Two CH-53E Super Stallions with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261 (Reinforced), 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, take off from the flight deck of the USS New York during fast-rope training Nov. 30.

Marines remain ready, await orders home

CAPT. ROBERT SHUFORD

24TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT

USS NEW YORK, At Sea – Marines of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit have continued their daily grind of staying prepared and staying busy aboard the amphibious assault ships of the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group as they continue on an extended deployment, originally planned to end the last week of November. The Marines have taken the challenge of

being extended in stride and have continued to make good use of their time to remain ready when their nation calls. Aboard the USS Iwo Jima, USS New York, and USS Gunston Hall, flight operations, weapons handling training, live-fire ranges, various classes, maintaining equipment, and the everyday chores of cooking and cleaning are continuous actions for the Marines as they remain ready as an expeditionary crisis response force.



PHOTOS BY CPL. BRIAN ADAM JONES

Staff Sgt. Terri Kopetzki, left, and Gunnery Sgt. Jeff Frank perform “Baby its Cold Outside” at the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band Christmas Concert Friday at the air station theater. More than 1,700 members of the local community packed the theater for the show, which was free and open to the public. Kopetzki is a musician with the band. Frank is the band’s small ensemble leader.

Community comes together at annual Christmas concert

CPL. BRIAN ADAM JONES
MCAS CHERRY POINT

More than 1,700 members of the local community packed the air station theater Friday for the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band Christmas Concert.

Maj. Gen. Glenn M. Walters, commanding general of 2nd MAW, welcomed the patrons. He said he couldn’t imagine a better way to usher in the holiday season than with “the best band in the Marine Corps.”

And with that, the band began the show. The concert featured traditional songs like “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year.” Staff Sgt. Terri Kopetzki and Gunnery Sgt. Jeff Frank sang a duet of “Baby its Cold Outside.”

Near the end of the concert, the band unveiled a holiday remix of John Philip Sousa’s “Stars and Stripes Forever.” Chief Warrant Officer 3 Benjamin Bartholomew, the band’s director, warned the audience that the popular military melody had been a bit rough during rehearsals, as many in the band were in the holiday spirit. As the band played the tune, they spliced familiar holiday melodies into the military song, to the audience’s amusement.

The band wrapped up the upbeat performance with some rock ‘n’ roll with a Trans Siberian Orchestra song complete with electric guitars. As the standing room only-size audience filed out of the theater, Bartholomew beamed with pride.

“How could I be anything but proud?” he asked rhetorically.

Bartholomew said the concert was the band’s largest performance for the local community, and they relished the opportunity to share in the holiday spirit with a community that has enjoyed a proud partnership with 2nd MAW for more than 70 years.

“We always strive to be the best U.S. Marine Corps the people want us to be,” Bartholomew said. “Whatever expectations they have about Marines, we want to meet or exceed those expectations.”

The Christmas spirit and the spirit of community partnership was evident Friday night, as Toys for Tots donation boxes overflowed in the theater’s lobby.

Lance Cpl. Katherine J. Chang, a student at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Marine Unit Cherry Point, volunteered to collect donations. The young Marine said she views her duty to serve her community as equal to her duty to her country.

“It’s good to see the people come out and give to children who are less fortunate during Christmas time,” Chang said. “I’m really surprised at just how many donations we



The 2nd MAW Band performs for a packed house at the air station theater Friday. The band hosted its annual Christmas concert, which was free and open to the public.

have received.”

Walters thanked the audience for their donations to the Toys for Tots program, and also mentioned a new way for the community to help those in need over the holidays.

The 2012 Cherry Point Angel Tree Program is a method for anonymous donation of Christmas gifts to children of Cherry Point Marines and Sailors. Patrons of the Marine Corps Exchange and Troop stores simply select an ornament from Angel trees set up at those locations. They then fulfill the gift wish printed on the ornament with a gift that should not exceed \$25. Gifts should be returned to the service counters at those respective locations, which will deliver them to the appropriate units.

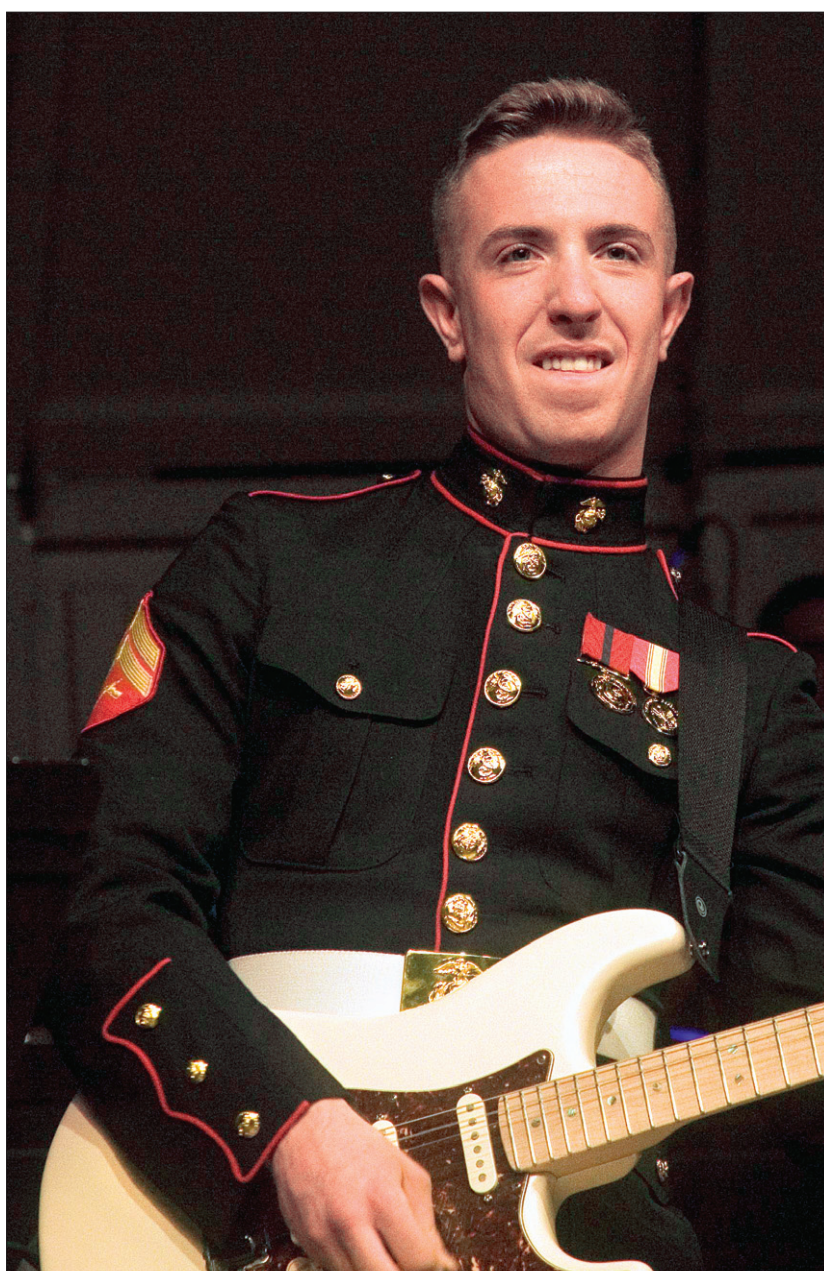
For a community as well-connected as the one at Cherry Point and a Christmas spirit as strong as that on display here Friday night, there is little doubt this community will band together over the holidays.



Santa throws candy canes to children in the audience at the 2nd MAW Band Christmas Concert Friday. More than 1,700 people packed the theater to usher in the holidays.



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Benjamin Bartholomew, the band’s director, leads the 2nd MAW Band through a song at its annual Christmas concert. Bartholomew said the band relished the opportunity to share in the holiday spirit with a community that has enjoyed a proud partnership with 2nd MAW for more than 70 years.



Cpl. Mark Broughton, a musician with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, plays guitar at the concert. The event, which was open to the public, encouraged patrons to bring donations for Toys for Tots.

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/ Holiday Hours

Breakfast/Lunch 8:30-11 a.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 & Blendz

Tuesday and Thursday Lunch (Blendz) - Banana-strawberry yogurt, banana-blackberry yogurt, banana-peach yogurt, banana-pineapple yogurt, banana-mango yogurt, banana-blueberry yogurt, Asian chicken chopped salad, Asian beef chopped salad, Savannah fried chicken salad, Southwest chicken strip salad, chef salad bowl, buffalo chicken salad, turkey club salad, beef fajita salad, BLT club salad, Southwest flank steak salad, chicken caesar salad, Chinese chicken salad, antipasto salad.

Monday - Pasta primavera, lasagna, chicken rotini casserole, baked ziti with four cheeses, meatballs, baked Italian sausage, boiled rigatoni, boiled spaghetti, simmered ziti, simmered linguine, simmered fettucini, simmered penne rigate, simmered rotini, Italian meat sauce, alfredo sauce, caesar salad, toasted garlic bread and breadsticks.

Wednesday - Chicken enchiladas, taco beef filling, burritos, Mexican rice, refried beans with cheese, Mexican corn, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, chopped onions, sliced jalapeno peppers, taco shells, flour tortillas, taco sauce, salsa, sour cream.

Friday - Wings of fire, honeyed barbecue wings, teriyaki wings, French fried chicken wings, French fried garlic fries, corn on the cob, baked beans, carrot sticks, celery sticks, blue cheese dressing, ranch dressing.

Weekly Menu

Thursday December 13

Lunch - Chicken and dumplings, pasta toscano, steamed rice, steamed vegetable medley, Harvard beets and cream of spinach soup

Dinner - Mediterranean herb roasted, chicken, herbed roasted pork loin, mashed potatoes, dirty rice, glazed carrots, steamed broccoli, brown gravy, American bounty vegetable, soup

Friday December 14

Lunch - Roast turkey, French fried shrimp, French fried fish, dirty mashed potatoes, green beans, calico cabbage, hush puppies, tartar sauce, cocktail sauce, New England clam chowder **Dinner** - Three-bean chili, apple glazed corned beef, shrimp curry, cilantro rice, parsley buttered potatoes, vegetable stir fry, savory summer squash

Saturday December 15

Lunch - Baked ziti with four cheeses, arroz con pollo, club spinach, corn O'Brien, toasted garlic bread, smoked ham and cabbage soup

Dinner - Cream of chicken soup, java molasses pork loin, Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, lyonnaise potatoes, buttered egg noodles, stewed tomatoes, peas

Sunday December 16

Lunch - Baked fish w/butter crumb topping, herbed baked chicken, potatoes au gratin, confetti rice, herbed roasted carrots, balsamic roasted vegetables, tomato soup **Dinner** - Veal parmesan, Tex-Mex chicken and rice, penne rigate noodles, scalloped cream corn, broccoli and red peppers, Spanish chorizo and potato soup

Monday December 17

Lunch - Pepper steak, turkey Monterey roasts, rosemary red potatoes, steamed rice, wax beans Creole, stewed chick peas and zucchini, southwestern corn chowder **Dinner** - Braised pork chops, turkey meatloaf, buttered egg noodles, islander's rice, lyonnaise wax beans, broccoli polonaise, brown gravy, chicken gumbo soup

Tuesday December 18

Lunch - Linguini with clam sauce, bayou chicken, rissole potatoes, mashed cauliflower, sautéed green beans and mushrooms, beef with vegetables and barley soup **Dinner** - Country fried steaks, baked turkey with noodles, mashed potatoes, creamed ground beef, peas, squash and carrot medley, bean with bacon soup

Wednesday December 19

Lunch - Chicken piccata, bayou jerk pork loin, chipotle roasted sweet potatoes, islander's rice, steamed spinach with garlic lyonnaise carrots, mango and black bean salsa, cream of mushroom soup **Dinner** - Hungarian goulash, Creole shrimp, brussels sprout parmesan, corn, chicken tortilla soup

Seeking help shows strength

LT. COL. CHARLES J. BASHAM

COMMANDING OFFICER, HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Editor's note: For many, the holiday season is a time of celebration, a time to gather with family and friends. However, memories evoked during this holiday season are not always pleasant. Personal loss, problems with relationships, finances or legal issues can all contribute to feelings of loneliness, depression or hopelessness that can overwhelm even the strongest Marine or Sailor. What follows is a true personal account from Lt. Col. Charles J. Basham, commanding officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.

In January 1996, I was a young second lieutenant who had just completed The Basic School and reported to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., to begin realizing a dream of being a Marine Corps pilot. After four years of college and six months in Quantico, I was eager to begin training and join a fleet squadron.



Lt. Col. Charles J. Basham

I once read that the most significant problems in life will be unforeseen. They will blindsides you without warning and leave devastation in their wake. I was blindsided on a cool, crisp winter day in 1996 when I was told that my mother was diagnosed with cancer. When the cancer was discovered it had already metastasized throughout her body. Attempts at chemotherapy were futile. The woman who sacrificed so much in her life to provide the best childhood possible for me passed away six months later. She was only 60. I was only 23.

In the weeks that followed, I behaved the way many Marines and Type-A personalities behave – I dealt with the passing of my mother and all of the emotions that came with it on my own. I did not speak of it. I put up a façade and pretended that I was all right and that my deep feelings of loss and despair would subside.

I became but a shell of my former self. That eagerness to complete flight training and join a squadron waned. I

spent significant amounts of time by myself, not wanting to be with family or friends. I continually convinced myself that only time would heal my emotional wounds. My pain and stubbornness shielded one irrefutable fact: I was headed for trouble.

Fortunately, a couple of my closest friends, also Marines, recognized where I was headed. They stepped in and persuaded me to deal with my loss rather than to internalize it. Without their intervention, I honestly don't know whether I would have completed flight training or would still be a Marine today.

Why did I tell my squadron this story, and why am I writing about it now? There are two reasons. First, to convey to Marines and Sailors that no one – not privates, not lieutenant colonels, not even generals – are immune to personal problems. All will eventually be forced to deal with some sort of pain or loss in life. My second reason is to impart that we each have a choice in how we deal with these problems. In my view, no one is equipped to handle such significant problems on their own. Furthermore, untreated emotional despair often leads to suicidal ideations and misconduct within our ranks.

Don't make the mistakes that I made. We all need help from time to time. Seek help before you become so overwhelmed that you feel that life is not worth living, you destroy your relationships or end your career. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of strength and maturity. When you recognize that your brother or sister in uniform is in despair, step in like my friends did. The well-being of our Marines, our families, and our Corps is at stake.

Available Resources

DSTRESS 877-476-7734.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255.

Marine and Family Programs 466-4401.

Branch Medical Clinic Psychology 466-0500.

Unit chaplain – call PMO desk sergeant at 466-5123

for the duty chaplain.

Christmas tree dos and don'ts

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

CHERRY POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT

- When you buy your tree, have the vendor make a fresh cut an inch from the bottom; this will help the tree drink.
- Make sure your tree stand holds plenty of water, and don't let it run out.
- Well-watered trees are not a problem. Dry, neglected trees are.
- If you buy your tree early and keep it outside, store it away from wind and sun, and keep the bottom in a bucket of water.
- Make sure your lights are safe.
- If you need outdoor lights, make sure the ones you buy are meant for outdoor use.
- Make sure your lights carry certification from a testing laboratory.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations as to how many strands can be linked together.
- Don't use electric lights on a metal tree.
- Discard any strings of lights that are frayed or broken.
- Unplug your Christmas tree before you leave or go to bed.
- Don't buy a tree that is dry and dropping needles. To check for freshness, loosely grip the end of a branch and pull your hand over it. Only a few needles should fall.
- If your tree seems wobbly, center it in the stand more securely and redo the bolts or screws.
- If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it is fire-retardant.
- Keep your tree well away from furnaces, radiators and fireplaces.
- Try to position it near an outlet so cords are not running long distances.

- Do not place the tree where it may block exits.
- When Christmas is over or when the tree starts to drop needles, dispose of it.
- Don't leave it in your house or put it in your garage.
- Keep a close eye on small children when they are around the tree; many small decorations and ornaments are sharp, breakable and can be swallowed.
- Refer to AMCC guidance for any questions regarding housing.



A lone tree smolders after burning to a crisp. Some Christmas tree safety tips include buying fresh trees, keeping the tree watered and keeping trees away from fireplaces and furnaces.

MCAS Cherry Point
STATION THEATER E Street

Movie Hotline: 466-3884

Visit us at www.mccscherrypoint.com

Adults only \$4 • Kids (4-12) only \$3

NOW SHOWING

Thursday, December 13

NO MOVIES SHOWING

Friday, December 14

Nutcracker Ballet Performance

Saturday, December 15

2:00pm - Wreck It Ralph PG

4:30pm - Wreck It Ralph PG

7:00pm - Cloud Atlas R

Sunday, December 16

2:00pm - Wreck It Ralph PG

4:15pm - Fun Size PG 13

Tuesday, December 18

6:00pm - The Polar Express PG



MOVIE SYNOPSIS

Wreck It Ralph - Ralph is tired of being overshadowed by Fix-It Felix, the "good guy" star of their game who always gets to save the day. But after decades doing the same thing and seeing all the glory go to Felix, Ralph decides he's tired of playing the role of a bad guy.

Fun Size - Wren, a sarcastic high school senior, is eager to distance herself from her dysfunctional family by going off to college. Before that can happen, Wren's mother, Joy, insists that she watch her little brother Albert on Halloween night, so Joy can go to a rager with her much younger boyfriend. When Wren gets distracted by an invitation to the party of the year, Albert disappears into a sea of trick-or-treaters. Frantic to locate him before her mother discovers he's missing, Wren enlists the help of three of her friends. This unlikely foursome embarks on a high-stakes, all-night adventure to find Albert, crossing paths with outrageous characters every step of the way.

Cloud Atlas - Cloud Atlas' explores how the actions and consequences of individual lives impact one another throughout the past, the present and the future. Action, mystery and romance weave dramatically through the story as one soul is shaped from a killer into a hero and a single act of kindness ripples across centuries to inspire a revolution in the distant future.

The Polar Express - A young boy lies awake in his room one snowy Christmas Eve, excited and alert. Breathing silently. Hardly moving. Waiting. He's listening for a sound he's afraid that he might never hear—the ringing bells of Santa's sleigh. Suddenly, the boy is startled by a thunderous roar. Clearing the mist from his window he sees the most amazing sight—a gleaming black train rumbles to a stop right in front of his house, The Polar Express! What unfolds is an adventure which follows a doubting young boy, who takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole; during this ride, he embarks on a journey of self-discovery which shows him that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe.

Movies are subject to change without notice

This Holiday Season...

Santa Should Be The Only One Driving Loaded

Announcements

► Indicates new announcement

Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots is returning to Cherry Point through Sunday. Drop off locations are as follows:

- The Roadhouse 3542 E. Street
- The Marine Corps Exchange
- Havelock Walmart
- Morehead City Walmart

Contribute by donating a new, unwrapped toy, hosting a Toys for Tots event or volunteering at the local warehouse.

For more information call Sgt. Jesse T. Cody at 466-7316 or email Jesse.t.cody@navy.mil.

► Teen and Tweenie Night

Cherry Point Marine Corps Community Services will host the free annual Christmas ornament workshop for children ages 8–17 at the air station library in Bldg. 298 on E Street today from 5–7:30 p.m.

Listen to seasonal music while learning to make decorative ornaments.

Call the air station library at 466-3552 for more information.

► Armed Forces Blood Drive

Cherry Point area Combined Federal Campaign and the Armed Forces Blood Program will host a blood drive in the Marine Corps Exchange parking lot Friday from 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Visit <http://1.usa.gov/WLN1xl> for more information or to make an appointment.

► BOQ Yard Sale

Cherry Point Marine Corps Community Services will host a Bachelor Officer Quarters Yard Sale at the Cherry Point Inn, Bldg. 487 on Madison Drive, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

The sale will include moderately worn chairs, tables, mirrors, televisions, DVD players, tables and more. Payment is cash only.

Contact Lt. Col. Paul Miller at 466-1209 for more information.

E-book Friday at the Library

The station library will host e-book Friday at the library Friday from 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

The event will teach patrons about the library's electronic resources, share e-book and e-book reader tips and allow patrons to try out a variety of e-book readers.

The library will also take requests for e-books.

Call the air station library at 466-3552 for more information.

Monthly and Weekly Events

Courage to Change

Cherry Point and Havelock Courage to Change support group is for friends and families of people who suffer from alcoholism. Meetings are held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Havelock, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

For information call 241-6155.

Marine Corps League Meetings

Cherry Point's 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.

Dart Tournament

Weekly dart tournaments at the Road House restaurant and recreation facility are held Saturdays at 8 p.m. For more information call 241-6155 or 466-3044.

Disabled Veterans

Chapter 26 of the Disabled American Veterans meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Senior Center in

Havelock at 7 p.m. For information call Ancil Jones at 622-5245.

Domestic Violence Support

Support groups for victims of domestic violence are provided by the Carteret County Domestic Violence Program. The group meetings are held Wednesdays at 6 p.m. For more information call 728-3788.

Zumba

Zumba exercise classes are offered every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Marine Dome aboard the air station at 5 p.m. For more information call 466-1147.

Al-Anon Family Group Meeting

Al-Anon family group meetings are held Tuesdays at 8 p.m. for family members and friends of individuals with possible alcohol problems.

Meetings are held at Havelock First Baptist Church.

For more information call 447-8063.

Gift-Wrapping at the MCX

The Enlisted Spouses Club will offer free gift wrapping at the Marine Corps Exchange on the following dates:

- Saturday, Sunday, and Dec. 22 and 23 from 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Dec. 21 from 4–8 p.m.

For more information, contact Bethany Revenaugh at 444-0766.

Free Photos with Santa

Santa is coming to the Marine Corps Exchange to have his picture taken with willing patrons Saturday, Sunday, Dec. 22 and 23 from 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

One free roll of wrapping paper will be given to the first 100 customers with a Toys for Tots donation.

For more information call the exchange at 447-7041.

Santa by the Sea

The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores will host Santa by the Sea Friday at 5:30 p.m.

Admission is \$9 per person. Advance registration is advised. One 5"x7" professional photo is included with admission for each child 12 and under.

The event includes magic shows, children will help prepare snacks for Santa's reindeer, elves will lend a hand with keepsake crafts and holiday cookies to take home, Mrs. Claus will read holiday stories and Rudolph will make a special appearance.

Visit www.ncaquariums.com/pine-knoll-shores or call 247-4003 for more information.

The Nutcracker

New Bern Ballet Company will host the Nutcracker at the air station theater and event center Friday.

The event is free; doors open at 5 p.m.; show starts at 6 p.m. The event will include door prizes, cookies, goody bags for kids, popcorn, drinks and a photo opportunity with Santa.

Cameras are welcome.

For more information call 466-3850.

A Beary Merry Christmas

The downtown council of the New Bern Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting "A Beary Merry Christmas," in downtown New Bern through Dec. 25.

The event includes the Beary Merry Christmas scavenger hunt, Beary Beautiful Wreath, Christmas Bear Trolley Tour, Breakfast with Santa, Jaycees Christmas parade, Christmas flotilla, The Holly and the Ivy Holiday Homes Tour, breakfast with Bernie and the Bernie's Beary Merry Mistletoe March.

Visit <http://www.downtownnewbern.com> or contact Amanda Banks at abanks@salemcpa.net.

Table Talk Bible Study

The Cherry Point chaplain hosts a weekly bible study at Miller's Landing Thursdays at 6 p.m.

For more information, call the Chaplain's office at 466-4000.

Education Fairs

The Cherry Point education office is currently hosting monthly career and education fairs, at the Jerry Marvel Training and Education building, room 171b. The next fair is Jan. 11.

For more information call Dana Bayliss, at 466-2046.

Young Marines

The Cherry Point Young Marines is a youth organization for ages 8–18. Groups meet Friday nights 5:30 p.m.–8 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m.–12 p.m. The group is for youth mentors.

For more information on volunteering call Paula Cusson at 444-5914.

► SMP Christmas Dinner

The Cherry Point Single Marine Program will host a SMP Christmas Dinner for all single and unaccompanied Marines and Sailors at the Roadhouse Dec. 25 starting at noon.

The event will include games, prizes, food and more.

For more information contact the SMP at 466-3027.

► Special Olympics Volunteers

The Cherry Point Commissary is seeking volunteers to assist with the Special Olympics Jan. 8.

Volunteer to help with registration, assisting Olympians or cheering on competitors.

The event includes a 5K motivational run with Special Olympian double bronze medalist Andy Delafield, a meet and greet with five-time gymnastics medalist, Monica Hernandez, live entertainment, games and more.

To volunteer or for more information Contact Phyllis Black, store director, by emailing Phyllis.black@deca.mil or call 466-0800, ext. 103.

Marine and Family Programs

Marine, Family Programs Office Numbers

Building 298

- Library – 466-3552.
- Retired Activities – 466-5548.

Building 286

- Exceptional Family Member Program – 466-3305.
- Child Development Resource and Referral – 466-5490.

Building 87

- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program – 466-5490.
- Substance Abuse Counseling – 466-7568.
- New Parent Support Program – 466-3651.
- Family Advocacy Program – 466-3264.
- Military Family Life Consultant – 876-8016.
- Families Overcoming Under Stress Representative – 466-7137.

Building 4335

- Lifelong Learning – 466-3305.
- The Family Member Employment Program, Transition Assistance Management Program, Relocation Assistance Program and accredited financial counselors can be reached at 466-4201.

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.

Marine Corps Family Team Building

Educational resources and services to foster personal growth and enhance the readiness of Marine Corps families. Located in Building 87. For more information, email family.readiness@usmc.mil.

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 meant 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

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

Signs of Terrorist Activity:

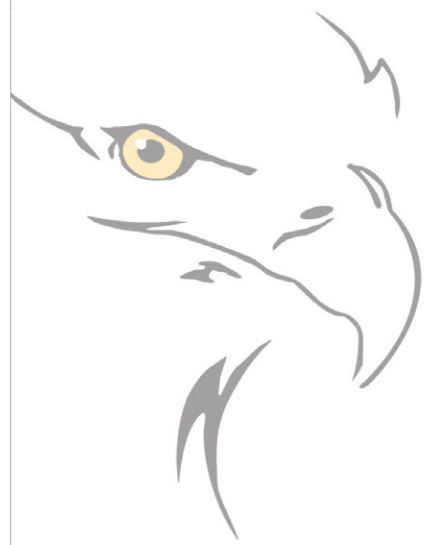
Mobile surveillance

Mobile surveillance usually entails observing and following persons or individual human targets, although it can be conducted against nonmobile facilities.

An example would be driving by a site to observe the facility or site operations.

To enhance mobile surveillance, many terrorists have become more adept at progressive surveillance.

If you observe any suspicious activities, call Cherry Point Emergency Dispatch immediately at 466-3616 or 466-3617.



OPERATION EAGLE EYES

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 AND NEW BERN)
 TWIN RIVERS (NOT THE MALL)
 WHITE SANDS CONVENIENCE STORE

MCB CAMP LEJEUNE AREA

BELL AUTO SALVAGE II
 DASH-IN
 DISCOUNT TOBACCO
 D'S DRIVE THRU
 D'S QUICK MART
 EXPRESS WAY
 KINGS DRIVE THRU
 LAIRDS AUTO & TRUCK CENTER
 MOE'S MART
 NEW YORK TOBACCO CENTER
 ONE STOP SHOP
 SMART BUY
 SMITTY'S R&R
 TOBACCO FOR LESS
 TOBACCO HOUSE CIGARETTE CENTER
 TOBACCO LEAF
 VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES