

The Windsock

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MAG-29 rumbles during Carolina Thunder



LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

CH-53E Super Stallions with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 366 conduct troop transport in support of Exercise Carolina Thunder 2013, March 19. Marine Aircraft Group 29 participated the exercise March 18 through 26.

CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

MCAS CHERRY POINT

Marine Aircraft Group 29 took to the field for Exercise Carolina Thunder 2013 March 18 through 26. The group, which provides 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing's full array of rotor-wing assets, practiced core capabilities with logistical support from Marine Wing Support Squadron 274.

Before units can engage the enemy on the battlefield, logistical issues must be addressed. Marines need food, shelter, hygiene and medical facilities, a place to arm and

fuel their helicopters and more. During Carolina Thunder, MWSS-274 provided the ground support MAG-29 squadrons need to operate in an expeditionary environment.

"We bring the base, they bring the airplanes," said Capt. Rex L. Brooks III, the operations officer of MWSS-274. "We can take a forested area, level it, grade it, draft and survey it, put AM-2 matting down, and then we can bring helicopters from the ship to the shore."

Once MWSS-274 sets up the base, the aviation squadrons can begin carrying out missions like raids, airfield

seizures, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel, offensive air support, and aerial reconnaissance from a forward environment. During Carolina Thunder, the group practiced these abilities throughout eastern North Carolina.

In addition to building the base itself, the support squadron is also required to keep it supplied and defended. The motor transportation company conducted a nine-hour

See **THUNDER** page A7

VMGR-252 Hercs support WTI



CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

A forklift loads gear and supplies onto a Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 KC-130J Hercules at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., March 22. VMGR-252 transported 20,000 pounds of gear to the course.

CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

MCAS CHERRY POINT

Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 made a cross-country flight to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., and back March 22, hauling Marines and gear destined for Weapons and Tactics Instructor course.

WTI is a bi-annual training evolution that integrates pilots, weapons system operators, ground

combat and combat service support units from throughout the Marine Corps to enhance communication and build training relationships throughout the Marine Air-Ground Task Force. The course began March 10 and will wrap up April 28.

With two C-130J Hercules aircraft, VMGR-252 transported 20,000 pounds of gear to Yuma. One

See **HERCULES** page A7

NMCRS serves Cherry Point Marines

LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS

MCAS CHERRY POINT

For more than 100 years the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has been helping Sailors, Marines and their families.

In 2012, the Cherry Point Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society provided \$625,000 in financial support, helped more than 1,200 local service members and their families, educated more than 350 new parents and conducted 40 short courses on a variety of personal wellness and financial topics affecting nearly 2,500 Marines and Sailors.

"The society helps people out tremendously," said Vicki Wilson, Cherry Point NMCRS director. "We find out what their problem is and help them in any way we can."

The society offers many services both financial and non-financial.

Some of what the society provides includes interest-free loans or grants to offset such expenses

as emergency transportation, funeral expenses, medical or dental bills, utilities, disaster relief assistance or other family emergencies or expenses. The society also provides educational loans and grants, money management budget reviews, Budget for Baby workshops and a visiting nurse program.

These programs have been used by many service members throughout the Navy and Marine Corps since the society's inception in 1904. The society is a private, non-profit charity dedicated to supporting active-duty and retired Marines and Sailors with financial and educational assistance.

One of the most popular services used at Cherry Point is the Quick Assist Loans. Quick Assist Loans allow active-duty Sailors and Marines to receive money quick with no application fee and no appointment needed. The Quick Assist Loans

See **NMCRS** page A7

Natural resources manager receives state-level conservation honors

LANCE CPL. CORY D. POLOM

MCAS CHERRY POINT

Carmen Lombardo arrived at Cherry Point in 2007 to begin what would become an award-winning chapter in his career as a natural resources manager. Lombardo accepted the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust Conservation award for his work during his first year in this region.

Now, six years later, he has upped his game by capturing a state-level award – the 2013 North Carolina Land Trust Government Conservation



LANCE CPL. CORY D. POLOM

Partner of the Year Award. Lombardo accepted the award in Raleigh, N.C., Tuesday with his co-winner, Carla Roth, a supervisory real estate contracting officer for the Navy.

"When I received the email informing me of this honor I was in shock," said Lombardo. "To be recognized locally six years ago is one thing, but being recognized by the state is somewhat overwhelming."

This annual award recognizes the individual or agency that has shown a sustained and outstanding commitment to partnering with land trusts for conservation initiatives, or has actively supported public policies with a positive influence on land and water preservation in North Carolina.

The North Carolina Coastal Land Trust nominated Lombardo for his continued efforts in working with the land trust to maintain the area surrounding the air station and its assets.

Lombardo's efforts over the past year have helped ensure the safety of local communities near bombing ranges and safe flight paths for aircraft operating from Cherry Point.

"It is my job to ensure that the flight patterns these aircraft take don't get obstructed by tall buildings," said Lombardo. "Also our bombing ranges have become so commonly used by joint force operations that we need to ensure the land and waters around it are safe from intrusions. I do everything I can to make sure the community and the air station work together to guarantee the safety of both Marine Corps aircraft

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



News Briefs

Winter To Summer Transition

According to the MCAS Cherry Point, N.C. Weather Service Division, the mean temperature for April 2013 is forecasted 58 F. The winter to summer transition date aboard Cherry Point is set for Monday.

This entails securing steam to buildings in mechanical rooms, securing winter field boilers, starting summer field boilers and starting A/C units.

Work will begin Monday to secure steam systems with the priority as shown below. All steam systems should be secured no later than April 5 and A/C systems online no later than April 12.

Priority for this transition is as follows:

- Living quarters
- 24-hour work spaces
- Administrative offices
- Hangars
- Warehouses

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The month of April has been nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

This year's theme "We own it... we'll solve it... together," was approved by the Department of Defense.

The theme reasserts that the responsibility of preventing sexual assault belongs to everyone.

Sexual assault is a crime that is not compatible with the Marine Corps values of honor, courage and commitment.

The Marine Corps remains committed to reducing, and hopefully one day fully eliminating sexual assault.

Marine Forces Cyber Command

President Barack Obama nominated Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. to be the commanding general of Marine Forces Cyber Command and deputy commandant for Combat Development and Integration Friday.

Glueck currently serves as the commanding general of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force and commander of Marine Forces Japan.

Glueck began his military career as an attack helicopter pilot.

Chaplain's Corner :

Who Ever Thought a Rabbit Would Lay an Egg on Easter?

Lt. CMDR. DAVID SLATER

MACG-28 COMMAND CHAPLAIN

Another Easter season is upon us, and I have to wonder how many of us, even those of us who profess to be Christians, will let it come and go without giving it its proper emphasis. Much like Christmas has been watered down and secularized by Santa Claus, decorations and presents under a Christmas tree, Easter seems for many more about the Easter Bunny, Easter egg hunts, and an Easter basket full of chocolate eggs and marshmallow chicks than the resurrection of our living savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Not only have Christians allowed the secular world to hijack Easter by watering down its true meaning, but we seem anxious to lend credibility to the myths by happily participating in them ourselves. I grieve every time I see a church holding Easter egg hunts. What are we thinking? Let's be honest enough to ask this question: In their most formative years, do our children get more excited about the coming of Easter as a holy time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and reflect upon the wonder of God's love to forgive and save us by the sacrifice of his son, or more interested in these secular trappings of Easter that have nothing to do with what Easter is really all about?

Some of you might think I'm too radical, overreacting in expressing these thoughts but your objections actually make my point. The erosion of the true meaning of Christian holidays like Christmas and Easter has become so acceptable that anyone who emphasizes their Christian character is now thought to be the one with the problem. Defending Santa Claus and Easter bunnies is a righteous expression of tolerance and inclusiveness but emphasizing Jesus Christ is religious bigotry for which we should shamefully apologize.

But I will not apologize for the fact that Jesus Christ "was declared the son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead ... For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." (Romans 1:4, 16).

MAG-14 CO gets down and dirty



LANCE CPL. ANDREA CLEOPATRA DICKERSON

Col. Bob Sofge, commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 14, changes the oil on a Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected vehicle in a Marine Wing Support Squadron 271 maintenance bay March 21. Sofge took some time out of his schedule to get dirty with the "Workhorse of the Wing" Marines during biannual maintenance they perform to keep the MRAPs operating smoothly.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society



Donate Now

Lt. Col. Sarah Deal, a recruiting station officer in New Orleans, La., with individual mobilization augmentees, flies a CH-53E Super Stallion. Burrow became the first female aviator in the Marine Corps in 1995.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Windsock Weekly Photo Competition

March 21 - March 28, 2013

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Vote on Flickr - <http://bit.ly/cpflickr>

CAPT. CATHERINE SCHMIDT

Job Title: Naval Flight Officer
Unit: Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 2
Hometown: San Diego
Date Joined: October 30, 2007

Growing up around the Marine Corps, Capt. Catherine Schmidt, a naval flight officer with Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 2, knew the Marines were the best way to go. It wasn't until graduating officer candidate school that she chose a career where the sky is the limit.

"I thought it would be fun," she said. "I thought it would be a challenge."

And a challenge it was. Naval flight officers assist the employment of the EA-6B Prowler's offensive and defensive weapons. The flight officers, assigned as supporting arms coordinators, direct supporting fire and advise commanders on the ground on matters of aerial observation. Their guidance may include artillery, naval gunfire and close-air support.

Schmidt said learning her craft was a daily struggle and it was more difficult than studying for her courses in college. To become a naval flight officer, Schmidt completed two and a half years of training.

"I think it is easy for some people and more difficult for others, but it was definitely difficult for me," she said.

She said one of her biggest challenges is juggling personal and professional demands.

The four tactical electronic warfare squadrons based here are the only Prowler squadrons in the Marine Corps and can be rapidly deployed globally to provide electronic warfare capabilities.

FLY HIGH

highlighting Cherry Point's Warriors



LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

The Windsock

The editorial content is edited, prepared and approved by the Public Affairs Office at Cherry Point. Correspondence should be addressed to: Commanding Officer, Public Affairs Office, (Attn: Individual concerned), PSC Box 8013, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C. 28533-0013. To provide comments or suggestions call 252-466-4241 or email: cherry.point.windsock@gmail.com. Windsock is a registered trademark. To address any distribution problems please contact Ellis Publishing at 252-444-1999. This Department of Defense newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the DoD. Contents of the Windsock are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, United States Marine Corps, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, or the Public Affairs Office, Cherry Point, N.C. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Marine Corps, or Ellis Publishing Co., of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. The Windsock is published by Ellis Publishing Co., a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the PAO.

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EDITORS
LANCE CPL. S. T. STEWART
LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY
LANCE CPL. CAYCE NEVERS
STACEY R. SWANN

STAFF WRITERS
CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI
LANCE CPL. ANDREA CLEOPATRA DICKERSON
LANCE CPL. CORY D. POLOM

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cherry.point.windsock@gmail.com
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PHOTOS BY MAJ. KAREN ROGANOV

A F-35B Lightning II with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501 sits inside a hangar at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., March 19. That day, United Kingdom Royal Air Force Squadron Leader Frankie Buchler, became the first international student-pilot to fly a sortie in the F-35.

First international F-35 student-pilot takes flight

MAJ. KAREN ROGANOV

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. - The first international student aviator training to be an F-35B Lightning II instructor pilot, completed his first sortie in the joint strike fighter here March 19.

United Kingdom Royal Air Force Squadron Leader Frankie Buchler flew with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501.

"There were no surprises, the jet was fun to fly and the flight went as expected," said Buchler. "The ground school training package at the Academic Training Center with the flight simulators prepared me for smooth flying."

The ATC is part of the F-35 Integrated Training Center hosted by the Air Force 33rd Fighter Wing. It is the hub for U.S. and international partner operators and maintainers of the joint strike fighter.

"We couldn't have picked a better spring day on the beautiful Emerald Coast to set another milestone for the F-35 program," said Col. Andrew Toth, the 33rd FW commander. "Frankie and the entire team at Eglin continue to make great strides in establishing the foundation of formal maintenance and pilot training for our services and partner nations."

Marine Capt. Daniel Flately was Buchler's instructor pilot and flew wingman in another F-35B during the late-afternoon sortie.

Watching Buchler's technique in the flight pattern over the base was key along with familiarizing himself with the jet, said Flately.

"It was a clean flight. He's a very experienced aviator who took to the F-35 naturally," he said.

It takes ten flight hours, or about six to seven sorties, for a student pilot tran-

sitioning from other aircraft to become a qualified F-35 pilot. Buchler's last time flying was a year ago. His background is with the Sepecat Jaguar and Eurofighter Typhoon.

Wing Commander Jon Millington, the senior UK officer at the 33rd FW, and a handful of British maintainers training within the Marine squadron were on the flight line to witness the historic event for both countries.

The UK team is fully integrated in the Marine unit and flying each other's jets interchangeably according to the vision of VMFAT-501 commander, Lt. Col. David Berke. In the near future, Marine pilots could be trained by UK pilots.

Buchler is scheduled to complete his training sorties by early April and is excited about the way ahead for the joint strike fighter.

"The potential I see in this aircraft is all the sensors for information sharing. The F-35 has enormous potential and will be a great complement to our Typhoons," said the UK pilot.

His team is hopeful for the future. A team of 12 Royal Air Force and Navy maintainers and two pilots are scheduled to transition from Eglin to Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., to perform operational testing on the jets in 2014.

"In 2018, the plan is for UK's F-35 team to achieve initial operating capability in a land-based role and aboard the future HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier in 2020."

Until then, the British element will continue to improve their skills in learning to maintain and fly the Lightning II.

Their next milestones in the program include a third UK F-35B to be delivered to Eglin this spring and another British first flight in two weeks.



United Kingdom Royal Air Force Sqn. Ldr. Frankie Buchler, removes his oxygen mask following his first sortie in the F-35B Lightning II March 19 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.



United Kingdom Royal Air Force Sqn. Ldr. Frankie Buchler, receives a F-35 short takeoff and vertical landing patch after completing his first sortie in the F-35B Lightning II March 19 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.



HMH-366 conducts joint training at Fort Bragg



CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

MCAS Cherry Point

Fort Bragg, N.C., offers numerous training opportunities for Marines. A detachment of three CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters and crews with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 366 took advantage of that March 10-15. When the squadron conducted joint training with the Army's 18th Fires Brigade, an artillery unit armed with M777 howitzers.

During the training, HMH-366 conducted external lifts and aerial insertions of the howitzers, bolstering the soldiers' speed, maneuverability and lethality. Both services adapted to each other's techniques, tactics and procedures, increasing cohesion and interoperability among the services.

"It was a huge learning experience," said Capt. Shawn J. Piner, a pilot with HMH-366. "I never get to plan face-to-face with a gun unit. In aviation, we usually see things from our perspective, but it's when we get to talk to the units we're supporting that we can see what they're seeing."

(Right) Capt. Samuel Kunst, left, a pilot with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 366, briefs the pilots and crew before executing an artillery raid training exercise at Fort Bragg, N.C., March 13. In their facilities on Fort Bragg, HMH-366 and HMH-464 used low-tech expeditionary planning without the luxury of Power Point and projectors to create their flight plans. An artillery raid is a concept in which helicopters lift howitzers to forward firing points to gain a greater range advantage over the enemy. Helicopters then pull the artillery out before the enemy can retaliate.



PHOTOS BY CPL. SCOTT L. TOMASZYCKI

The Brief

The CH-53E



A CH-53E Super Stallion with HMH-366 sets down in a landing zone to pick up Army howitzers and artillery crews at Fort Bragg. The CH-53E is the largest and heaviest helicopter in the U.S. military. The heavy-lift cargo helicopter can transport up to 55 troops or 30,000 pounds of cargo and can carry externally slung loads up to 36,000 pounds. With a cruise speed of more than 150 mph and a range of approximately 600 miles, it provides assault transportation of combat troops, supplies and equipment during expeditionary, joint or combined operations. The squadron must be prepared for short-notice, worldwide employment in support of Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations.

Dropping off



A CH-53E Super Stallion drops off an M777 howitzer at a landing zone on Fort Bragg. Aerial insertions allow for rapid employment and withdrawal of supporting fires in combat.

Hooking up



Soldiers hook up an M777 howitzer to the belly of a CH-53E Super Stallion during a joint training exercise at Fort Bragg. The training familiarized both services with the standard operating procedures each unit practices during heavy lift missions. In a combat zone, lifts are assigned according to availability, making it necessary for the Army and the Marine Corps to be familiar with each other's procedures. The 18th Fires Brigade plans, synchronizes and employs joint and combined fires in support of forced entry operations, designated division or the Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters and integrates attached ground and air maneuver forces in order to conduct full spectrum operations.

Positioning



A Soldier adjusts the positioning of an M777 howitzer during an artillery raid exercise at Fort Bragg. Soldiers with the 18th Fires Brigade were able to support calls for fire within minutes of hitting the ground.

The M777



Soldiers unpack an M777 howitzer after it was dropped off by HMH-366 during a training exercise at Fort Bragg. The howitzer weighs 7,500 pounds and fires a 155 mm round accurately at a range of more than 20 miles.

Night extraction



CH-53E Super Stallions with HMH-366 and HMH-464 land during the nighttime artillery extraction at Fort Bragg. Before any lift, the helicopters set down while crew chiefs assess the situation to make sure everything is running as planned.



KEN KALEMKARIAN

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter prepares to make a vertical landing aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., March 21. This marks the first vertical landing of a Marine Corps F-35B outside of a testing environment.

Marine Corps' first operational F-35B conducts initial vertical landing

CAPT. STACI REIDINGER

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. – Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 Marines watched with satisfaction as the Corps' first operational F-35B Lightning II squadron conducted its first short takeoff and vertical landing operations aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. March 21.

Maj. Richard Rusnok piloted the aircraft through the maneuvers, which included the first F-35B hover and vertical landing outside a testing environment.

VMFA-121 is the first F-35B squadron to join Marine Aircraft Group 13 which is

currently composed of four AV-8B Harrier squadrons, a Marine wing support squadron and a Marine aviation logistics squadron.

Rusnok was accompanied by VMFA-121 commanding officer, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Scott, flying a second F-35B as a chase aircraft.

"The first STOVL flight for an F-35B outside of the test environment was another milestone achieved by the Marine Corps and the Green Knights today here at MCAS Yuma," stated Scott. "The F-35 program and specifically the F-35B have made significant progress to make this possible."

As the squadron expands its operations and end strength, they will continue revolutionizing expeditionary Marine air-ground combat power in all threat environments through the use of MCAS Yuma training ranges in Arizona and California. VMFA-121 will be home to approximately 300 Marines and is expected to receive additional F-35s throughout the next eight to 12 months, with a total of 16 aircraft scheduled to arrive by late-2013.

The integration of Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and coalition F-35 Lightning II aircraft on a common platform will provide dominant, multi-role, fifth-generation capabilities across the full spectrum

of combat operations to deter potential adversaries and enable future aviation power projection.

Specific to the Marine Corps, consolidating key capabilities from three aircraft, the AV-8B Harrier, the F/A-18 Hornet and the EA-6B Prowler, is central to maintaining tactical aviation affordability and serving as good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

VMFA-121 will continue to set the pace for the F-35 program based on a common platform. The Air Force and Navy can now integrate best practices from VMFA-121 in preparation for the future operational basing of the F-35A and F-35C.

Under the Radar

Combat Camera films first talk show episode



LANCE CPL. ANDREA GLEOPATRA DICKERSON

Lance Cpl. Steve Acuff, the host of *Under the Radar*, the newest talk show on Cherry Point News 6, interviews Sergeants Major Holly and Bradley Prafke during the show's debut Monday. The Prafkes talked about a variety of subjects ranging from how they met to retirement plans. New episodes of *Under the Radar* will begin airing Mondays at 9 a.m. There will be multiple showings throughout the week.

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convoy operation March 21 to practice delivering crucial supplies to a forward operating base. Engineers built defensive towers and set up concertina wire. After MAG-29 left Bogue Friday, MWSS-274 stayed behind and used the engineers' defenses to repel simulated attacks until Tuesday.

"Anything that is a base operation, we handle," said Brooks. "The unique part of this exercise is the fact that we have a Marine wing support squadron out here supporting all of the MAG's aviation squadrons with aviation ground support. This morning, we were two shy of having 500 boots on the ground in this camp and 186 of those people are MWSS. It's a pretty significant cross section."

Previously, all of 2nd MAW's support squadrons were organized under Marine Wing Support Group 27. After the group's deactivation in May, the support squadrons were divided among individual aircraft groups.

"It's absolutely vital that we have MWSS-274 they provide us all the aviation ground support services that we need in order to accomplish our mission," said Maj. Joseph R. Jackson, the future operations officer of MAG-29. "We would not be able to function without them."

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CARMEN from page A1

and the environment surrounding the area."

According to the award nomination, both Lombardo and Roth are responsible for carrying out long-term partnerships with the coastal land trust specifically to conserve lands with military and conservation significance in and around Cherry Point and the outlying landing fields in Carteret County. Along with the coastal land trust, they have promoted an aggressive and successful land conservation effort with 15 specific projects targeted for conservation.

NMCRS from page A1

are used for basic living expenses, emergency vehicle repair and more.

"The Quick Assist Loans are our highest category," said Wilson. "They increased the Quick Assist Loans from \$300 to \$500 in February."

For more information about the programs and services the society offers, visit www.nmcrs.org or call 466-2031.

In order to provide services to Sailors, Marines and their families in their time of need, the society relies on donations to fund these services.

April 1-30 all Navy and Marine Corps units at Cherry Point will conduct an active-duty fund drive to increase service members' understanding of the society's mission and to raise money to ensure its ability to carry out assistance and education services. Donations contributed directly support programs benefitting Cherry Point-based personnel and their family members.

Last year, the society as a whole received nearly \$10 million through various fund drives. The active-duty fund drive accounts for nearly half of the total annual contributions made to the society.

"What they try to do with the fund drive is they want to touch everyone," said Wilson. "They want to make sure that everyone knows about us."

Service members can learn more about the Cherry Point Active-Duty Fund Drive, which begins Monday and lasts through April 30, or to make a donation at <http://www.nmcrsfunddrive.org> or by logging in to Marine Online at www.mol.usmc.mil.

Keep an eye out for more information and Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society success stories in future issues of *The Windsock*.

HERCULES from page A1

remained in Yuma to support the training, while the other brought its crew and a detachment of VMGR-252 Marines from Miramar, Calif., back to Cherry Point.

2nd Marine Aircraft Wing units often use ground transportation to move personnel and gear short distances, but that can be costly and time-consuming when the destination is more than 2,000 miles away. Aerial transportation like that provided by VMGR-252 is a key component of projecting power rapidly over long distances and provides commanders with a host of other capabilities.

"Without VMGR squadrons, the Marine Corps would have to rely solely on outside sources for moving assets from A to B, refueling in the air, training jumpers, rapid ground refueling, battlefield illumination, air dropping cargo, and do long-range (medical evacuations)," said 1st Lt. Carl J. Rhoades, a pilot with the squadron. "The Marine Corps advertises itself as a fully self-sustaining 911 force, able to do almost anything using its own assets. Without the VMGR community, it would not be possible."



Life & Times

Facebook.com/MCASCherryPoint

March 28, 2013

MAG-14 hosts Easter Extravaganza



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY

An Easter bunny holds an egg at the Marine Aircraft Group 14 Easter Extravaganza at the Shady Grove camping area aboard Cherry Point March 23.



Children of Marine Aircraft Group 14 pelt bad bunny town with eggs and bad bunny bombs. The Easter trail, the bad bunny and Bad Bunny Town were new additions to the event.

LANCE CPL. GLEN E. SANTY
MCAS CHERRY POINT

Samantha Cook, the Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 1 family readiness officer, shouts instructions into the crowd.

"Everyone grab your bad bunny bombs!"

Before her stand more than 50 excited Marine offspring ready for their chance to assail the bad bunny with bad bunny bombs. The bombs, made of tissue paper and flour, created a sizable dust plume on impact.

Roughly 1,000 Marine Aircraft Group 14 personnel and families witnessed the ensuing carnage as they gathered for an Easter celebration at the Shady Grove camping area at Cherry Point March 23. The event included bounce houses, an Easter trail and more than an acre of Easter egg hunting grasslands. The Easter trail, the bad bunny and Bad Bunny Town were new additions to the annual event.

Sgt. Maj. David Bradford, MAG-14 sergeant major, said he enjoyed the event and found it a great opportunity for personnel and their families from throughout the squadron to meet face-to-face.

Michael McGuinness, the MAG-14 family readiness officer, said the event came together through the hard work of the family readiness officers who fall under MAG-14.

"The FROs put weeks into planning this extravaganza and preparing all of the events," said McGuinness, "including countless hours of stuffing eggs."

Running through the gauntlet of children, the bad bunny was showered with the bombs. At the end, a thick cloud of flour dust lingered behind her. Parents and children alike were bursting with excitement and laughter.

Cook's voice rose above the din, rallying the group to gather more bombs for their next attack. Bad Bunny Town was doomed.



The bad bunny gets pelted with flour bombs while running through more than 50 Marine Aircraft Group 14 personnel and their families.



Bad Bunny Town lays in wait for Marine Aircraft Group 14 children to unload their bad bunny bombs. The bombs, made of tissue paper and flour, created a sizable dust plume on impact. Michael McGuinness, the MAG-14 family readiness officer, said the event came together through the hard work of the family readiness officers who fall under MAG-14.



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 fettuccini, 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, honey-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 March 28

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

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

Friday March 29

Lunch - Roast turkey, French fried shrimp, French fried fish, dirty mashed potatoes, green beans, calico cabbage, hush puppies, tartar sauce, cocktail sauce and New England clam chowder

Dinner - Tater tot casserole, baked tomato pork chops, savory baked beans, peas and mushrooms and Manhattan clam chowder

Saturday March 30

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

Dinner - Three-bean chili, apple-glazed corned beef, shrimp curry, cilantro rice, parsley buttered potatoes, vegetable stir fry and savory summer squash

Sunday March 31

Lunch - Baked fish with butter crumb topping, herbed baked chicken, potatoes au gratin, confetti rice, herbed roasted carrots, balsamic roasted vegetables and tomato soup

Dinner - Pork chops smothered with onions, chili macaroni, roasted sweet potatoes, French cut green beans, cauliflower combo and Wisconsin cheese soup

Monday April 1

Lunch - Minestrone soup, beef short ribs, chicken and Italian vegetable pasta, steamed rice, roasted zucchini, steamed baby carrots

Dinner - Spanish chorizo and potato soup, veal parmesan, Tex-Mex chicken and rice, penne rigate noodles, marinara sauce and scalloped cream-style corn broccoli and red peppers

Tuesday April 2

Lunch - Beef with vegetables and barley soup, linguini with clam sauce, bayou chicken, rissole potatoes, cauliflower and mashed sautéed green beans and mushrooms

Dinner - Bean with bacon soup, country fried steaks, baked turkey and noodles, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, squash and carrot medley and peas

Wednesday March 27

Lunch - Bean with bacon soup, country fried steaks, baked turkey and noodles, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, squash and carrot medley and peas

Dinner - Chicken tortilla soup, Hungarian goulash, Creole shrimp, brussels sprouts parmesan and corn

Local athlete goes the distance

LANCE CPL. S. T. STEWART

MCAS CHERRY POINT

When you first meet Paul Kelly, you might not realize that he was born to race on Cherry Point.

But the Cherry Point native completed his 63rd long-distance race Saturday, finishing 3rd here in his division. He was one of more than 200 Marines, Sailors, and civilians who participated in the 14th annual half marathon hosted by Marine Corps Community Services Cherry Point.

Kelly, who was born on the air station, retired from a position with the Department of the Navy at Cherry Point after 32 years.

Kelly drew inspiration to complete his first race from the sight of the crank-chair participants competing in the 2006 Marine Corps Marathon. That day was a life-changing event for Kelly, who has been quadraplegic for most of his adult life.

"As I approached my 30th year of living with a spinal cord injury, I felt like completing the Marine Corps Marathon in 2008 would be a great life accomplishment," said Kelly who watched from his wheelchair to see his niece compete.

No longer on the sidelines, he now competes in the hand-crank bike division.

"I try to participate in around 10 marathons and half marathons a year," said Kelly. "I also take part in a number of 5ks, 10ks and 10-milers throughout the year."

He got his start in May 2007, finishing the Run for the Warriors, a race dedicated to the men and women wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan and hosted by Hope for the Warriors at Camp Lejeune.

"One of the things that I love about working for Hope

for the Warriors is the faithful backing that we provide to the wounded clients we support," said Kelly. "It was a great honor for me to participate in that race alongside Marines who were injured while protecting our freedom, an honor I have enjoyed many times since, including Saturday. At that 2007 race, I told my wife, Sally, 'Here's our cause - Hope for the Warriors.'"

This year Kelly hopes to complete his fifth Marine Corps Marathon, hosted by the branch of service in which his father once served.

"The physical struggles with quadriplegia are many," said Kelly. "Often they are not obvious."

After the half marathon, Kelly and his wife traveled to New Jersey where he participated in the Ocean Drive Marathon. Kelly said the course itself was no more difficult than any other, but it was a challenge for him because as the race progressed, the temperature dropped and the wind blew stronger.

"As a result, I was somewhat hypothermic by the time I finished," said Kelly. "Without the use of large muscle groups in my legs and abdomen, I don't generate as much body heat as would keep an able-bodied person warm."

Despite the challenges he faces, Kelly does not let the physical struggles discourage him and said the tougher struggles are often the mental ones.

"While I have learned that life with a disability is not a life filled with despair, it is a life filled with hope, I often encounter individuals with conceptions about what a person with a disability can or cannot do," said Kelly. "It is often only those conceptions that limit what can be accomplished. Given the opportunity and the support, a determined individual can accomplish anything."



LANCE CPL. S. T. STEWART

Paul Kelly, a participant in the Handcrank Division, rides past the Hancock pool during the 14th annual Cherry Point half marathon Saturday. Kelly took 3rd place in the Handcrank Division.



I am a mentor.

I am a comrade.

I am a friend.

I am a loved one.

I will reach out for help.



I am a Marine

MCAS Cherry Point STATION THEATER
E Street

ADULTS ONLY \$4 • KIDS (4-12) ONLY \$3

Movie Hotline: 466-3884 • www.mccscherrypoint.com

NOW SHOWING

Friday, March 29
5:00pm - Escape from Planet Earth PG
7:00pm - Jack the Giant Slayer PG13
9:30pm - Dark Skies R

Saturday, March 30
2:00pm - Escape from Planet Earth PG
4:00pm - Jack the Giant Slayer PG13
6:30pm - Snitch PG13
9:00pm - Dark Skies R

Sunday, March 31
2:00pm - Escape from Planet Earth PG
4:15pm - Snitch PG13

movie synopses

Escape from Planet Earth - Astronaut Scorch Supernova finds himself caught in a trap when he responds to an SOS from a notoriously dangerous alien planet.

Jack the Giant Slayer - The ancient war between humans and a race of giants is reignited when Jack, a young farmhand fighting for a kingdom and the love of a princess, opens a gateway between the two worlds.

Dark Skies - As the Barret family's peaceful suburban life is rocked by an escalating series of disturbing events, they come to learn that a terrifying and deadly force is after them.

Snitch - A father goes undercover for the DEA in order to free his son who was imprisoned after being set up in drug deal.

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.



You are not alone. There is support. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger of hurting himself or others, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

It's important to talk about suicide and feelings of depression or PTSD. If you're looking for more information or resources, trained health professionals are available 24/7 at the:

DCoE Outreach Center

866-966-1020

resources@dcoeoutreach.org

www.dcoe.health.mil

Announcements

► Indicates new announcement

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Scholarships

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is accepting scholarship/interest-free loan applications for the 2013-2014 academic year. The deadline is May 1. For more information, visit bit.ly/nmcrs.

Cherry Point Rookie Soccer Registration

Registration for Cherry Point Rookie Soccer is open through April 16.

Rookie Soccer is an instructional program focusing on learning the fundamentals of the sport. The program is available to children ages 5–6 and includes six sessions held on Wednesdays at 6:15–7:15 p.m. from April 17–May 22.

Cherry Point Rookie Soccer registration is \$20, and participants will receive a Rookie Soccer T-shirt and a soccer ball.

Go to the Cherry Tree House to register or call 466-5493.

Cherry Point Junior Golf Team

Cherry Point Junior Golf Team registration is open through May 13.

Participants must be between the ages of 10–18. Those who are 18 must still be in high school.

Registration is \$50 per person and covers all green fees, matches and a team golf shirt.

There will be a parent meeting at the Sound of Freedom Golf Course May 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Go to the Cherry Tree House to register or call 466-5493.

Easter Service and Egg Hunt

The station chapel will host an Easter service behind Miller's Landing Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

There will be two Easter egg hunts at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

There will be three separate age groups for each hunt. For more information, call the station chapel at 466-4000.

Spring Fun Day for Kids

New Bern Parks and Recreation Department will host a Spring Break Field Day at Henderson Park behind Stanley White Recreation Center April 4 from noon–3 p.m.

This event is for children under 12.

There will be games, face painting, egg decorating and more. This event is free.

For more information, call Ashley Parham at 639-2913 or Andrew Webb at 639-2922.

Monthly and Weekly Events

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.

Al-Anon Family Group Meeting

Al-Anon family group meetings are held Mondays 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.

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 April 12.

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

Welcome Aboard Expo

Cherry Point hosts a Welcome Aboard Expo every month at Miller's

2013 Festival of Fun

The City of New Bern will host the 2013 Festival of Fun at Union Point Park April 13 from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

There will be games, arts and crafts, educational information and more.

For more information, call Nancy Donahue at 639-2901.

Civil War Reenactment

The 1st North Carolina Volunteers will host a free Civil War reenactment at Fort Macon State Park in Atlantic Beach April 20 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Living history events will be performed throughout the day by Union and Confederate role players.

The bombardment and surrender of Fort Macon will be reenacted at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For more information, call 726-3775.

American Music Festival

The American Music Festival in Morehead City will feature the Aaron Diehl Trio at the First Presbyterian Church April 20 at 8 p.m.

Tickets for adults are \$25, \$15 for students and military.

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/AMFMC>

5-Mile Mud Run

The Camp Lejeune Semper Fit program will host the MARSOC Mud, Sweat and Tears 5-mile mud run at the Stone Bay Rifle Range, Camp Lejeune April 27 at 8 a.m.

The run is open to the public.

The course includes forest terrain, dirt paths, winding trails, fallen trees, obstacles and mud.

Registration before noon Friday is \$25. Registration between noon Friday to noon April 15 is \$30. Registration is \$35 from noon April 15 to noon April 24. No registration will be accepted between April 24 and race day. Registration on race day will be \$35 from 6-7:30 a.m.

To register, visit active.com.

For more information, call 910-450-1342 or visit www.mcslejeune.com/grandprix.

Lookout Rotary Spring Road Race

The Sports Center in Morehead City will host the 24th annual Lookout Rotary Spring Road Race April 27.

Registration through April 19 is \$25 for single entries and \$50 for family entries. Registration after April 19 will be \$30 for single entries and \$60 for family entries.

Race day registration opens at 7 a.m. The 1-mile run starts at 8 a.m. At 8:05 a.m. the 1-mile fitness walk and 1-mile tot push or pull will begin. The 10k run, 5k run and

the 5k fitness walk will begin at 8:30 a.m.

For more information, call 247-3938 or 726-6625.

Parent/Child Superball Golf Tournament

Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit will host the Parent/Child Superball Golf Tournament at the Sound of Freedom Golf Course April 28 at 4 p.m.

This is a nine-hole superball format tournament.

Trophies will be awarded to first and second place in each age group. The age groups are 6–9, 10–13, and 14–18. 18 year olds must still be in high school.

A \$40 fee and registration at the golf course is required by April 26 in order to participate.

For more information, call 466-5493.

Mammogram Screening Event

The Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune Radiology Department will host a mammogram screening event May 13–16 from 8–11:30 a.m. and 1–5:30 p.m.

Patients may walk in or schedule an appointment.

To schedule an appointment, call 910-450-3470, 910-450-3215 or email tammy.mctaggart@med.navy.mil.

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 – 466-3595.

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 – 339-6084.
- Families Overcoming Under Stress Representative – 466-7137.

Building 4335

- Education – 466-3500.
- 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. Marine Corps Family Team Building is located in Building 87. For more information, email family.readiness@usmc.mil.

Religious Services

Sundays

9 a.m. – Liturgical Protestant Service, Fellowship Chapel

9 a.m. – Roman Catholic Mass, Memorial Chapel

11 a.m. – Contemporary Worship Service, Memorial Chapel

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m. – Women's Bible Study, Memorial Chapel

Thursdays

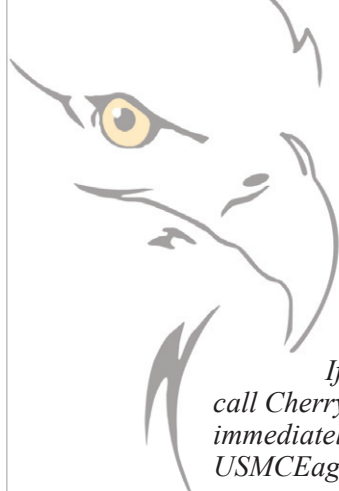
6 p.m. – Table Talk, Wings Restaurant at Miller's Landing

Tuesdays – Thursdays

11:45 a.m. – Roman Catholic Mass, St. Michael's Chapel

Signs of Terrorist Activity:

Suspicious Photography Activity



Filming or photographing subjects not typically photographed by tourists is considered suspicious photography. Suspicious photography is usually one or two people, filming or photographing the same people or places at the same time of day doing the same activity.

If you observe suspicious activities, call Cherry Point Emergency Dispatch immediately at 466-3616 or report it online at USMCEagleEyes.org.

OPERATION EAGLE EYES

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.

Suicide/Stress

To talk to someone at the National Suicide

Hotline, call 1-800-273-8255.

To seek confidential counseling with personal battles call the DSTRESS line at 1-877-476-7734.

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.

Severe Weather and Force Protection

Cherry Point personnel call 466-3093.

FRC East personnel call 464-8333.

DLA personnel call 466-4083.