



MESS HALL MENU

Monday - Friday Breakfast: 6 - 7:30 a.m. Lunch: 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Dinner: 4 - 6 p.m.	Saturday, Sunday and holidays Brunch: 8 - 11 a.m. Dinner: 4 - 6 p.m.
MIDRATS Sunday - Thursday 11:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.	
* Take-out window: Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10 a.m. Sunday - Thursday 6 - 8:30 p.m.	
Saturday	
<i>Lunch</i> Enchiladas and confetti rice	<i>Dinner</i> Swiss steak and buttered egg noodles
Sunday	
<i>Lunch</i> Fried chicken and green beans	<i>Dinner</i> Meat loaf and okra melange
Monday - Friday Breakfast Hot farina, hot hominy grits and oven fried bacon	
Monday	
<i>Lunch</i> Minestrone soup and roasted zucchini	<i>Dinner</i> Pork loin and Islander's rice
Tuesday	
<i>Lunch</i> Fried chicken and rice pilaf	<i>Dinner</i> Roast beef and garlic bread
Wednesday	
<i>Lunch</i> Smoked ham and corn on the cob	<i>Dinner</i> Swedish meatballs and green beans
Thursday	
<i>Lunch</i> Pasta Toscano and steamed rice	<i>Dinner</i> Roasted chicken and mashed potatoes
Friday	
<i>Lunch</i> Roast turkey and mashed potatoes	<i>Dinner</i> Chicken breast and mixed vegetables



CHAPEL SERVICES

- Roman Catholic
- 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Mass
 - 11:15 a.m. - Weekly Mass: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Protestant
- 9:45 a.m. - Protestant Church School (Sunday School)
 - 11 a.m. - Protestant Sunday Worship Service
 - 11:30 a.m. - Wednesday Bible Study
 - 5 p.m. - Protestant Bible Study
- Other Faith Groups
- For Jewish, Mormon and Islamic support, contact the Chaplain's Office at 228-7775

Laurel Bay Happening

The Laurel Bay Marine Mart will host the Commanding Officer's 23rd Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. Prizes, cookies and cocoa, holiday music and pictures with Santa will be available at the ceremony. For more information, visit www.mccs-sc.com.

Tri-Command News Briefs

- The 42nd Senior Citizens' Tea hosted by the Officers' Spouses' Club will be held at the Officers' Club Dec. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. The event will offer fun, food, entertainment and holiday cheer. All senior citizens are welcome and there is no cost to attend. Reserve a spot by Nov. 30. For more information and to reserve a spot, contact Kate Jindrich at 476-6948 or katejindrich@yahoo.com.
- Photocopying of military identification cards is a violation of Title 18, US Code Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701 and punishable by both fine and/or imprisonment. Note this does not apply to medical establishments and other government agencies in the performance of official government business.
- According to Air Station Order P5110.1F, unregistered vehicles or vehicles which appear to be abandoned will be marked with a 72-hour notice to contact the Provost Marshal's Office to keep the vehicle from being towed. If no contact is made within the 72-hour window, PMO will attempt to reach the last known owner to arrange for the vehicle to be moved. If there is still no contact made, the car will be towed and held by the towing company for upwards of 180 days.

Thanksgiving Day note

When the first settlers came here to the new found land many of their family members and friends had died, the coldness overwhelming. Many of them were afraid and didn't know what to think. Yet, they persevered in spite of those circumstances.

We should never look at the thickness of the circumstances but look at the thickness of our God. God has not promised to take us out of our difficult times, but has promised to be there with us through those difficult times.

In the Autumn of 1621, those men and women came together with the Native Americans to celebrate the bountiful harvest for which God had so richly given them. Despite their grief and the painful losses, there was still a spirit of thankfulness.

Likewise, we as Americans, as Marines, and as sailors have so much to be thankful for. It is my hope and prayer that as you celebrate Thanksgiving this year, remember all of the great things that you have received. We can be thankful that we have a job, a country, a family, friends and of course we can be grateful for our amazing Chaplain.

When the pilgrims and the Native Americans came together it was a time of fortune and jollification. Many of you will travel to see your families. Many of you will travel to the residence of other Marines and sailors. Many of you will eat your Thanksgiving meal at the galley and many of you will eat your meal at home.

The Bible encourages us to give thanks in everything from above. Some of us do not wish to be thankful because of some of our experiences in our lives.

I want to challenge you as we remember that first Thanksgiving meal in our country. Look at everything they went through, yet they still found a reason to come together to give thanks. I challenge you to look for something to thank God for.

Be thankful and blessed!
G. W. Felder, CDR USN
MAG-31 Command Chaplain



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Things you need to know

Fraud,Waste and Abuse

If you know of or suspect any fraud, waste or abuse aboard MCAS Beaufort, call 228-7777.
If you know of or suspect any fraud, waste or abuse within MAG-31, call (252) 466-5038.
The automated answering service on these lines are available 24 hours a day.

Sexual Assault

The contact numbers for a Uniformed Victim Advocate are 228-4784 and 228-4110. The after hours number is 592-0646.

Siren sound meanings

Upon notification from the weather office, Giant Voice pre-recorded messages will be broadcast. All destructive weather notifications begin and end with a 12 second wailing siren. Then follow on information is repeated twice between siren wails. The following are abbreviated examples of each warning that will be broadcast through Giant Voice.

- Lightning within 5 nautical miles...
- Thunder storm Condition 1, winds up to 50 knots and/ or hail up to 3/4 of an inch...
- Tornado condition 1 a tornado is imminent...
- Tornado condition 2... observed within 60 nautical miles
- An all clear broadcast will be

announced sounding "all clear".
Test tone – A steady tone will be broadcast for 10 seconds, followed by an alert stating "This is a test" and then another 10 second tone.
For more information please call 228-7904, or for example warning tones, visit: www.whelen.com/outdoor/warningtones.htm.

Fightertown deployed:



VMFA-115 Silver Eagles
are currently deployed as part of the
Unit Deployment Program to Marine
Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.



**MWSS-273 Sweathogs and
VMFA(AW)-533**
are currently deployed in support of
Enhanced Mojave Viper to Marine Corps Air
Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.



Remembering a legacy



Photos by Cpl. Reece Lodder

Lieutenant Col. Matthew J. Palma, the commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and native of Bristol, R.I., receives the prayer of a mullah, or local religious leader, in honor of fallen District Chief of Police, Lt. Col. Sayfullah Khan Rashidi during his funeral, Nov. 13. Sayfullah died after his vehicle was destroyed by an improvised explosive device that detonated while he traveled on a Garmsir road, Nov. 6. Two other Afghan National Police members were killed in the explosion, which occurred on the first day of the three-day Islamic festival of sacrifice, Eid al-Adha. Amidst the challenging circumstances, 25-year-old District Governor Mohammad Fahim said Garmsir's stability remains unshaken by Sayfullah's death. Lieutenant Col. Sayfullah was brave and it's unfortunate we lost him, but we still have security and stability in Garmsir - this hasn't changed, Fahim said.

Garmsir citizens, Marines honor fallen police chief

Cpl. Reece Lodder
1st Marine Division

GARMSIR DISTRICT, Helmand province, Afghanistan — Spread out within a maze of concertina wire and concrete barriers at Garmsir’s district center, Afghan National Police members partnered with Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment to provide security for the funeral of District Chief of Police, Lt. Col. Sayfullah Khan Rashidi, Nov. 13.

Sayfullah died after his vehicle was destroyed by an improvised explosive device that detonated as he was traveling on a Garmsir road, Nov. 6. Two other ANP members were killed in the explosion, which occurred on the first day of the three-day Islamic festival of sacrifice, Eid al-Adha.

Following previous terms as chief of police in the Nawa and Gereshk districts, Sayfullah assumed his duties here, Sept. 15. His time spent in Garmsir was short, but his impact was felt throughout the district.

“For 60 years, Sayfullah was a professional and a hard worker,” interim District Chief of Police Maj. Naimatulah Azizi said. “After the prayer that began Eid, he told the officers he wanted to visit the ANP patrol bases as soon as we took command of them, to find out what the patrolmen there needed. This was the last thing he told us, but he didn’t get the chance to do it.”

Perched in the turrets of armored vehicles, in the nearby bazaar, 3/3



Afghan National Police member Abdul Nabi provides security under the watchful eye of U.S. Marine 2nd Lt. Brenton Mastro, the Guard Force Platoon commander for Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and native of Bedminster, N.J., during the funeral of District Chief of Police Lt. Col. Sayfullah Khan Rashidi, Nov. 13.

Kilo Co. machine gunners vigilantly scanned streets surrounding the district center for suspicious activity. Members of the ANP halted and searched vehicles passing through nearby checkpoints to ensure local elders had the chance to properly mourn Sayfullah.

Inside the compound, local elders sat together with the commanding officers of the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 3rd Marine Regiment — Lt. Cols. Sean Riordan and Matthew J. Palma – to honor the fallen police chief.

“This was a cowardly act that amounts to nothing more than the murder of a good man who was respected by his police officers and coalition partners, but especially the people of Garmsir,” Palma, from Bristol, R.I., said. “He will

be sorely missed, but never forgotten. The legacy of the good work he did will endure beyond his brief moment as Garmsir’s chief of police.”

A mullah, or local religious leader, memorialized Sayfullah by reading verses of the Qu’ran and offering prayers in his name. The attendees offered condolences to his family members and shared a meal of bread, chicken, rice and fresh fruit.

Amidst the challenging circumstances, 25-year-old District Governor Mohammad Fahim said Garmsir’s stability remains unshaken by Sayfullah’s death.

“Lieutenant Col. Sayfullah was brave and it’s unfortunate we lost him, but we still have security and stability in Garmsir — this hasn’t changed,” Fahim said.

CORPS BITS



New girls in town: FET resets

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — A surge of over 40 Marines with the Female Engagement Team came to Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Nov. 11-15, where they were able to kick up their boots and talk about their experiences in Afghanistan since their deployment began.

During their time on Camp Leatherneck the teams received reset training, which the unit conducts every 45 days. In their reset training classes, the Marines covered topics such as Rules of Engagement, escalation of force and basic lessons learned on relationship building with the local Afghan populace.

The mission of the FET is to reach out and interact with Afghan women and their children. Until FET was established, women and children were not heard from because of cultural restrictions. Afghan women past the age of puberty are not permitted to talk to men.

Since the FET, made up of nearly two dozen two- to three-member female teams of Marines and sailors was stood up nearly two years ago, they have been able to build standing relationships with Afghan women in their communities.

A main priority of the FET team members during reset training is to talk among one another about lessons learned and come up with new ideas on how to approach women, different ways to get word out in the villages about upcoming meetings, or even different ways to possibly get local Afghans to understand the importance of sending their children to school.

Armed with lessons learned during reset training and the successes of previous teams, current members said they are looking forward to accomplishing their missions and goals within the communities of Helmand province in the upcoming months.



Operation North Pole ramps up for holiday mail rush

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — The Marines with the Postal Detachment, Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) are accustomed to moving upward of 10,000 pounds of mail per day, but with the holiday season approaching, that amount will nearly double.

With the increase of letters and packaging reaching 20,000 pounds or more per day, the postal Marines reached out to other units for service members to temporarily work at the postal lot from Nov. 1, through Jan. 1.

The influx of mail led the leaders of the 2nd MLG (FWD) to enlist the support of 24 extra pairs of hands in Operation North Pole.

Their organization and teamwork allows for a seamless process of unloading, sorting, organizing and packing the large amounts of mail to be delivered to both civilians and military personnel around the battlespace. Not only does the detachment receive mail for Camp Leatherneck, it handles mail to be delivered to forward operating bases and camps all around the Regional Command Southwest area of operation.

While the amount of time and effort put into a workday is drastically increasing during the holidays for the postal Marines, they say it is worth it, especially when they get to see the Marine’s face who is on the receiving end of their hard work.



Corps Shot

Cpl. Ryan Carpenter

Staff Sgt. Jason Kirklighter, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of avionics, detachment B, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 (Reinforced), conducts maintenance on a CH-46E Sea Knight, Nov. 16. The squadron is the aviation combat element for the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which embarked USS Makin Island, USS New Orleans and USS Pearl Harbor in San Diego, Nov. 14 beginning a seven-month deployment through the Western Pacific and Middle East regions.

CHAPLAIN

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members, who help make Fightertown run smoothly day-to-day.

“Stepping into the position as the [H&HS] chaplain is something I am excited about, because I will get to meet new people and take care of the service members and their families,” Sargent said. “Coming to the Air Station brings me new responsibilities for me as a chaplain and expectations to fit in and do a good job for everyone who needs me.”

After graduating he reported to the Air Station, where he was sent to a two week class at the Chaplains’ School in Columbia, S.C.

“Going to the seminary was a lot to take in at once, but is a continuous leaning process,” said Sargent. “During the classes you get a basic understanding of the concepts of the particular religion you are there for.”

The transition from enlisted to commissioned officer in the Navy was a transition not only different for Sargent, but also his family, who hail from St. Louis. According to Sargent being prior military gave him a better idea of how the military works and helps alleviate the stress on his family.

“I am excited about fitting in and getting to work aboard the Air Station,” he continued.

Sargent came to the Tri-Command community with his wife, Joanna

and four children, Luke, Philip, Lily and Lydia.

“My family and I are very excited about living in the Lowcountry because we all love seafood and are trying new places to eat,” he said. “We have already ventured out into the community and found places like Hunting Island.”

Coming to the Lowcountry can be a culture shock for individuals from the big city, but for others it is a relief and better pace.

Chaplain Sargent along with the other chaplains aboard the base are available for service members anytime of the day or night. For more information or to contact the chaplain, call the Base Chapel at 228-7775 or base staff duty officer at 228-7121.

Book drive encourages reading

Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver
Staff Writer

Lately, the newest craze is all about how to make your baby smarter. Videos, toys and more videos have seemingly replaced books. Just sit baby down and let him watch. A hands off way to learning.

But what about “old-fashioned” parents? Hands on parents? Who prefer to sit and read to their child and not only help them build their vocabulary, but bond as well.

At the Air Station Child Development Center, a book drive helped to rekindle that age old fire. Usborne Books were on sale, which specializes in educational books for growing children.

“Children are very visual and want to grab, touch and feel everything they see,” said Sherri Shropshire, Usborne Books educational consultant. “Because of that our books incorporate tactile elements with words and images.”

Not only can the child see the words read to them, they can feel what it is, which according to Shropshire, helps build sensory awareness.

While that may sound great, children aren’t the best at being delicate when grabbing, and parents may have concerns about book pages littering the living room. Have no fear.

“The pages are nice and thick and the quality of the books is great,” said Helen Rogers, Air Station CDC di-



Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver

Parents can help the Air Station Child Development Center get more books by buying through Usborne Books. Half of the profit goes to books for the CDC.

rector, “They’re also great for the child’s development because reading and speech are so fundamental.”

The fair was set up for two days, Nov. 15 and 16, and the proceeds will help to bring new books to the center.

“Fifty percent of all proceeds will be used to buy

new books for the CDC,” Shropshire explained.

Although the book drive is over, families may still order books at www.theduck-books.com with no shipping and handling fees as long as they are shipped to the CDC, and the proceeds will still help the center get new books.

ID photocopies threaten operational security

Lance Cpl. Timothy Norris
Staff Writer

During this time of year, businesses tend to be more gracious to service members, offering discounts for services and goods to express their gratitude.

Although there are great opportunities to take advantage of out in town by simply showing your military identification, cardholders should still exercise caution on when and how their ID is shown.

Military ID cards are used to identify service members and dependents for base access, medical benefits and participation in the Marine Welfare and Recreation facilities. More importantly, they can give clearance to buildings, secure areas and digital information, which can compromise national security and a person’s livelihood.

“A stolen wallet can threaten personal and professional welfare, which can [negatively] affect an individual for years,” says Roberta Sanders, Defense Enrollment Eligibility Re-

porting System, site security manager aboard the Air Station.

The common access cards used by active-duty military contain several key pieces of information for a service member’s identity, including rank, date of birth, date of separation from service and benefits number.

Previously, the cardholder’s social security number was included, but the Department of Defense recently replaced it with a new DoD ID number, which reduces the risk of identity theft, said Cheryl Huff, Air Station cyber security manager.

Even though the risk is lessened, service members may still fall prey to other avenues of information theft.

One common way to steal information is by making a photocopy of a military ID. Some businesses require copies for documented proof customers are active duty in order to attain military rates on goods or services, Huff said.

This practice is in direct violation of Marine Corps

Order 5512.11D, that states, “The cardholder may allow photocopying of their ID card to facilitate DoD benefits. Photocopying is prohibited in all other instances.”

Providing another form of photo ID, like a state issued driver’s license, is the recommended option.

There are only a few acceptable reasons to photocopy a military ID such as at medical establishments to file insurance claims and other government agencies for official government business.

Security measures made by both the DoD and the cardholder to protect their military ID is a simple way to ensure a service members record remains untarnished.

Even with safety measures in place by the DoD, cardholders must be accountable for their own military ID, empathized Sanders.

“Theft and loss (of IDs) is 100 percent preventable, it is our responsibility to keep it safe and secure,” Sanders concluded.

Stay safe this holiday season

Lance Cpl. Timothy Norris
Staff Writer

In an effort to encourage situational awareness and promote a safe holiday season, Col. Brian Murtha, Air Station commanding officer, advised all Air Station service members, to be especially vigilant while spending time off base.

That advice is in response to the rise in crime the Beaufort, Hilton Head and Charleston areas are experiencing and the amount of time service members will spend in those areas during holiday liberty.

“The job of a United States Marine is critical to our country’s national security,” said Murtha. “Every time we lose a Marine to a senseless act, we help the enemy. I expect Marines to remain vigilant, to look out for their fellow Marines and act in a responsible manner. They need to take extra caution when they are home, off-duty, and stay focused because their job is to protect the United States.”

Whether holiday shopping or spending a night on the town, Lowcountry service members have a greater chance of becoming a victim of crime than the national and state average because of a spike in crime during the holidays.

Most are “crimes of opportunity,” meaning the more likely a suspect will be seen or caught, the less likely they will commit the crime, explained Staff Sgt. Michael A. Jennings, Beaufort County Sheriff’s Office crime prevention specialist.

“The chance of being victimized drops

dramatically when you are with a companion,” he said. “If there are three or more people together, the chance of being targeted for crime is 90 percent less than when alone.”

Master Sgt. Tommey Lyons, Provost Marshal’s Office operations chief, added that preparedness increases safety, saying, “have a good plan before you go out and stick with it.”

Lyons then listed several ways to prevent becoming a victim of crime while spending a night on the town, including limiting the amount of alcohol consumed to maintain a clear mind that is aware of the surroundings.

He continued stating a conservative appearance, keeping a professional attitude, carrying only a small amount of cash and avoiding areas where drug use is common, are all elements that should be taken into account when planning a safe evening.

Theft around retail stores after dark is also common during this time of year, Jennings said. The best ways to avoid becoming a victim is to shop during daylight hours, go with a group, or ask for a security escort from a retail outlet. Do not travel to a vehicle overburdened with bags or heavy items and react immediately if something seems suspicious.

Jennings concluded adding that the Beaufort County Sheriffs Department appreciates service members, “many sacrifices, respects their courage and hopes they have a safe holiday season.”

FIRE

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“This is very important for those Marines, who have just arrived and for those who haven’t seen an actual aircraft fire,” said Sample, an Atlanta native. “It teaches the Marines the proper techniques and gives them the necessary skills for this job.”

The Marines of ARFF also conduct other types of instruction like response training and water survival training, so they are prepared for any situation they might encounter.

“The more knowledge you have while you are in this job, the better off you are,” said Pfc. Amanda Minton, ARFF specialist. “This training is an extension of the training we received in our [military occupational specialty] school and we are refining it for what we will be doing aboard the Air Station.”

The Marines receive training at their three-month long MOS school aboard Goodfellow Air Force Base in Texas, which taught them basic firefighting skills and hazardous material awareness, they also learned many specific skills they will use at their current assignment.

The Marines with ARFF have to continue to conduct different training ex-



Photos by Sgt. Gina C. Rindt

Marines with Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting put out a simulated tail pipe fire during regular training using the Mobile Aircraft Firefighting Training Device at the ARFF training area aboard the Air Station, Nov. 18. The MAFTD is a simulated aircraft used to help replicate different fire scenarios, which may occur on the different types of aircraft that land aboard the Air Station.

ercises on a daily basis to ensure they are properly prepared for any dangerous situation that may arise. They are on watch

everyday guaranteeing the safety of the million dollar aircraft and priceless souls aboard the Air Station they seek to protect.



Marines with Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting helped each other while changing air tanks while using the Mobile Aircraft Firefighting Training Device at the ARFF training area aboard the Air Station, Nov. 18.

MINDSET

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Enhanced Mojave Viper helps Marines practice their job skills in a training environment to bring back to the other Marines and sailors.

“This is a test not only

for military units, but it is also a test for the family readiness side,” said Wunder, a Beaufort native. “Family members back at home will be set up for success during deployments as they experience [time without their service member at home].”

RECYCLE
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RECYCLE

In the lobby of the Air Station Child Development Center, parents, staff and visitors could smell the aroma of turkey, stuffing, gravy and yams lingering in the air. The Thanksgiving staples were prepared for the CDC’s Thanksgiving luncheon, where parents were invited to the center for free lunch with their child Nov. 16. Ronnie Williams, CDC assistant director, said the luncheon was organized to show appreciation for parents and allow them a moment of personal time with their children during the work day.



Fleet’s newest EO reps graduate

Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver
Staff Writer

The fleet’s newest equal opportunity representatives graduated at the Officers’ Club aboard the Air Station, Nov. 18. Twenty-six Marines and sailors from different units and bases completed 40 hours of training during their four-day course led by Gunnery Sgt. Tamara McMillan, Air Station equal opportunity advisor. Each year, advisors throughout the Marine Corps organize a conference, which newly appointed Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31 equal opportunity representative, Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Angel, described as “eye opening.”

“Coming into the class, some of the service members think equal opportunity matters are all minority related,” McMillan said, “but in reality, it isn’t.” The course instructors placed an emphasis on leadership and the socialization of people, which McMillan says, “being an equal opportunity representative is all about.” “Going through the course has made me a better leader,” said Gunnery Sgt. Tara Ryckman, Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 equal opportunity representative. “It gives different views on equal opportunity matters, which brings awareness to other problems

before they arise.” Having the foresight to thwart a problem before it gets any worse takes a combination of experience and intimate knowledge of the issues and people around you. The representatives have to be ‘hands on’ down the road because, according to Gunnery Sgt. Christina Saenz, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31 equal opportunity representative, “the way people are brought up affects how they act and talk to other people.” Making each person and scenario different. Each representative will return to their unit well-versed in the Marine Corps way of dealing with equal opportunity matters



Lance Cpl. R.J. Driver

Gunnery Sgt. Tara Ryckman, right, Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 equal opportunity representative, receives her diploma from Gunnery Sgt. Tamara McMillan, Air Station equal opportunity advisor, at the Officers’ Club, Nov. 18. Ryckman was one of 26 Marines and sailors to complete 40 hours of training to

whether Marine or not. All the way from Virginia, Navy Senior Chief Michael Waranis, Expeditionary Welfare Training Group Atlantic equal opportunity representative, attended the class

and said, “being in a joint, Navy-Marine command, it was great to see how the Marine Corps approaches issues, which makes me a versatile tool when I return to my command.” First Lt. Bradley

Schmidt, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 264 equal opportunity representative, concluded by saying, “our aim is to make sure all service members are treated with dignity and respect.”

Bolden’s first basketball team plays inaugural game

Lance Cpl.Timothy Norris
Staff Writer

The Bolden Elementary/Middle School Eagles basketball teams played their first game in a preseason scrimmage against Whale Branch Middle School, Nov. 17.

Whale Branch agreed to compete so both teams have an opportunity to gauge strengths and weaknesses that can be refined before the boys’ and girls’ inaugural basketball season starts next month.

“We had a good game,” said Eagles guard, Julian Parker. “We need more practice and we need to work on our defense, but we had a great time.”

Parents, Bolden staff and even Air Station commanding officers worked two years organizing the program, getting approval from the South Carolina Basketball Association and acquiring all the necessary gear. All of the effort paid off when the Eagles stepped onto the court for their first game.

“It is extremely exciting to launch the sports program,” said Wendy Randle, Bolden principal. “The students exemplified great sportsmanship with each other and the other teams, and we greatly appreciate Whale Branch playing with us at their home court.”

Currently, Bolden will not be able to host any home games because of the limited access for civilians to Laurel Bay. The local schools have responded by hosting each game, eager for the chance at fresh competition.

“We are excited about the opportunity that has presented itself this year,” said Matthew Hall, Whale Branch athletic director. “Teams you have never faced before always bring new experiences and challenges, such as different styles of offenses and defenses that we can learn from as coaches, and as a team.”

Hall added that Bolden’s new sports program means the beginning of new traditions students can look forward to participating in, which will also give students a new level of pride in their school.

“It is great to have an athletic program at Bolden, it’s been a long time coming,” said Lady Eagles coach Sharron Williams. “My girls are proud to be Lady Eagles and the season has yet to begin.”

Even though the scrimmage was not a game for score, family and school officials filled the stands to cheer on their teams and express gratitude for the chance to compete.

“It is my hope that this will be the beginning of a fantastic relationship between the two schools with a spirited rivalry full of sportsmanship and strong competition,” Matthew Hall said.

The Eagle’s inaugural season officially kicks off Dec. 5 against Beaufort Middle School.



Photos by Lance Cpl.Timothy Norris

Above: The Bolden Elementary/Middle School Lady Eagles shout their team name at the end of half time during a scrimmage at Whale Branch Middle School, Nov. 17. The Lady Eagles team is comprised entirely of 7th grade students who are playing on an organized sports team for the first time.



Left: Lady Eagles guard Jenessa Caro drives up court during a scrimmage at Whale Branch Middle School Nov. 17. Whale Branch hosted the scrimmage, marking the first game of the Bolden Elementary/Middle School Eagles inaugural season.

“It is extremely exciting to launch the sports program... the students exemplified great sportsmanship with each other and the other teams, and we greatly appreciate Whale Branch playing with us at their own court.”

Wendy Randle
Bolden principal

